

Pikangikum evacuated to Thunder Bay

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

Pikangikum's second wildfire evacuation of 2019 included about 1,000 citizens evacuated to Thunder Bay and another 2,000 in the process of being evacuated to Regina, Saskatoon and Prince Albert in Saskatchewan as of July 11. Other citizens from the community of about 4,300 were also evacuated to Lac Seul, Sioux Lookout, Kapuskasing, Smooth Rock Falls and Hearst due to heavy smoke conditions and the proximity of the Red Lake 39 forest fire, which was located about 2.5-3 kilometres west of the community on July 11. The fire was listed by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) at about 50,755.76 hectares in size with no growth observed due to recent precipitation on July 10.

“With the second evacuation, nobody wants to do it but (with) the proximity of the fire and the heavy smoke that was earlier in this week (preventing) airlift operations, people are pretty motivated to get out of the community and get to safety,” says Matthew Hoppe, Independent First Nations Alliance (IFNA) Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) commander of the Pikangikum evacuation and IFNA CEO. “And our job is to help them get there.”

Hoppe says there was “definitely some significant smoke issues” in the

community.

"It was very dense and there were a lot of medical issues, but I know people were working really hard to stay safe and stay indoors and get through that storm," Hoppe says.

Hoppe says the IFNA EOC had about 700 Pikangikum citizens under its care at the Valhalla Inn and the Air-lane Hotel and Conference Centre in Thunder Bay. The City of Thunder Bay also had accommodated more than 200 Pikangikum citizens at the Victoria Inn with the assistance of the Police and Fire Rescue departments as well as Superior North EMS and the Canadian Red Cross.

"I appreciate the support from Indigenous Services Canada and of course all the host communities and all the (people) who are helping out with MNRF," Hoppe says. "From what I understand, they are throwing everything they have at this fire because of the opportunity with the rain and we are really appreciative of all those efforts."

Thunder Bay officials declined to accept any additional evacuees on July 11 due to concerns about the safety, security and wellbeing of everyone currently in the city, including the 1,000 evacuees from Pikangikum. Norm Gale, emergency operations control group chair and city manager with Thunder Bay, says the city has only hosted this amount of evacuees once before, in 2006.



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Independent First Nations Alliance CEO Matthew Hoppe, pictured at the Valhalla Inn, helped with the efforts to evacuate and care for about 4,300 citizens of Pikangikum as the commander of the Emergency Operations Centre for the Pikangikum evacuation.

“As a result of the influx of forest fire evacuees from Pikangikum, the City is seeing greater demand in support and services, including constraints on emergency services,” Gale says. “Safety is our top priority, and in order to provide the best support we can to those already here, we made the decision to decline any additional evacuees at this time.”

Gale says the city is grateful that the Region of Peel and the City of London have agreed to accept evacuees from Pikangikum and elsewhere.

"That will relieve some of the burden on the City of Thunder Bay," Gale says. "It remains however that the need is urgent and there is a requirement for other communities across Ontario to agree to accept evacuees."

Regional Chief RoseAnne Archibald also called for communities across Ontario to host evacuees from forest fires.

“Currently, there is a significant shortage of hosts and resources,” Archibald says. “We understand that Pikangikum evacuees are now being sent to Saskatchewan. There’s no good reason why we aren’t looking after our own here in Ontario. We are requesting that municipalities open their doors to their northern neighbours during this crisis.”

Keewaywin was also evacuated in early July due to the Red Lake 23 forest fire, which was listed as not under control at about 92,648 hectares on July 11.

"These communities are in crisis mode," Archibald says. "As regional chief, I am requesting all levels of government to ramp up their efforts to intervene and mobilize, as well as to prepare for additional Armed Forces to assist, as more communities may be evacuated if the fire is not contained. We are also requesting that any First Nation communities in Ontario who can act as a host community and provide support to these community citizens during this extremely difficult time, to contact the Chiefs of Ontario and express interest. Funding is readily available to ensure that First Nations will have the resources and capacity to host evacuees."

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Eabametoong First Nation declares State of Emergency

Wawatay News

Eabametoong First Nation Chief Harvey Yesno and Council have declared a State of Emergency as alarmingly high levels of contamination have been detected in the remote community's water distribution system.

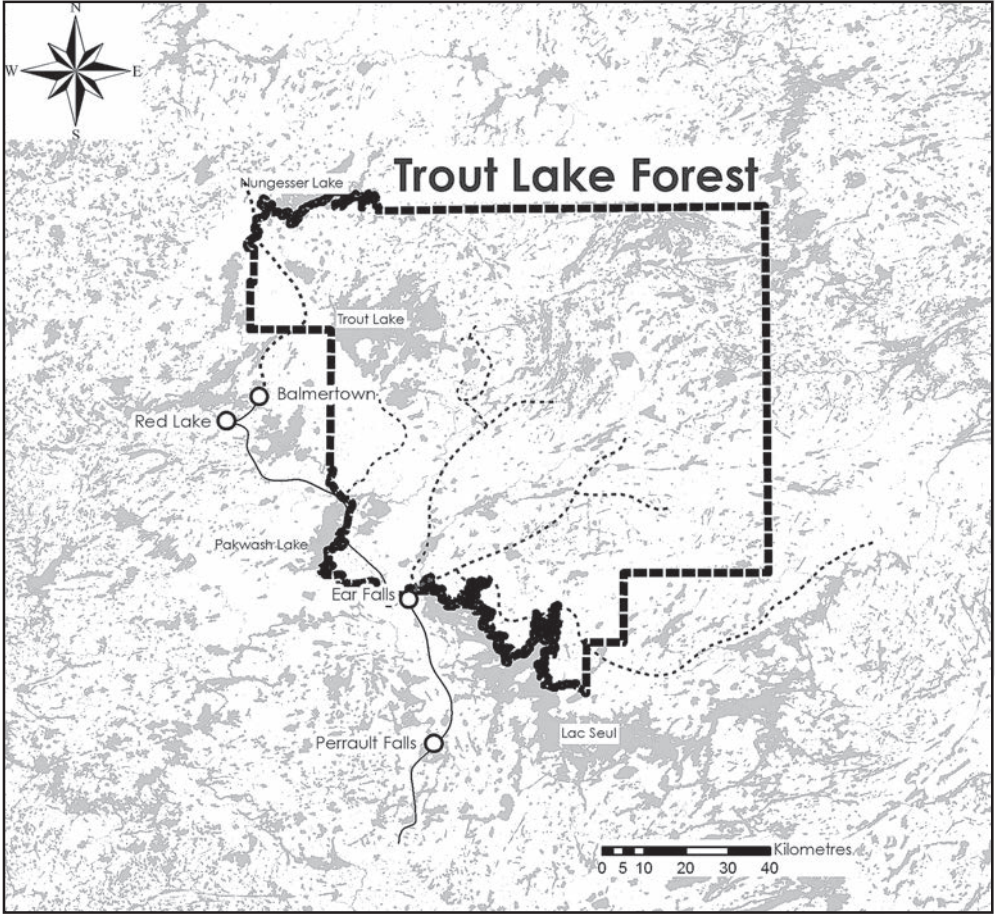
“The discovery of high levels of trihalomethanes, combined with and ongoing issues with our water and wastewater systems, has forced us to declare a State of Emergency to protect the health of our community. Many of these issues have been ongoing for decades, but we are especially concerned about the effects of trihalomethanes on our most vulnerable community citizens, including newborn children, youth, the elderly and infirmed,” said Chief Harvey Yesno.

see **WATER** on page 2...

INSPECTION

Inspection of Approved Aerial Herbicide Project
Trout Lake Forest

The Ontario **Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR)** invites you to inspect the MNR-approved aerial herbicide project. As part of our ongoing efforts to regenerate and protect Ontario's forests, selected stands on the **Trout Lake Forest** (see map) will be sprayed with herbicide to control competing vegetation, starting on or about: **August 1, 2019.**



The approved project description and project plan for the aerial herbicide project is available for public inspection by appointment during normal business hours at the Domtar Inc. office and on the Ontario government website at www.ontario.ca/forestplans beginning **July 15, 2019 until March 31, 2020** when the Annual Work Schedule expires.

Interested and affected persons and organizations can arrange an appointment with MNR staff to discuss the aerial herbicide project. For more information, please contact:

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Water Crisis in
Eabametoong

...from front page

“It is unacceptable that Eabametoong has been on a boil water advisory for 18 years. Progress has been made to upgrade our infrastructure, but our citizens cannot be expected to consume water that fails to meet Ontario drinking water standards. We have a responsibility to protect the health of our citizen and will do everything we can until our water issues are permanently resolved.”

Independent water quality lab tests taken on June 28 to June 30 indicate high levels of trihalomethanes (THMs) in the distribution system exceeding the allowance of 100 micrograms per litre Ontario Drinking Water Objectives by 122-182%. The community has initiated an Emergency Response Plan and has been forced to rely on Reverse Osmosis Units to draw water for drinking and cooking. Water drawn from household taps has contained a noticeable foul smell and taste.

Chief Yesno has delivered formal notice of the State of Emergency to Indigenous Services Minister Seamus O'Regan, and has requested immediate action from the Government of Canada.

The community's new water treatment plant was fast-tracked using a Design Build Construction to meet the Government of Canada's target to end the community's long-standing water advisory declared on August 1, 2001. Three new community diesel

generator sets are sitting in storage waiting to be installed as funding from Indigenous Services Canada has not been approved.

The main community sewage lift station is overcapacity and subject to overflow into Eabamet Lake...

Other infrastructure, however, hasn't been upgraded such as the water intake, which is located too close to shore. This new wastewater system will flow a greater capacity through the system, but the lift station at one end of the community is too small to handle the upgraded capacity. Lift stations can't support the increases in housing and other infrastructure as the community grows.

The main community sewage lift station is overcapacity and subject to overflow into Eabamet Lake, which is the source of the community drinking water. The new water plant is pumping more water into the distribution system resulting in more wastewater and causing the four lift stations to work exceptionally hard, especially lift station #2. The community has submitted an application to Indigenous Services Canada to expand the lift station, but funding has not been approved.

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Education



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Ginoogaming Chief Celia Echum delivers her comments during the Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment and Training Services Aboriginal Skills Advancement Program graduation ceremony at the Thunder Bay Community Auditorium.



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Graduates celebrate their graduation by throwing their hats into the air.

KKETS graduates 74 students in 2019

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment and Training Services (KKETS) celebrated the successes of 74 Aboriginal Skills Advancement Program (ASAP) graduates at the Thunder Bay Community Auditorium.

"I want to thank my dad — he did a great job raising seven kids by himself and making sure we went to school every day," says Pink Baxter, an ASAP graduate from Marten Falls who delivered the valedictorian address. "I would also like to say congratulations to everyone graduating here today, we actually made it. I'm proud that we stuck it out until the end and made it to this day."

Baxter says ASAP was a "life-changing experience" for her.

"When we first started in school, when we first got there all of our goals were to obtain our diplomas," Baxter says. "We all got that, so I'm all proud of everybody."

Baxter says the ASAP was "exciting and fun." Her future goal is to study at university.

"I was just so glad to be there and get that second chance to go back to school," Baxter says. "It was awesome meeting a bunch of new people, the teachers, the staff. I'm really glad I got to meet everyone of them and I'm glad that they all graduated with me today."

Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler says his late father, who passed on a few years ago, was presented with an honorary Grade 8 diploma when he was about 82-years-old.

"I know that it meant a lot to him to have that ceremony because my dad was a strong believer in life-long learning and life-long education," Fiddler says. "We should make it our mission in our lives to continue to learn new things no matter how old we are or where we are in life."

Thunder Bay—Superior North MP and Employment, Workforce Development and Labour Minister Patty Hajdu congratulated all of the ASAP graduates.

"I actually, on a personal level, know just how hard it is to go back to school as an adult," Hajdu says, noting that she was the first person in her family to pursue a post-secondary education but she dropped out after two years. "My family knew

they wanted me to get an education but they really didn't know what it looked like and how to do that and they didn't necessarily have the supports financially or emotionally to help me through those rough spots. It is not an easy journey because sometimes you feel like you are all alone, especially if you the only person in your family that has tried to achieve this goal."

Hajdu says she went into politics because she believes the country is better off and stronger when everybody has a "fair chance" at success.

"We know that hasn't been the case — for so many people

this country has written off their success, written off their potential contributions," Hajdu says. "And here's what I know — we can't afford to do that, that when we put our efforts behind making sure that people have that opportunity to succeed, that's how we're really going to start to see our capacity as a country to solve some of the real substantial problems that face us, the problem of inequity, the problem of climate change, the problem of moving to new technology in a really rapid pace. Those are the kind of the things you are all now positioned to help solve, in your own communities and actually

for the country. Canada needs you."

Former deputy grand chief Anna Betty Achneepineskum, who is running in the upcoming federal election for the NDP in the Thunder Bay—Superior North riding, says it is "encouraging and exciting" to see the number of graduates each spring.

"It continues to increase every year, not only with KKETS but university, college, high school," Achneepineskum says. "So it is a great thing and we need to keep on ensuring that we have these programs and that we have the supports and resources for our students to

succeed."

Achneepineskum says some of the KKETS graduates are now employed.

"That's what we need to do," Achneepineskum says. "Our main goal is to maintain and develop capacity so that our communities and our (citizens) be self-sustaining, economically, health-wise, education and everything else that we have within our communities."

David Paul Achneepineskum, CEO of Matawa First Nations Management, says this latest cohort of graduates brings the total to 398 ASAP graduates over the past six years.

"This year it was 74, which

has been the most we've ever had," David Paul says. "We're always increasing our graduation rates, so that kind of tells us that we learn from the past and we are making it better. But also we are providing more services to the students while they are going through their program."

ASAP was funded by the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities over the past six years, but as of the graduation ceremony KKETS was still waiting for a provincial government decision on future funding.

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Commentary

An adventure on the Albany



**Xavier
Kataquapit**

UNDER THE
NORTHERN SKY

My nephew Willie Wesley dropped in for a visit recently. He arrived with his wife Delores and his young sons Brayden and Liam. It was good to sit with them outside in the shade and share some stories in our Cree language. It is always a treat for me to be able to chat in my original language and it helps me to keep the words of my ancestors alive.

Willie, Delores, eight year old Brayden and two month old Liam are heading out on an adventure as they move back up north to Fort Albany, the ancestral home of Delores. Willie is from Attawapiskat. They are excited about their move after spending years in North Bay.

To make sure that he could transport some of his heavier possessions up to Fort Albany, Willie decided to embark on a major two and a half day expedition up the Albany River from a launch point at Calstock First Nation along this historic waterway. He was thinking of making the trip alone but was advised that the boat ride was a difficult, confusing and possibly a dangerous one. He and Delores were relieved when her father Joseph Nakogee of Fort Albany accepted to help his son in law with the long haul up the river.

Willie was raised from birth in Attawapiskat with a very traditional life on the land. He learned much from his grandparents, who are my own parents, Marius and Susan and of course Willie's parents Brian and Janie, who is my sister. Willie travelled on the land in the winter by snowmobile and summer by boat for fishing and hunting trips from the time he could walk. Even though he is in his 20s he has a lot of knowledge of the land, traditional life and survival skills. He got the chance to expand his knowledge over several days of travelling a new river route to him but thankfully a familiar one for his father in law Joseph.

The fact that Joseph had travelled the Albany River many times in the past meant that he knew the flow and way of this great and historic water way. Joseph had a challenge with this trip because he had to deal with driving Willie's 16 foot aluminum boat with a 30 horsepower motor to push it along while hauling a heavy load. Amazingly, Willie managed to fit his boat trailer snugly onto the boat along with a steel bed frame and some heavy tools. Due to the heavy load the motor

was only capable of pushing the watercraft up the river at about 15 miles an hour.

They slept the first night on the land at a moose camp in a portable pop-up ice hut and on the second night they camped along the river bank. On their route they saw three moose and a couple of eagles. Willie was amazed at Joseph's knowledge of the waterway as he pointed out many islands by name and tributaries as they slowly made their way up the Albany. They had to cross two sets of rapids but the going was steady and Joseph expertly got them through safely.

I know that Willie felt vulnerable with no way to communicate with the outside world as they wound their way up the river. They had a GPS but they knew that they were very much just specks in the vast wilderness of northern Ontario. Joseph's knowledge of the dangerous and shallow spots along the river ensured there were no mishaps on their adventure.

Willie's grandfather and my dad Marius would have been very proud of him on this adventure up the Albany. Marius was on the land at a very early age and he was only 14 back in the 1940s when he first started guiding American fisherman up to remote waterways far north of Attawapiskat. His knowledge of the land and the stars was enormous.

There is so much history on the Albany River for our country and our province but especially to our people, the James Bay Cree. The Albany River has been an important Indigenous water way for thousands of years and for many hundreds of years was used by the English and French fur traders. Willie was surprised to know that every First World War veteran from Attawapiskat, Kashechewan and Fort Albany would have travelled south as a group along this river to access the rail line near Pagwa rail station just west of Calstock. When they returned several years later, they arrived in small groups or as individuals, dropped off at the station and simply told to go home on their own. During different seasons of the year, they walked or snowshoed and if they found a canoe, floated back to their homes after having served their country.

Like most adventures under the guidance of someone like Joseph with so much experience on the land, I knew that Willie also benefited by the conversations he had with his guide as they slipped along on the rapid, wide river. I am sure he had a feeling that many spirits of that river were with him on his journey and that will surely help him on his way into the future.

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Thunder Bay celebrates National Indigenous Peoples Day



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

The Thunder Bay National Indigenous Peoples Day powwow included a 49er dance with dancers of all ages dancing in circles around the powwow grounds at Marina Park.

From too much water to not enough rain



**Graham
Saunders**

WEATHER

In the spring season there were concerns about high water levels throughout Ontario. Most areas had a water surplus in lakes and rivers from the fall season last year and in late winter and early spring snow on the ground was considerable. Even average rainfall in late spring could result in shoreline erosion and water flow over riverbanks in many areas. Wetter-than-average conditions did occur in northeastern Ontario and in the James Bay areas. Rainfall amounts of 30 mm in Moosonee and up to 50 mm in eastern Ontario around June 10 prolonged the recovery from flooding.

In the far west of Ontario concerns about high water levels and potential spring flooding quickly changed to evacuations because of forest fires. Relatively cool temperatures in April delayed the melting of the snowpack and less than average rainfall was recorded in late spring.

Water levels of Rainy Lake and Lake of the Woods were a concern but the slow and

convenient melt (temperatures rising above freezing during the day and then dropping below freezing at night), minor amounts of precipitation and increased water flow into the Winnipeg River soon resulted in an average spring situation.

I mentioned last month in "Weather" how quickly a time of highwater levels and an abundant snowpack can flip to a very active forest fire season. Three weeks with minor amounts of precipitation resulted in a number of intense and large spring fires this year. Dry conditions contributed to a forest fire that grew quickly near Pikangikum and 2500 people were evacuated from the end of May into the beginning of June and returned on June 17.

Some years spring forest fires do not continue at a similar intensity into the summer season. June and July typically are part of the "rainy season" that extends into September. On average all these warm season months have 75 to 100 mm. Timely rainfall and higher humidity often tend to reduce fire concerns in the summer.

However, monthly rainfall totals are only part of a forest fire situation. Thunderstorms with heavy rain showers are a feature of summer in Northern Ontario. Often major rain amounts scattered, enough to impair fire spread but a short

distance away – no rain or trace amounts. On June 4 "heavy" thunderstorms between Fort Frances and Thunder Bay caused localized flooding and road closures. A flood warning was issued for west of Thunder Bay for over 90 mm over a short time duration.

As readers know, most forest fire evacuations happen because of smoke concerns, not proximity of flames, although some current fires are mere kilometres from some First Nations. A second evacuation of Pikangikum took place last week because of close proximity of flames and air quality.

Environment Canada and Weather Alerts

Environment Canada is the authoritative source for weather alerts and weather warnings in Canada. The Weather Network and other companies post these warnings but do not create them.

Special Weather Statements are the least urgent type of alert and are issued to let people know that conditions are unusual and could cause concern. Advisories are issued for specific weather events such as air quality because of forest fires and other concerns

such as fog, frost and hopefully in another season - freezing drizzle and blowing snow.

Watches alert the public about weather conditions that are favourable for storms or severe weather, which could cause safety concerns. When certainty increases about the path and strength of a storm system, a watch may be upgraded to a Warning - an urgent message that severe weather is either occurring or will occur soon.

Last week featured air quality advisories from eastern Manitoba to James Bay for several days. Often this smoke resembled cloud or thick haze without the smell of smoke. Sometimes this smoke from fires that are a few hundred kilometres distance can mix down the surface. When this happens visibility can be reduced dramatically and suggests that an actual fire is very close.

Last week was unique in my experience because as well as smoke across almost all of Northern Ontario, there were various Special Weather Statements, Advisories, Watches and Warnings. Concerns included heavy rainfall advisories for many communities in the west, "Heat Warnings" were current for from Atikokan to rural Thunder Bay and Timmins, Kapuskasing, Hearst and other communities in Northeastern Ontario.

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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.

Editor's Note: Due to the Kee-waywin Conference this past week, our monthly Publisher's Note will be not be featured in the July edition. It will continue in the August publication. Thank you for your understanding.

Commentary

Ain't no cure for the summer time blues



**Xavier
Kataquapit**

UNDER THE
NORTHERN SKY

Like that old song says “there ain't no cure for the summer time blues.” I remember very well what it was like being a teen in summer back home up the James Bay coast in Attawapiskat. I always had to work and that was good in a way because it kept me busy and out of trouble more or less.

Still, when I was 16, 17 and 18 I wished that I could leave my dusty, remote rez and head out to the big world where cities with sky scrapers, thousands of people, cars, trains and planes captivated my imagination.

That coming of age time which is probably from 14 to 18 or 19 is remarkable. Everything was so intense for me and I was learning about my home, the world and myself in leaps and bounds. Hanging out with my friends was always the release and comfort I needed while I felt trapped working on construction projects with my dad, Marius. In a way I am thankful that my dad had a construction and cargo business that provided much work for myself and my brothers. Long hours at work kept me away from drinking and drugs for quite a while.

Still, I remember as a teen that my life was all about adventure, risk and wanting to fit in with the other teens around me. I had always promised myself from the time I was very young that I would never drink or get into drugs because of so much tragedy and horror I had seen in my community when I was growing up. However, no matter what my intentions were when I was a teen suddenly the idea of having a drink with the boys, going to a party or trying a joint seemed like an acceptable thing to do.

Of course all teens want to fit in and take risks and that is just a reality for most of us at that age. However, what we never realized was the addictive power of alcohol, drugs and nicotine. It was hard to believe that something that most people did on a regular basis could actually turn a person into a helpless slave. I survived a relatively long time with out joining in for the drinking, cigarette and drug experience but one day I decided to accept someone's offer and that was it. My life changed from my experience of being a more or less innocent, wide eyed kid enthusiastic about learning, succeeding in life and reaching for the stars to becoming lost in drunken nights. Somehow I rationalized taking that first step and then keeping on that trail into some dark, lonely and very confusing days. It was terrible.

Lucky for me in the midst of this darkness a light came my way. A cousin of mine who had been to drug and alcohol treatment and taken a college program in Native drug and alcohol abuse had returned to the community and with the assistance of some others started an Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) group. All of a sudden I felt like someone had thrown me a life preserver as I was floating helplessly on a rough and dark ocean. It was difficult to make the move to attend my first

meeting but I was helped by my cousin Ron and the small group made me feel welcome. Wow, I had a safe place where people were not judging me or stressing me out. We were all in the same boat and doing our best to follow the AA program and figure out what this addiction reality was all about.

We had each other to count on and although life was not suddenly just a piece of cake it got a lot easier and slowly I moved back into a reality that was more sane. This was not a popular thing to be doing because most of the community was heavily involved in drink-

ing and drugs and they were very negative and nasty to our little group because we threatened them.

I was lucky to have connected with some people that knew what I was going through and what it would take to get my life back.

Soon after I got sober I had the opportunity to head out into the greater world and began my path as a writer, videographer and digital graphic designer.

I chose to surround myself with sober people and I realized that I was one of those individuals that just could not handle alcohol or drugs and I got that.

My life could have gone down many different trails that summer when I was 18 but lucky for me somehow I ended up on one that gave me back my life before I had gone on too far into the darkness. I have met many Native and non Native people over the years that have given me insight, education, traditional knowledge and provided me with the opportunity to write for a living.

I owe so much thanks to my family for understanding and supporting me, my mom Susan and my dad Marius for being hopeful that I could have a good life, my partner Mike for lead-

ing me through the jungle of life and pointing out many of the traps on the trail.

I give thanks to so many of the Elders I have met on my journey who shared some of their wisdom, culture and traditions with me.

Meegwetch to all the Native organizations and groups that have provided me employment over the years so that I could write the stories of my people. I am also thankful to the media who feature my column and stories far and wide.

I know that many teens are going to have an intense, hot summer and I hope and pray

that they think twice before they leave their innocent childhood behind and trade it off with a tumble into a difficult life. There are people you can reach out to in all First Nations that are sober and won't ever judge you if you decide you need help.

You can contact Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention (NADAP) Workers in most communities or if there is no AA, NA or traditional leadership to access then ask your community to develop these so that more of us can survive those critical coming of age summer time blues.

REVIEW

Review of Draft Forest Management Plan: Information Centre Red Lake Forest 2020-2030 Forest Management Plan

The Ontario **Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)**, **Red Lake Forest Management Company Ltd.** and the **Red Lake Local Citizens' Committee (LCC)** invite you to review and comment on the 2020-2030 Draft Forest Management Plan (FMP) for the **Red Lake Forest**.

The Planning Process

The FMP takes approximately three years to complete. During this time, five formal opportunities for public and Indigenous involvement are provided. The third opportunity (Stage Three) for this FMP occurred on January 23, 2019 to March 25, 2019 when the public was invited to review and comment on proposed operations for the first and second terms of the plan. This **'Stage Four'** notice is to:

- Invite you to review and comment on the draft FMP, and
- Request contributions to the background information to be used in planning.

Comments from the public will be considered in revisions to the draft FMP.

How to Get Involved

The Draft FMP and the Draft FMP summary will be available on the Ontario government website at www.ontario.ca/forestplans and at the Red Lake Forest Management Company Ltd. office at the location noted below, by appointment during normal office hours for a period of 60 days, **August 14, 2019 to October 14, 2019**. Comments on the draft FMP for the Red Lake Forest must be received by Corinne Arthur of the planning team at the MNRF Red Lake District Office, by **October 14, 2019**.

To assist you in the review and to provide the opportunity to ask questions, an information centre will be held at the following location from **3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (CST)** on the following day:

Wednesday, August 14, 2019
Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 102
31 Hwy. 105, Red Lake, ON P0V 2M0

In addition to the most current versions of the information and maps which were previously available, the following information will also be available:

- Draft FMP, including supplementary documentation;
- Draft FMP summary (copies may be obtained at the information centre);
- MNRF's preliminary list of required alterations.

Meetings with representatives of the planning team and the LCC 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 individuals listed below:

Corinne Arthur, R.P.F.
Management Forester
MNRF Red Lake District Office
227 Howey Street, P.O. Box 5003
Red Lake, ON P0V 2M0
tel: 807-727-1337
e-mail: corinne.arthur@ontario.ca

Robert Partridge, R.P.F.
Plan Author
Red Lake Forest Management Co. Ltd.
138 Howey Street, P.O. Box 1338
Red Lake, ON P0V 2M0
tel: 807-727-3320
e-mail: robert.partridge@whitefeatherforest.com

Russ Power
LCC Representative
Red Lake Forest LCC
c/o MNRF Red Lake District Office
227 Howey Street, P.O. Box 5003
Red Lake, ON P0V 2M0
e-mail: russellpower28@gmail.com

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)*. The last possible date to seek issue resolution with the MNRF Regional Director is **November 13, 2019**.

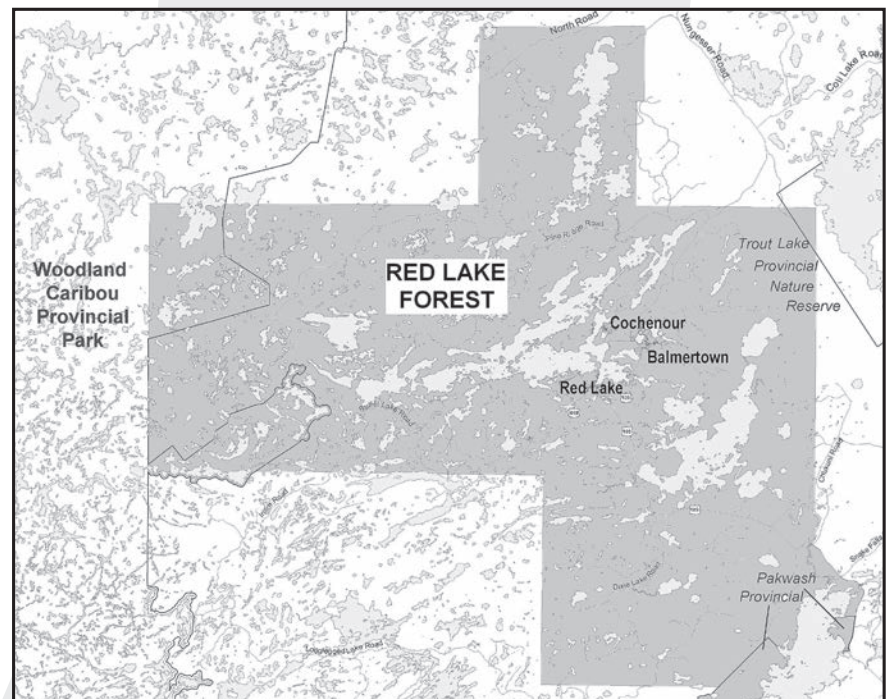
Stay Involved

A final opportunity to inspect the approved plan before it is implemented will take place during the inspection of the MNRF-approved FMP (**Stage Five**), which is tentatively scheduled for December 6, 2019.

The approval date of the FMP is tentatively scheduled for **January 15, 2020**.

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.

Renseignements en français : Danielle Gough au 807 727-1335



Arts and Entertainment



Breaking Ground art exhibit held in Thunder Bay

a member of the bear clan. “I’m also really interested in the Seven Grandfather Teachings, so I focused really on what the bear represents, which is courage and bravery, and just finding that within myself,” Gagnon says. “My art has the brain and the insides, kind of Woodland style art, made from actual wood just to represent that mental health and the heart kind of lie one-on-one with each other and focusing on the body and mind and holistic wellness.”

Gagnon says her Fire Within embroidered art piece is based on the wampum belt made by the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. “There is a white pine in the centre of it with two lightning bolts on each side,” Gagnon says. “Seeing as I did firefighting last summer, I wanted to put that in play too because white pine are one of the biggest trees and a symbol of the wampum belt.”

Gagnon says she used the lightning bolts in the work because lightning causes many forest fires. “There is a lot of change in the climate now facing our natural resources with forest fires happening everywhere,” Gagnon says. “So I’m kind of focusing on that relationship with humans and nature that we really have to protect in our way of living as Indigenous people.”

Gagnon says Workman Arts Northwest Ontario holds open studio sessions on Tuesday afternoons at the Baggage Building. “I do come to the open studios once in a while to just create some art and just kind of leave your mind and just let your hand and creativity do the rest,” Gagnon says.

Gagnon says the Breaking Ground exhibition was a good opportunity to showcase her art and get her name “out there as an artist.”

“And show what I find passion in in my own practice — spreading awareness and educating people not knowing the actual history of Canada and why things are the way they are now,” Gagnon says.

The Breaking Ground art exhibition was held to provide an opportunity for ...artists to share and celebrate their work...

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August 2nd – 11th, 2019

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Friday, August 2nd, 12:30pm @ Travel Information Centre

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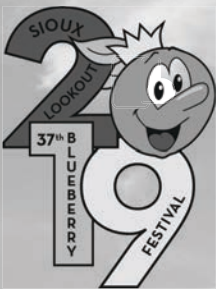
Saturday, August 3rd, 12:00pm @ Travel Information Centre

Join us for Bert’s circus-themed party!

COMMUNITY CELEBRATION OF LIFE:

Sunday, August 11th, 7:30pm @ Northway Cemetery

Celebrate and honour your loved ones - bring a candle to place on a gravestone



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Rick Garrick/Wawatay News
Aroland’s Shelby Gagnon showcased her Mahkwa and Fire Within art pieces in the Workman Arts Northwest Ontario Breaking Ground art exhibition, held at the Baggage Building Arts Centre in Thunder Bay.

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

Aroland artist Shelby Gagnon’s carved wood and embroidered art pieces were among the art featured at the Breaking Ground exhibition, at the Baggage Building Arts Centre in Thunder Bay.

“The first one ... is called Mahkwa — it is made out of basswood and painted with acrylic paint,” says Gagnon, a Lakehead University Honours Bachelor of Fine Arts graduate. “I created this while I was in school and it is kind of based with the exhibition Breaking Ground because I personally have had mental health illness growing up and something that helped me to cope with it was art and just recently learning and getting taught about my spirituality and culture as an Indigenous person here in Canada.”

Gagnon says she created the bear out of wood because she is

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Sports



Rick Garrick/Wawatay news

The late Casey Tait's parents Gordon and Evelyn Tait and daughter Teonna McKay drop the puck to kick off the second annual Casey Tait Memorial Klik Cup hockey tournament on July 5 at the Fort William First Nation Arena.



Rick Garrick/Wawatay news

The Sachigo Lake Warriors and Sandy Lake Chiefs kicked off the action during the first game of the second annual Casey Tait Memorial Klik Cup hockey tournament.

Casey Tait memorial tournament held in FWFN

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

The parents of the late Casey Tait were honoured to attend the second annual Casey Tait Memorial Klik Cup hockey tournament, held July 5-7 at the Fort William First Nation Arena.

"This is the first year that I've been here for the tournament, but I find it very emotional because this was my son's favourite (sport)," says Gordon Tait, Casey's father. "Hockey was his life, and I believe that if he was still with us that he would be playing hockey."

The annual Klik Cup hockey tournament was renamed as the Casey Tait Memorial Klik

Cup hockey tournament in 2018 to honour Casey, who had met many friends through hockey and was well known across the north. Casey was from Sachigo.

"I'm glad that they carried on, his buddies, his friends carried on for him," Gordon says. "And I'm just hoping they will continue on as much as they can. I'm very happy to be here for this event. I just wanted to thank the organizers that made an effort to hold this tournament."

Gordon and Evelyn Tait, Casey's mother, did the ceremonial puck drop to start the first game of the tournament between the Sachigo Lake War-

riors and Sandy Lake Chiefs on July 5.

"I'm really happy that we were able to be here and I'm happy that they carried on," Evelyn says. "My son organized this (Klik Cup) tournament when he moved here. He loved hockey, that was his life. He started skating when he was only two-years-old. He continued on when he went to high school and his first hockey tournament was when he was 14-years-old."

Evelyn says Casey used to send her pictures of the Klik Cup hockey tournament.

"I'm really happy that this is continuing," Evelyn says. "He loved hockey very much. He

was the captain for the Sachigo Warriors and he was with them for over 30 years."

Evelyn says Casey created a new hockey team for the All Bands hockey tournament in 2018, Team Sachigo, with young players.

"He didn't play with the Sachigo Warriors in his last hockey game, he played with Team Sachigo," Evelyn says. "And his last tournament was the (All-Native Goodwill Hockey Tournament) here in Thunder Bay."

Evelyn thanked Titus Semple, Robbie Kakegamic and Jonathan McKay for organizing the Casey Tait Memorial Klik Cup hockey tournament. The

tournament was sponsored by North Star Air.

"I thank North Star for doing this, for helping the youth that come here," Evelyn says. "They even had a raffle draw and North Star provided prizes. That is wonderful for North Star to be doing that."

Teonna McKay, Casey's daughter, says she was grateful that the players came together in memory of her father.

"He really enjoyed (hockey)," Teonna says. "It was a part of what kept him going and he was just always really happy to play hockey. And when he got sick he still wanted to play even though he was sick."

Sharon McKay, Casey's part-

ner, says the funds raised by the tournament will help people on dialysis.

"Casey loved to play hockey — he played right to the end," Sharon says. "He played in the Goodwill and two weeks later he passed away."

The Pikangikum Winterhawks won the Casey Tait Memorial Klik Cup hockey tournament against the Sandy Lake Chiefs. Pikangikum beat the Sachigo Lake Warriors and Sandy Lake beat the Bearskin Lake Angels in the semi-finals to reach the finals. The other teams in the tournament were the Kasabonika Flames, Mishkeegogamang Falcons, Lac Seul Tomahawks and Fort Hope Braves.

Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin

Everyone working together to raise our children

Tikinagan is an Indigenous agency helping families and children. Our services are rooted in the culture, traditions, and values of our First Nations. We recognize that everyone in the community has a role to play in this work - parents, extended family, Elders, Tikinagan, community resources and the leadership.

Tikinagan is Your Agency.

We are governed by our First Nations' leadership, and First Nation-appointed Board of Directors. We are led by First Nation management, and 75% of our employees are proud Indigenous workers who are dedicated to helping their community and working with our service model: Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin. Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin is based on traditional values and customary care, which means we work with each community, family and child's circle of care to respond to abuse or neglect concerns.

We work to keep children at home, but if a child does need to leave their home we first look to extended family and follow our tradition of customary care. While we do follow Ontario laws to respond to concerns about children and their families, we rarely use the court system as our communities prefer to operate with Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin and our traditional ways. Tikinagan truly is your agency- an agency built by our people, for our people.

Learn more about Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin and what makes Tikinagan unique at www.tikinagan.org.

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Community



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News
The walkers of the third Healing Walk for all First Nations and Communities head for Fort William First Nation after gathering at City Hall in Thunder Bay on their last day of walking.

Ginoogaming reaches Fort William for third annual healing walk

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

The third Healing Walk for all First Nations and Communities from Ginoogaming to Fort William First Nation featured a large turnout of walkers, including youth walkers from Long Lake #58.

“This year, I think we have

got pretty close to 40 of us (walking) all the way,” says Cecil Mendowegan, a Healing Walk organizer from Ginoogaming. “We have a big group this year so that tells me our healing walk is growing every year, getting stronger. A lot of youth are involved now and that’s good.”

Mendowegan says the walk-

ers focused on a different issue on each day of the walk, including Drugs/Alcohol Addictions, Cancer, Missing Women/Men, Residential School/Day School Survivors/Descendants, Suicide, Land Water and Air and Racism.

con’d on next page...

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Thunder Bay – Lydiameekis@edu.knet.ca or call 807-629-2417

Community

Walkers in FWFN

...from page 8

"They face (those issues) year after year," Mendowegan says. "It never changes — we're always battling with alcohol and drug abuse issues, we're always facing people dying of cancer and we are always teaching our young people about the residential school effects and the suicides that continue to happen in our communities."

The walkers and their supporters gathered at City Hall in Thunder Bay for speeches by Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler and others before walking through the city to Bannon's Gas Bar in Fort William.

"I was just saying earlier how important this is, not just for Ginoogaming or Long Lake #58 but for all of us because they are raising awareness on the issues that we are dealing with in our communities," Fiddler says. "And (they are) also showing us an example of how we can address these difficult issues, and that is by coming together, which is what they have done over these last few days walking together as a community over a great distance. I hope that we continue to work on these very difficult issues all year round and I hope they walk again next year because I think we need those reminders of what we need to do."

Fiddler says it was encouraging to see all of the youth who participated in the about 320-kilometre walk.

"I saw some of the pictures on social media as well of youth



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

The walkers walk along James St. in Thunder Bay towards Fort William First Nation.

walking with Elders," Fiddler says. "That is the way it should be — that's the way forward and I want to thank them for doing this (walk) again this year."

Peter Rasevych, assistant coordinator for the Healing Walk and a Ginoogaming citizen, says the walkers had "lots of support" from the communities along the route.

"Geraldton Friendship Centre supplied us with dinner on the first day," Rasevych says. "And on day four Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging, Rocky Bay, provided us with dinner and also a place to sleep in the gym. And the next morning they gave us breakfast. We walked to Lake Helen (Red Rock Indian Band) and they provided us with dinner. And then a second night we went back to Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging and slept there."

Rasevych says the walkers walked in three teams, with each team doing about 20 kilo-

metres per day.

"Which is still about four-to-five hours of walking a day," Rasevych says. "In the heat and the bugs and the rain, it is deadly."

Rasevych says blisters on the feet were an issue for the walkers.

"You could put multiple pairs of socks on and it doesn't matter — it's going to rub ... and you are going to get blisters," Rasevych says. "We were walking in prayer and your body will block out that pain. It's a prayer in healing for the communities and our First Nations."

Rasevych says the walkers were also provided with support by Ginoogaming and Long Lake #58 and a wide range of organizations, including Nishnawbe Aski Nation, Matawa First Nations Management, Ontario Native Women's Association, Elevate NWO, Dilico Anishinabek Family Care and the Ontario Provincial Police.



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler speaks about the importance of the Healing Walk for all First Nations and Communities.



Nishnawbe Aski Nation
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Community



submitted photos

An all-Indigenous crew of two pilots and nine flight attendants flew a Boeing 787 Dreamliner across the country on National Indigenous Peoples Day to salute the achievements and contributions of its Indigenous employees.

Air Canada's all-Indigenous flight salutes achievements

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News
Eabametoong's Lewis Yesno

enjoyed participating in Air Canada's all-Indigenous flight across the country on National Indigenous Peoples Day to

salute the achievements and contributions of its Indigenous employees. The flight, AC185 from Toronto to Vancouver, was flown by an all-Indigenous crew of two pilots and nine flight attendants on a Boeing 787 Dreamliner. The flight was also supported on the ground by Indigenous employees.

"It went very well — everything went pretty smoothly," says Yesno, an Air Canada first officer on the 787. "It was a real pleasure to be part of the first ever I think in North America, and as far as I know in the world, all-Indigenous crewed flight. It was a privilege to do it."

Yesno says he previously worked with some of the other crew members before on other flights.

"It was just nice to finally all get together and have an all-Indigenous crewed flight," Yesno says. "It's awesome — it was a very good experience."

A video featuring the crew and the flight's traditional Musqueam welcome on arrival at Vancouver is posted online at: <https://vimeo.com/343369521>.

"We are honoured to salute and acknowledge the achievements and contributions of Air Canada's 350 First Nations, Inuit and Métis employees, who originated the idea of operating a flight with an all-Indigenous crew," says Arielle Meloul-Wechsler, senior vice president - people, culture and communications with Air Canada. "We are thrilled to champion their pride in their identity and their professional attainments in aviation, which also makes them incredible ambassadors for our company and role models for young people. As well, we are appreciative of our Indigenous employees' desire to help us demonstrate that Air Canada is a company that promotes and celebrates diversity and is a company open to and welcoming of all talents."

Air Canada was named as one of Canada's Best Diversity Employers for four consecutive years. It actively cultivates diversity to ensure that all qualified individuals have equal opportunities for career devel-

opment and advancement. Yesno says he was always interested in flying since he was a young child.

"Apparently, I was told even before I was one I was looking at airplanes, listening for them and watching them land on the water where I grew up in Eabametoong," Yesno says. "The first chance I ever got was when I got sent out to high school in Geraldton in 1979. There was a career day and there was an opportunity to do a familiarization flight for \$25. I went up and did it and that was it, I was hooked."

Yesno says he earned his pilot's licence in 1984 in Thunder Bay.

"I flew up north for 17 years, all the while applying to try to get to Air Canada," Yesno says. "I've been at Air Canada since October 1999. I started off on the regional jet as a co-pilot and then I became the captain. And then I moved on to international airplanes basically to become a relief pilot on the Airbus 330/340 and then the Boeing 777 going mainly to Asia."

Yesno says he is currently a first officer on the 787 with the goal of becoming a captain.

"It'll be about probably three years and then I will be captain on this plane," Yesno says.

Yesno says he has seen the world as an Air Canada pilot.

"I love my job — I get to see a lot of places," Yesno says. "You become a bit of a tourist usually in some of these places. The majority of the times it's a 24-hour layover, so all you have time for is to just go there, have something to eat and then rest up. But occasionally we have 48 or 72-hour layovers and you can become a tourist and go look around."

Yesno says his favourite destinations are Paris, Rome, London and Tel Aviv.

"It's been awesome," Yesno says. "I love my career."

In addition to careers as pilots and flight attendants, Indigenous employees at Air Canada also work in customer service positions at airports and contact centres and in professional maintenance, specialized operational and corporate management positions.

INSPECTION

Inspection of Approved Aerial Herbicide Project Caribou Forest

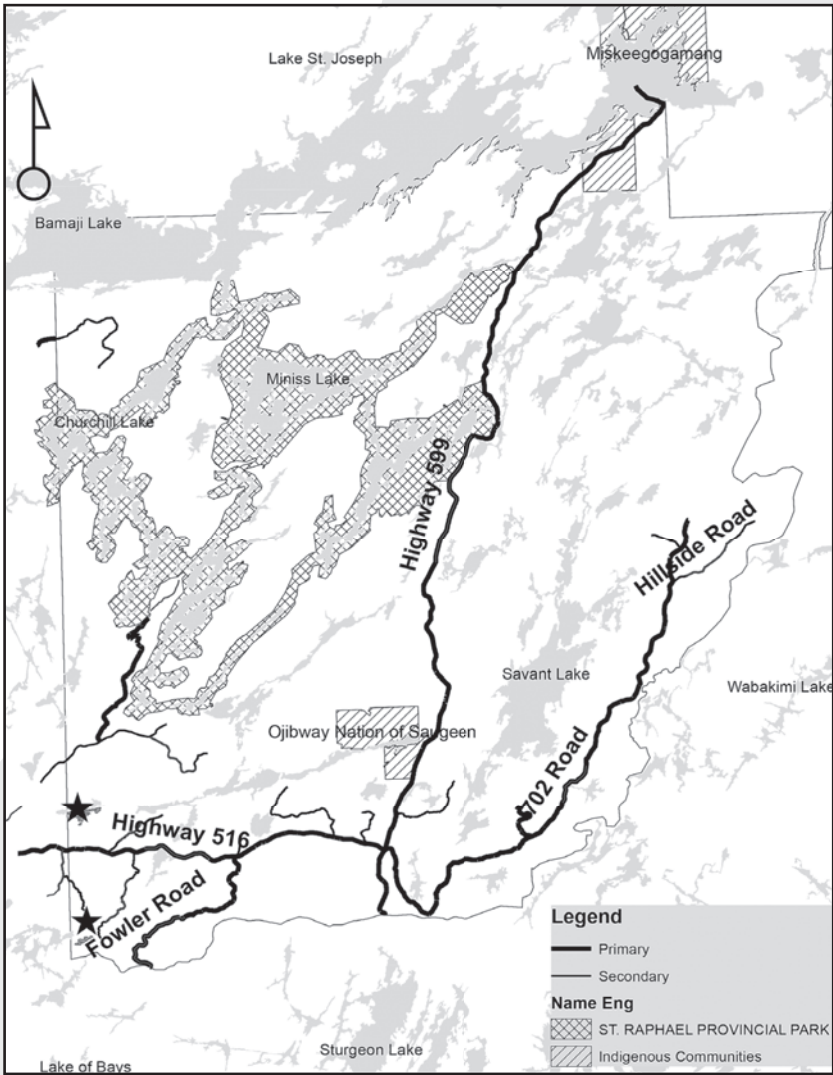
The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) invites you to inspect the MNRF-approved aerial herbicide project. As part of our ongoing efforts to regenerate and protect Ontario's forests, selected stands on the **Caribou Forest** (see map) will be sprayed with herbicide to control competing vegetation, starting on or about: **August 1, 2019.**

The approved project description and project plan for the aerial herbicide project is available for public inspection by appointment during normal business hours at the Resolute Forest Products Canada Inc. office and on the Ontario government website at www.ontario.ca/forestplans beginning **April 1, 2019 until March 31, 2020** when the Annual Work Schedule expires.

Interested and affected persons and organizations can arrange an appointment with MNRF staff to discuss the aerial herbicide project. For more information, please contact:

Jason Suprovich, R.P.F.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
49 Prince Street
Sioux Lookout, ON P8T 1A6
tel: 807-737-5037
e-mail: jason.suprovich@ontario.ca

Joel Gerry, R.P.F.
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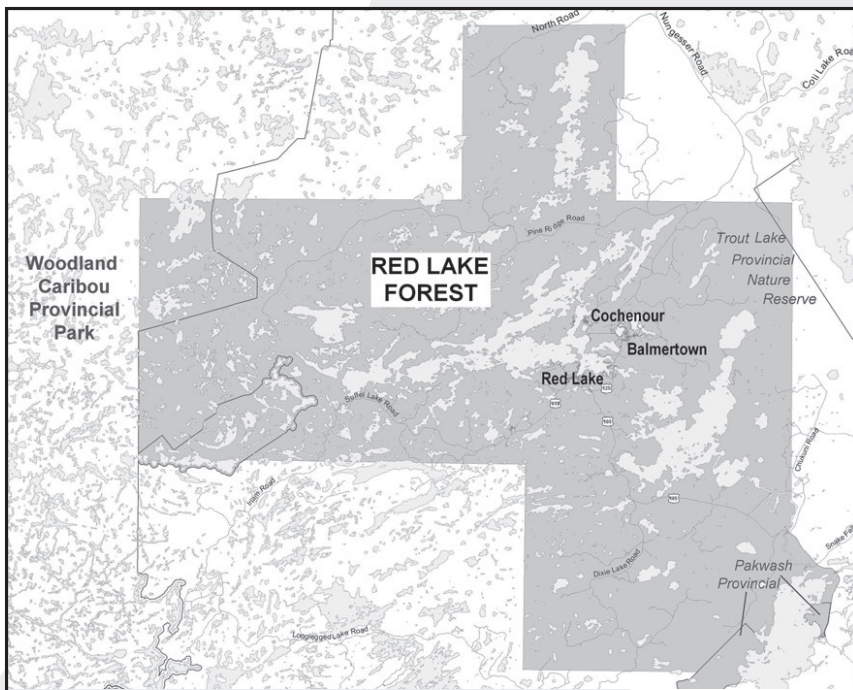
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Ontario 

Canadian Rangers in Pikangikum settle into daily routine



submitted by Sergeant Peter Moon, Canadian Rangers

TOP: An elder thanks a Canadian Ranger as he walks from a bus to a waiting evacuation plane.

ABOVE: Master Corporal Lilly Kejick, right, checks a Canadian Ranger's face mask.

INSPECTION

Inspection of Approved Aerial Herbicide Project Red Lake Forest

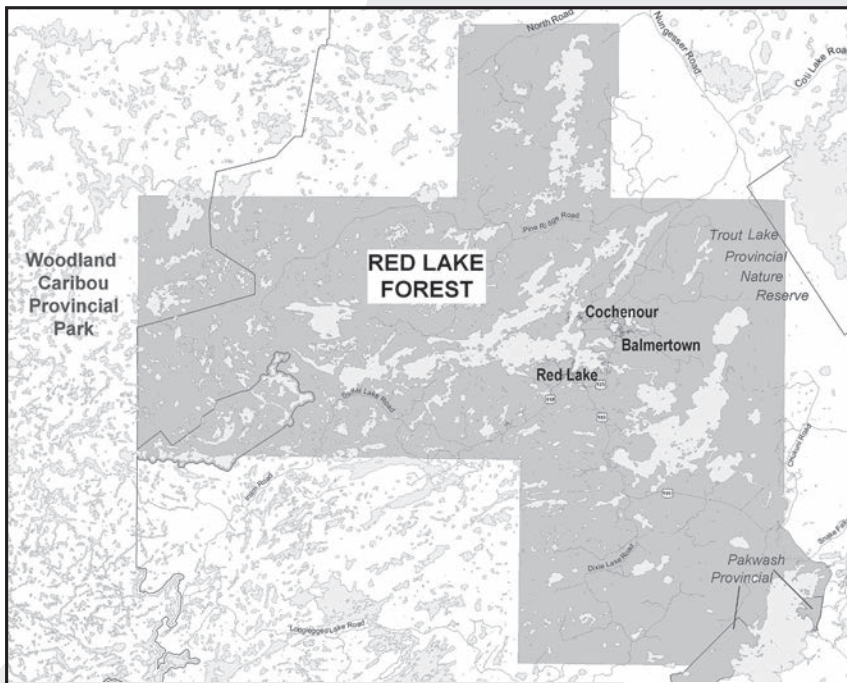
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Ontario 

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E-mail: tony.sakanee@hotmail.ca
Phone: (807) 479-2698 or 479-2570

www.wawataynews.ca

Community

Camp Loon will teach life skills to Junior Rangers

Peter Moon
Special to Wawatay News

Junior Canadian Rangers attending this year's annual Camp Loon are going to have "a great time," according to Lieutenant Jason Dech, the Canadian Army officer who will be the camp's commandant.

"It will be the best camp ever," he said, "and the Junior Rangers are going to have a great time. They will have both fun and, hopefully, retain all the knowledge they will have acquired while at the camp."

The Junior Canadian Rangers is an army program for boys and girls aged 12 to 18 in remote and isolated communities across the Canadian North. There are more than 1,000 Junior Rangers in Northern Ontario.

Camp loon will run from Monday, July 15 to Friday, July 26.

The main camp will be held in the bush on Springwater Lake, 50 kilometers north of Geraldton, and will provide a week of advanced training for Junior Rangers from 25 First Nations from across the Far North of Ontario.

The camp will also, for the first time, host two satellite camps for Junior Rangers who will not be at Camp Loon. One group will spend a week paddling and camping on Lake Superior while a second group will undergo training in the bush near Pickle Lake.

They will be joined by another group who are not



Sergeant Peter Moon, Canadian Rangers

Camp Loon's boat training stresses the importance of safety around water.

Junior Rangers but are participating in the army's Eagle's Nest program for Indigenous youth. They will train at Camp Loon with the Junior Rangers. The participants will come from four First Nations – Aroland, Ginoogaming, Long Lake # 58, and Marten Falls.

A total of 141 Junior Rangers attended last year's camp. With the addition of the two satellite training sites more than 300 Junior Rangers will take part this year.

Among the camp's many programs will be training in a range of activities that are not normally available in the Junior

Rangers' small home communities. They include specialized instruction in shooting (both rifle and paintball), boating (power boats and paddle canoes), driving all-terrain vehicles, mountain biking, archery, lacrosse, traditional arts and crafts, and a first aid program that will give each qualifying Junior Ranger a certificate from St. John Ambulance.

"The training will emphasize safety at all times but it's also intended to be a lot of fun," said Lieutenant Dech. "Camp Loon is an opportunity for them to meet people from other com-

munities, make friends, and learn from each other. They really are going to have a great time."

The camp staff of about 125 will include Canadian Rangers and regular and reserve members of the Canadian Armed Forces. Some of the Canadian Rangers will have attended Camp Loon when they were Junior Rangers.

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

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Keewaywin Education Authority is currently seeking two dynamic Elementary Classroom Teachers: for a split 1-2 grade classroom; a split 7-8 grade classroom.

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- * Be able to provide a clean Criminal Reference Check (CRC) and a clean Vulnerable Sector (VS) Check, including Pardoned Sex Offender Database (PSOD).

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Child & Family Services

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Business

NADF holds forum on forest industry

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

The NADF Aboriginal Forum 2019 featured presentations on the mining and forest industries as well as other topics at the Valhalla Inn in Thunder Bay.

Alan Coutts, president and CEO of Noront Resources Ltd., delivered a presentation on Progress Towards a Shared Future in the Ring of Fire.

"Usually when you're in very remote parts of Canada or Russia or anywhere there is a new mine, the mines that get developed are gold mines and diamond mines," Coutts says. "The reason is because the pay, the bag of diamonds or bar of gold, is very high value but very small and very transportable. So you can put the bar of gold underneath the pilot's seat in the plane and fly it out."

Coutts says commodities in the Ring of Fire such as chrome, zinc, copper and nickel are not small and require road infrastructure for transportation.

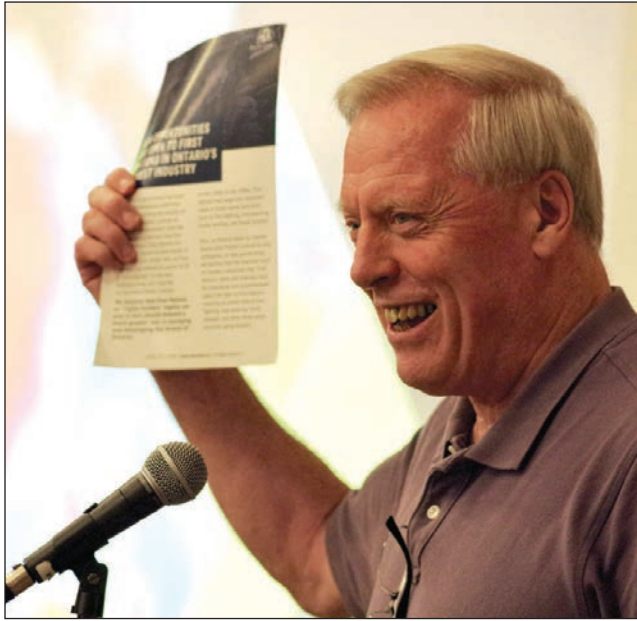
"As you can see, the location of the Ring of Fire is about 300 kilometres away from any paved highway or railway," Coutts says. "So this is the key enabler, is the infrastructure."

Coutts says Noront has a diverse range of employees, including about 50 per cent Indigenous employees.

"I think that diversity really helps to shape the way we do business and way we think about our business," Coutts says. "We have strong representative First Nation people at all levels of our organization. We have on the board of directors that I report to JP Gladu, for example, who is a local Anishinabe from the Thunder Bay area. And our team at the site is two-thirds First Nation, mostly from the local communities."

Coutts says Noront is focusing on the Ring of Fire for the "long haul," noting that the company has about 85 per cent of the claims in the area.

"And out of the 21 major discoveries to date, we control 20 of them," Coutts says. "This is important to us — this is the only place that we work, and how we work and who we work with is very important to us."



Howard Hampton, colleague with Pilot Law LLP, delivers his presentation on Ontario's Forest Industries are Changing and Creating New Opportunities for First Nations at the NADF Aboriginal Forum 2019 at the Valhalla Inn in Thunder Bay.

Howard Hampton, colleague with Pilot Law LLP, delivered a presentation on Ontario's Forest Industries are Changing and Creating New Opportunities for First Nations. He noted that the major wood producing areas of the United States will not be producing as much wood fibre in the future due to climate change and there will be new demand for wood fibre in the future in the cardboard and carbon fibre industries.

"All of these things are part of the new forest sector," Hampton says. "But this is not going to involve old companies, it is going to involve new companies. It's going to involve a lot of innovation, and in Ontario the Ontario government is going to have to take these sustainable forest licences that we've seen and they're going to have to transfer them to new entities."

Hampton says the courts will have a say in the transfer of the sustainable forest licences.

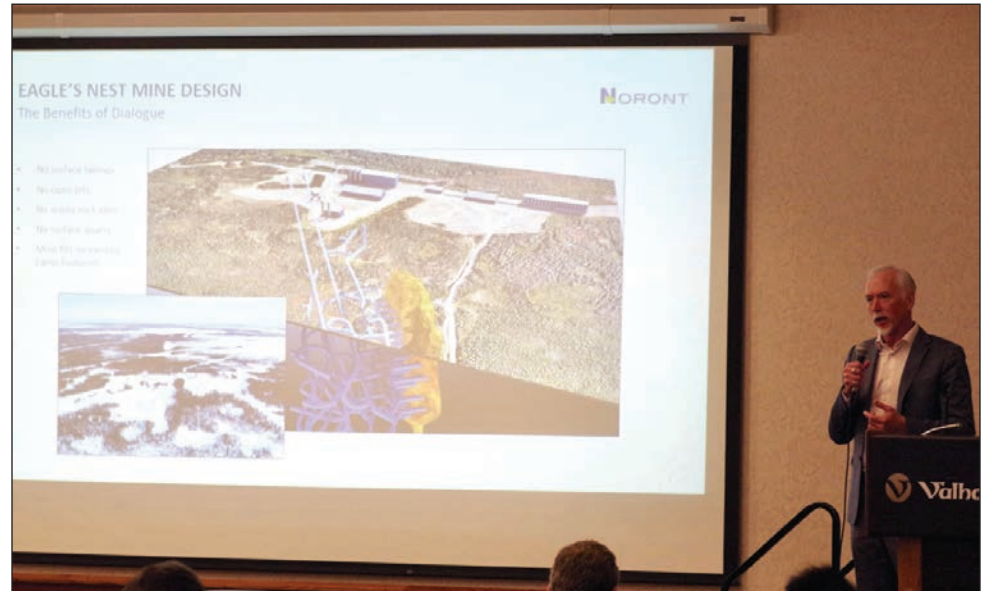
"Our courts say if governments are going to grant licences or permits involving crown land or involving natural resources, then the rights and interests of First Nations have to be considered," Hampton says.

"There must be consultation and there must be accommodation — that's what our courts are saying."

Hampton says there is an opportunity for First Nations to create a "post-climate change business enterprise."

"I think there is an incredible opportunity here for First Nations to recapture and redevelop some of the things that were part of historical First Nations culture and historical First Nations activities in northern Ontario," Hampton says, noting that First Nations people used to be involved in the forest industry in the past. "There is a window here that is open and I think it is an incredible opportunity."

The other presentations were NADF Program and Services by Charlton Thompson, senior account manager with NADF; UNDRIIP – Enhanced Protection for Inherent Rights by Nicole Richmond, barrister and solicitor; Revenue Resource Sharing by Gary Allen, executive director of Grand Council Treaty 3; and Duty to Consult by Germaine Conacher, partner, consulting services with MNP LLP.



Alan Coutts, president and CEO of Noront Resources Ltd., delivers his presentation on Progress Towards a Shared Future in the Ring of Fire.



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Business



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

A group of Shkoday Abinoggiwak Obimiwedoon staff, board members, students and parents helped celebrate the unveiling of the new Shkoday logo during the organization's Aboriginal Head Start Program graduation ceremony in Thunder Bay.

Shkoday introduces new Head Start program logo

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

Shkoday Abinojiiwak Obimiedoon introduced a new logo during its Aboriginal Head Start Program graduation ceremony for 65 children aged from 18 months to six-years-old.

“We’re trying to get the community to recognize the work that we do within all levels of education, starting here with the Head Start, the Biwaase’aa program and then into the high school,” says Paul Francis Jr., president of the Shkoday Abinojiwak Obimiwedoon board of directors. “So we took the shortened name of our full incorporated name, Shkoday Abinojiwak Obimiwedoon, and just say that Shkoday to really focus on the purpose and vision of this organization, which is to nurture that spirit, identity, culture, all the things that make us important in who we are as Anishinabe and celebrate in that.”

Francis says Shkoday, which means fire, is very important to Indigenous people.

"The fire represents that spirit within our children and all of us," Francis says. "Our role here is to help support and nurture the students in their identity all the way through the school system from Head Start up to elementary and through to high school."

Francis says the seven points on the fire element of the logo represents many things, including the Seven Grandfather Teachings.

"There is a teaching in our culture — we always look back to our ancestors seven generations," Francis says. "And everything we do, the decisions we make, we look seven generations ahead for our children, our grandchildren, and want them to enjoy a good life."

Francis says Shkoday provides in-school and after-school programs in eight elementary schools in both the public and Catholic school boards across Thunder Bay as well as in Westgate Collegiate and Vocational Institute.

"We know our children are not graduating from high school, and the big reason is they are not reflected," Francis says. "So here, right from a young age, they are learning about their identity and that is very important. They are learning about their traditional knowledge, about trapping



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Paul Francis Jr., president of the Shkoday Abinojiwak Obimiwe-doon board of directors.

and the medicines, smudging, traditional stories. And family is welcomed here — my son is in elementary school now and he went through this program and my daughter is graduating today.”

Francis says he has seen how the Biwaase'aa program helps Indigenous students with their education, as a youth worker and program manager with the program and now as a board member.

"I've seen first-hand the impact it has on these students to stay in school, to feel proud of who they are, to learn about their culture," Francis says. "Everything that residential school tried to stop we're trying to promote here."

Amanda Moddejonge, a parent of one of the children in the Aboriginal Head Start Program, says her daughter has been attending the program since 2015.

"We are not from here — my daughter is Indigenous and it is very difficult for me as a (non-native) woman to teach her about Indigenous culture," Moddejonge says. "The program for the children is second to none, the skills that they learn, the camaraderie they get, the friendships that they build are incredible."

Moddejonge says her daughter was used to having a large family around her in the community she comes from in southern Ontario.

"So it is really nice for her to be involved with a group of kids that she can really identify with," Moddejonge says. "I watched her go from being a very quiet shy little girl to actually getting up in front of everybody and helping with the (graduation) presentation. So to watch the amount of courage that has developed with her has been exceptional."

INSPECTION

Inspection of Approved Aerial Herbicide Project Lac Seul Forest

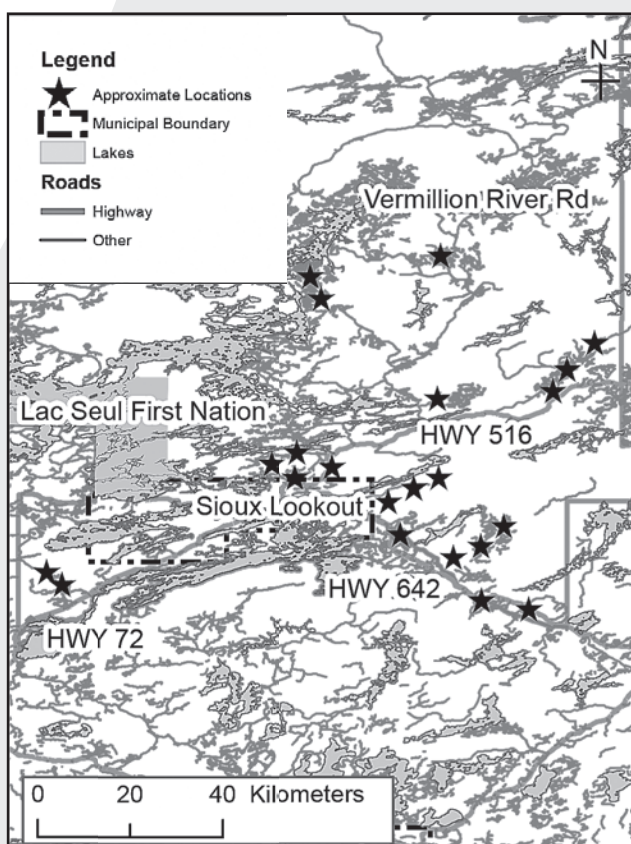
The Ontario **Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)** invites you to inspect the MNRF-approved aerial herbicide project. As part of our ongoing efforts to regenerate and protect Ontario's forests, selected stands on the **Lac Seul Forest** (see map) will be sprayed with herbicide to control competing vegetation, starting on or about: **August 6, 2019.**

The approved project description and project plan for the aerial herbicide project is available for public inspection by appointment during normal business hours at the MNRF Sioux Lookout District Office or Ondaadiziwin Forest Management Inc. office and on the Ontario government website at www.ontario.ca/forestplans beginning **July 5, 2019 until March 31, 2020**, when the Annual Work Schedule expires.

Interested and affected persons and organizations can arrange an appointment with MNRF staff to discuss the aerial herbicide project. For more information, please contact:

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