Minister Hajdu, DGC Narcisse lay wreathes at 2022 Remembrance Day ceremony

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

The Remembrance Day service at Waverley Park in Thunder Bay included Deputy Grand Chief Bobby Narcisse, Shuniah Mayor Wendy Landry and Indigenous Services Canada Minister Patty Hajdu laying wreathes at the cenotaph.

"It's to remember all the individuals and citizens of this country that have laid down their lives for the preservation of peace and justice in Canada," Narcisse says. "I'm also honoured to lay a wreath on behalf of all the First Nations (citizens) around the area that also served in various areas of the military and service to this country. It's also time to remember and to reflect on those individuals who have given service, even today as well, to really recognize and affirm all the contributions people in the military service have given this country, and we remember them as well — it was an honour to be here."

Landry, a Red Rock Indian Band citizen, says it was important for her to lay a wreath as an Anishinabek women, a mayor and a Canadian citizen.

'I wanted to pay respects to all those that I know personally and those I d served in the military all his life, I have cousins that are still serving, I have childhood friends that have served and retired, my own chief has retired from the military too and served in Afghani-

Hajdu says Remembrance Day is a

hugely important day for all Canadians to recognize the many contributions and sacrifices that people serving Canada have made.

"We have many people that have lost their lives as service members and veterans that have come back often times scarred by the experience of fighting for our country," Hajdu says. "I was at Indigenous Veterans Day this week in Atlantic Canada recognizing the many Indigenous people that served for the country, and it's important that we continue to recognize that we have the freedoms and rights we have because people have defended

Grand Chief Derek Fox laid a wreath and carried the Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Veterans Eagle Staff at the Mount McKay cenotaph in Fort William while Deputy Grand Chief Anna Betty Achneepineskum observed Remembrance Day in Fort Albany and Deputy Grand Chief Victor Linklater observed Remembrance Day in Toronto. The NAN Veterans Eagle Staff, which includes seven eagle feathers, one representing each of the Seven Grandfather Teachings, was created in 2017 by families and communities from across NAN territory to honour their warriors.

"This week we honour all our warriors who have come to the defence of Turtle Island in world wars and conflicts across the globe," Fox says. "We honour the sacrifice of all those who have fallen in battle, and we are thankful for those who continue to



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Deputy Grand Chief Bobby Narcisse laid a wreath to remember those who laid down their lives for the preservation of peace and justice at the Remembrance Day ceremony at Waverley Park in Thunder Bay.

serve today. We are proud of our many (citizens) who continue this proud tradition of service in the Canadian Armed Forces, the Canadian Rangers and police services across our nations. We encourage everyone to take time to honour veterans, and those who continue to serve. We ask you to keep them in your thoughts and prayers."

Mattagami Elder Gerry Martin, a Canadian Forces veteran, also spoke about his service with the artillery and the memories of veterans during the Lakehead University Indigenous Veterans Day ceremony on Nov. 8 at the Thunder Bay campus.

'We thank God, the Creator, the deity, that we made it through it and

we're still alive," Martin says. "And hope that this country and the world doesn't see another major war of the world. Have we not learned yet to live in peace, because that's what our Nish (teaching) is, to live in peace and harmony with all of creation."

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Politics

DGC Narcisse highlights importance of Treaties Recognition Week

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Deputy Grand Chief Bobby Narcisse highlighted how treaties have impacted First Nations people during his Treaties Recognition Week talk on Nov. 11 at Confederation College in Thunder Bay.

'We all are treaty people, but I'm here to speak to you about the true history of this country and how this country called Canada was formed on a litany of broken legal agreements, broken promises and mistruths and how this has caused two Canadas to exist," Narcisse says. "One Canada tells itself that it is a model to the outside world when it comes to human rights and a wealth of opportunities granted to all who live within its borders, from universal health care to free public education, access to the job market, the right to vote and chase the dream of home ownership and acquiring various things like an SUV or a boat and motor."

Narcisse says this is not the Canada that many First Nations people have experienced across Treaty 5 and Treaty 9, which cover the northern two-thirds of Ontario.

"Our ancestors signed those treaties with the Crown, with the government of Canada and even with Ontario," Narcisse says. "We entered into these treaties with the newcomers, the settlers in absolute and good faith. Back then we've heard stories and historical references where we lived on helping each other, assisting the newcomers. They thought this would be the same with us, that they'd create a society where we would all prosper jointly."

Narcisse says Canada has broken every treaty that it signed with First Nations peo-

"As a result our children do not have the same rights, privileges and freedoms as non-Indigenous students," Narcisse says. "One of my portfolios is child welfare — we are constantly working with our First Nations families and children to get them equitable services at the community level."

Narcisse says the Royal Proclamation issued by King George III in 1763 contained provisions to recognize and protect land rights, including title of Indigenous nations.

"The Proclamation established protocols for dealing with Indigenous nations and set up a treaty process which required there be consent between two parties, that compensation be provided for any lands or resources secured by the Crown," Narcisse says.

Narcisse says they often get questions about what treaties are.

"Some people don't think treaties are real, they don't think they mean the same as laws but that's not true," Narcisse says. "Treaties are a formal agreement between two or more nations, treaties between Indigenous people and the Crown are solemn agreements that set out promises, obliga-

tions and benefits for both parties."

Narcisse says First Nations people entered into treaties with the understanding that both sides would benefit.

"This hasn't happened yet, there's inroads going into that but it really hasn't happened," Narcisse says. "People in general need to be educated about the true history of this country."

Narcisse says Treaty 5 and Treaty 9 are among about 70 historic treaties recognized by the Crown.

"Historic treaties combined with policies such as the Indian Act have served to control ... and diminish our peoples, move us off the land so others could come and reap the rewards for these lands of plenty that we have," Narcisse says. "In doing so, these treaties have penned our peoples into tiny tracts of land where our peoples could not prosper as well as non-First Nations people coming from Europe and the British Isles."

Narcisse says the First Nation

ancestors would not have signed the treaties if they knew that would happen.

"The number one goal (of our First Nations) was to protect our families, our children, our land and our ways of life," Narcisse says. "Our ancestors believed and agreed to share the lands and resources and to live peacefully and coexist together. We never gave rights to the land away."

Narcisse says the first promise of the treaty was broken from the start, that all those who signed the treaty would physically ratify it once it was written up.

"Anishinabek and Mushkegowuk peoples never actually physically saw and ratified the treaty again," Narcisse says.

Narcisse adds that widespread public education was promised under the treaty.

"But instead of fully functional proper schools in our communities, a side deal was made with a religious order to establish and run Indian resi-

dential schools all throughout our lands and territory," Narcisse says. "These schools in no way honoured the spirit and intention of the treaties our people signed, quite the opposite."

Narcisse says First Nations people were also shut out of resource extraction and sharing the wealth of the land and many business developments in the north and their voices have consistently been ignored at negotiating tables.

This has prevented us from exercising legal rights to be the stewards of the land and making more sustainable development happen in northern Ontario, especially within our treaty areas," Narcisse says. 'There is no way our forefathers would have signed an agreement that allowed this or kept our people shut out of development, leaving us as paupers in our own land, unable to create and live in stable, clean affordable housing within our communities,

NAN hosts 2022 education meeting

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

The establishment of a Nishnawbe Aski Nation-specific process, the NAN reset table, was one of the highlights at the NAN Special Chiefs Assembly on Education, held at the Delta Waterfront Hotel in Thunder

"We pushed for a NAN-specific process because no longer do we want our communities in the far north to be left behind or be given the short end of the stick with education resourcing and funding," says Deputy Grand Chief Bobby Narcisse. "We are working with all of our education departments across NAN, tribal councils as well, and looking at these outstanding priority areas within education such as developing daycare and preschool and all these early learning initiatives — many of our communities do not have this."

Narcisse says they also focused on the work they are doing with Kindergarten to Grade 12 initiatives in order to resource the NAN communities properly.

"And (what) we heard from the assembly today is we need to also do more work with post-secondary, post-secondary funding, post-secondary education resourcing," Narcisse says. "We need to have needs-based funding in all these particular areas. When you talk about lifelong learning, there's individuals that age out of different initiatives but they want training, they want access to opportunities to continue their educational goals as well."

Narcisse adds that language is a cornerstone of any education reset that NAN does — Matthew Angees, executive

director at Shibogame First Nations Council, delivered a presentation on Language Revitalization and Nicole McKay, language and culture analyst at NAN, delivered a NAN Language Program Update during the assembly.

"We need to revitalize our languages because languages and our culture and heritage is what makes us who we are as unique Indigenous people across Nishnawbe Aski Nation." Narcisse says. "We need to include in the curriculum language revitalization, we really need to harness the knowledge keepers from all of our communities because NAN is so diverse with various different dialects, whether it be (Mushkegomowin), (Anishininiimowin) or (Anishinabemowin). We need to really ensure that anything we do, and this is what our chiefs and education directors have told us, that language is the cornerstone of any reset and it will be a priority in terms of pushing for a pathway forward in creating an education system that is truly reflective of the culture and heritage of our First Nations communities in whom we serve."

Narcisse says the assembly was a stepping stone of a new era of looking at education and taking control of jurisdiction of education mechanisms and developing education laws and standards that are reflective of the NAN communities.

"We have a new chiefs committee that will be meeting," Narcisse says. "We'll also be having an official signing of a terms of reference that's going to guide our negotiations with the Crown. So I'm looking forward to that and really organizing our education committee members in this regard too."

Angees highlighted the changes in fluency rates in eight First Nation communities, Bearskin Lake, Kitchenuhmaykoosin Inninuwug, Kasabonika, Kingfisher Lake, Mishkeegogamang, Muskrat Dam, Wapekeka and Wunnumin Lake, from 1993 to 2019 during his Shibogama Language Revitalization presentation.

"If you look at the numbers for Bearskin you will see that in 2019 the adults' fluency was 95 per cent, they went down two per cent," Angees says, noting that a 1993 survey found that adults had a 97 per cent fluency rate and students had a 71 per cent fluency rate in Bearskin Lake. "Now here is the drastic change, for the students, it's down to 20 per cent."

Angees says Kasabonika had student fluency rates of 84 per cent in 1993 and 18 per cent in 2019 and Mishkeegogamang had student fluency rates of 67 per cent in 1993 and 19 per cent in 2019.

"And that's the common trend from all the communities, except Pikangikum and Poplar Hill," Angees says. "The rest of the communities within Sioux Lookout district, we are in that situation where we have to open our eyes and we have to do something, otherwise, even though we don't think about it, we're not concerned about it. eventually we're going to lose the language if we don't do anything. That's my message, we see it in our homes, in our communities, in our schools that the students, the youth, even the little ones that come in for JK, they only speak the English language."

Thank You, Airlines!

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Politics

Mamakwa-McKay Inquest makes 35 recommendations

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

The jury's verdict in the Inquest into the deaths of Don Mamakwa and Roland McKay found that Mamakwa died from undetermined means and McKay died from natural means. The first of the verdict's 35 recommendations called for a task force to be developed with a mandate to establish a sobering centre in Thunder Bay. Mamakwa, 44, of Kasabonika Lake, died in 2014 and McKay, 50, of Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug, died in 2017, both while in the custody of the Thunder Bay Police Service.

'We commend the jury, and we thank them for these insightful recommendations they recognized that there are serious flaws in the system," says Grand Derek Fox. "The jury has provided a blueprint for meaningful change, and this community needs assurances that these recommendations will be acted on. There have been many recommendations to prevent racism and premature deaths of Indigenous people over the years, but little action has been taken. We are prepared to assist with a process for implementation and accountability, and we look for firm commitments from everyone involved."

Nishnawbe Aski Nation also highlighted other recommendations from the jury's verdict: an increase in the number of beds in detox/treatment (rehabilitation) facilities and support for community-based programs; a review of the role of jailers and the level of supervision for individuals in custody at the Thunder Bay Police Service; mandatory training for police, firstresponders and health service providers based on the history of colonization and Indigenous culture; a position of Deputy Police Chief, Indigenous Relations; and an implementation plan by the Thunder Bay Police Services Board, in consultation with the Indigenous commu-

"This inquest has been a long and difficult process for the families, friends and communities of these men," Fox says. "We recognize their strength, resiliency and unwavering resolve to uncover the truth behind the loss of their loved ones, and we thank them for attending this inquest for the past four weeks. We share the family's disappointment that Don Mamakwa's death was not deemed as homicide, but we hope that finally knowing the truth about what happened to their loved ones can help these families begin their healing journeys.'

Rachel Mamakwa, sister of Mamakwa, and Denise Tait, a niece of both Mamakwa and McKay, thanked the jury for their hard work during the inquest.

"We understand arriving at this verdict was not an easy task," Rachel says. "We were hoping the jury would find



Grand Chief Derek Fox, pictured on Orange Shirt Day, says the community needs assurances the 35 recommendations from the jury's verdict in the Inquest into the deaths of Don Mamakwa and Roland McKay will be acted on after the verdict was delivered.

Don's death to be a homicide, but we are happy that there

has been a public airing about treated. He deserved so much the horrible way that Don was

better. We appreciate the rec-

ommendations that were put forward so that no other family will have to go through this."

"Our families are relieved it is over so we can finally start our healing journey and let them rest," Tait says. "All my family has ever wanted was to find out what happened to my uncle. We are happy that we now have those answers."

Asha James, a partner at Falconers LLP and lawyer for the Mamakwa and McKay families, says while the jury may not have agreed with the family's submission regarding the manner of Mamakwa's death, they returned a powerful slate of recommendations aimed at addressing the deaths of Mamakwa and McKay and preventing any future similar trag-

"The recommendations directed to the police services board sends a strong message that they have a lot of work to do to rebuild the trust of the Indigenous community and they will have to publicly show the progress, or lack thereof, in its implementation of recommendations from all the reports, inquests, inquiries that have spoken up about the board's disfunction," James

The recommendations are posted at the Falconers LLP website at: falconers.ca/ mamakwa-mckay-inquestresults-in-powerful-recommendations-aimed-at-preventingsimilar-deaths-in-future/.

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WAWATAY NEWS

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Commentary

The Tragedy Of War Is Generational



ovember 11, Remembrance Day is very meaningful to myself and my partner Mike. Myself and my family lost my greatgrandfather John Chookomolin during the First World War or what is referred to as the Great War. This is a very sad and tragic story as the Canadian military in 1917 sent a recruiter up the James Bay coast to look for young Indigenous men to join the conflict in Europe. This recruiter more or less kidnapped 24 young men who could not even speak English from Attawapiskat and convinced them to join him. They made a long and gruelling trip south by canoe and then were transported to southern Ontario for training. These men had no idea about the outside world and had never seen trains, ships, automobiles or anything of the modern world in 1917. I can't imagine how frightened and amazed they were at their voyage into such a foreign world.

They were then shipped over seas in cramped quarters on huge ocean ships. My great grandfather contracted the Spanish Flu and soon after disembarking in England passed away. My family never knew until the 1980s what had happened to my great-grandfather as he just disappeared and was never heard of again. This greatly affected my entire family for generations. John had left a wife and three month old ba-by girl in the northern wilderness of James Bay. Soon after he disappeared his wife Maggie died leaving their child an orphan. That lone orphan was my grandmother Louise Paulmartin who became the matri-arch of a large Cree family in the north.

One of the other 23 young men from Attawapiskat was my grandfather on my father's side, James Kataquapit. He managed to return home at the end of the conflict but was greatly affected by what he had endured. In all of my research on the First World War I can't find any good reason why this conflict hap-pened except for stupidity, greed and the egos of world leaders of the time.

My partner Mike also was impacted by this war as his grandmother's cousins who returned from the hell of the trenches suffered gas attacks that left them with lung damage and one of the young boys lost a leg due to his injuries.

These boys were sacrificed for no good reason to be maimed and killed as fodder for a pointless conflict. Our shared family history has always given us great cause to remember all of millions of victims of this horrible war and also to not forget that the very wealthy leaders, monarchs and industrialists of the time were responsible for this tragedy.

The Second World War was

The Second World War was even more horrendous and took the lives of many millions of young soldiers and innocent civilians.

After the first great war there were movements in an enlightened period where academics, labour unions and socialist minded leaders believed the world should be more fair in distribution and sharing of wealth. They wanted publicly funded education, health care, social programs and more done for the disenfranchised and poor. The history is finally being known and understood that the wealthy rulers of the world including western and European countries, industrialists and monarchies were all dedicated to getting rid of the new idea of sharing of the wealth. Supporting far right authoritarian movements that led to the Second World War was a way to stop the ideas of socialism from spreading.

My partner Mikes' father James McGrath was wounded in some of the worst fighting of World War Two in the Battle of the Scheldt near Antwerp in Belguim. On the same day James was wounded his 18 year old brother Patrick was killed in action. James ended up with shell shock as did many young men who returned from the war and his life was a disaster. The trauma that these young boys endured meant that they never mentally returned from the war. They coped with these memories with alcohol. Drinking was encouraged during the fighting to make these soldiers forget about the horrors of war and people don't realize that amphetamines and methamphetamines were widely given to soldiers on both sides to keep them awake for hours and to encourage them to run head on into dangerous situations and gunfire.

So on November 11 myself and my partner Mike have a heavy burden to bear with the knowledge we have gained about these two wars. We are dedicated in making sure people know the truth behind these wars and we urge everyone to think twice about supporting any current and future conflicts that the wealthy start and use our poor young men and women as fodder. Lest We Forget.

www.underthenorthernsky.com

NWMO supports Dryden food bank



Submitted photo

Chantelle Gascon, Relationship Manager, NWMO, was given a tour of the Dryden Food Bank by Al Huckabay, Manager, and they discussed how this donation will help feed hundreds of people in the Dryden area. The NWMO donated \$5,000 to support the food hamper program.

From Warmth to Winter Storms



The fall season was relatively gentle across Northern Ontario. Most of the region did not experience killing frosts until late in September and the month went into the record books as warmer than average. October featured shifts between warm and cool temperatures throughout the month. A seesaw of three days of warm days followed by two or three days of cooler conditions took place for the first half of October.

As readers know, temperatures in the upper teens and low 20s become less common as the fall season continues. Occasional days with such temperatures took place around October 12 and then, especially in northeastern Ontario, during October 22 to 25. October was warmer than average across the region by 1° C, and by 4° C next to Hudson Bay and James Bay. This temperature distribution north to south was similar to what took place in September. Interesting, but not necessarily a trend.

The final week of October featured sunny days with after-

noon temperatures generally 5° to 10° C degrees warmer than average, Overnight temperatures were slightly warmer than average. These October conditions persisted into November.

An exceptional warm spell began on November 2. In the afternoon, Fort Frances and Kenora, with temperatures slightly above 20° C, took turns as the "Warmest place in Canada" on the Environment Canada website. A large area of seasonably warm temperatures slowly moved eastward. Thunder Bay set several records for high temperatures. The persistence of summer-like temperatures of 15° C degrees overnight and into the early morning was exceptional. Thunder Bay easily claimed the "Warmest place in Canada for an extended time early on Nov. 3. Then Geraldton and then Moosonee took turns as the warmest places in Canada (or Ontario) for much of the rest of the day. It does make me smile when places in northern Ontario dispute the stereotype of being exceptionally cold. The combination of sunshine, warm temperatures and dry conditions was ideal weather for yard cleanups and preparation for winter. It is not uncommon for cool

or warm air masses associated with a low pressure system to track across the region from west to east. Typically, warmer than seasonal temperatures will take place ahead of the low

pressure system and the cold front that follows will bring cooler temperatures. Often there is precipitation associated with the low pressure system but both in October and the first week in November only minor precipitation fell in Northwestern Ontario.

It was a different story in Northeastern Ontario. A considerable area from Timmins to James Bay received more rainfall and snowfall than average. In early November, a low pressure system resulted in seasonably warm temperatures but also 50 mm during a 24 hour period in Timmins.

A Warm Fall Ends Abruptly

In this weather column
I move on from notable or
extreme events that have taken
place and summaries of how
temperatures and precipitation
compared with average, i.e.
what has taken place, to forecasts for the coming weeks.

This time a crisp conclusion was not so easy. There were three troublemakers in the form of low pressure systems. One was an Alberta Clipper that followed the record warmth mentioned above. The mild temperatures were followed by winds, rain, ice pellets, freezing rain and then snow. This system tracked across from Kenora to east of Timmins. This storm brought occasional

thunderstorms from around Thunder Bay to east of Timmins and school bus cancellations in between.

A Colorado low to the south had similar timing and movement to the storm in 1976 that caused the sinking of the Edmund Fitzgerald and the death of the 29 men onboard. This Colorado low this year slowed, remained south of Lake Superior and moved over Lake Huron. Some minor flooding took place in northern states and snow squalls were common around Lake Huron.

Outlook for November and December

Forecasts by Environment Canada suggest the recent switch to colder conditions in mid-November is likely to persist well into December. This forecast, at least in part, is based on La Niña conditions persisting in the tropical Pacific. A large area, about 10 million square kilometres, continues to be slightly cooler than average. This cool influence is only about 1° C but does cause the repositioning of lows, highs and jet streams around the world. If this forecast pans out, colder air is likely to result in more than usual lake-effect snow next to large lakes like Superior, Huron and Nipigon.

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Arts and Entertainment



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Thunder Bay actor Dakota McGuire wore a red jingle dress during the Bear Grease musical.



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

The Bear Grease musical performance by hip hop duo LightningCloud and an all-Indigenous cast

Bear Grease musical a hit at Lakehead's Outpost stage

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

The Bear Grease musical by hip hop duo LightningCloud and an all-Indigenous cast was a hit at Lakehead University's Outpost stage on Nov. 5 in Thunder Bay. The Indigenous musical theatre production from Treaty 6 territory was created, written and directed by Crystle Lightning, 2021 Canadian Screen Award winner for best lead actress drama series for her performance in Trickster, and MC RedCloud, former Guinness World Record holder for longest freestyle rap. The production included Thunder Bay actor Dakota McGuire, who wore a red jingle dress during the performance in honour of her mother and other missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and two-spirit people.

"That was a great show — I just wish we could do that with our young people here in Thunder Bay," says Frances Wesley, executive director at the Matawa Health Co-op. "I thought that was really great to incorporate the traditional dancing, it was just magical. I would just love to see more of this come to Thunder Bay to inspire our young people."

Brian Davey, executive director at NADF, says the Bear Grease musical was awesome.

"I was really impressed with the production of it, the acting, the singing, it was awesome — it was beyond my expectations," Davey says. "I didn't know what to expect, particularly with that classic movie (Grease). They were able to pull it off with amazing talent and good lyrics, good content. Overall it was great."

Fort William Councillor Michele Solomon says the Bear Grease musical was amazing.

"The performers were amazing, the energy was amazing, the messaging, the Indigenous humour was all awesome," Solomon says, adding that she liked how the performers used local names from her community during the show. "They brought the local community into their play, it was amazing. All around there were great performances — they brought a lot of Indigenous humour and some of the Indigenous experiences into it in a fun way."

Tesa Fiddler, coordinator of Indigenous education at the Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board, says the Bear Grease musical was incredible.

"It was so energetic and fun and just positive, it was just amazing," Fiddler says. "They really found a way to incorporate traditional ways, traditional Indigenous practice, into the 1950s, 1960s bebop. And the message at the end really brought it all together — that for me was one of the most powerful pieces that during this time period when Grease happened, so many of our people were still in residential schools

and boarding schools, and so they're here dancing for them."

Rachael Anishinabie also enjoyed the Bear Grease musi-

"It's nice to see Native actors up and coming," Anishinabie says. "And the last comments there for all the survivors of residential school, they couldn't do all that and now they can, so it was really nice."

Denise Baxter, vice provost Indigenous Initiatives at Lakehead University, says the Bear Grease musical was held at the Outpost through a collaboration between the Lakehead University Students Union Association and the Office of Indigenous Initiatives.

"We're super thrilled that they were here," Baxter says. "They did a show at DFC (Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School) yesterday during the day and it's been a great evening so far."

Baxter says there was a great turnout, with the first show

"It was a really rowdy crowd, singing, clapping, dancing, it was a lot of fun," Baxter says. "I saw we had some really great traditional singing, dancing, the music was beautiful. And I like the way they incorporated the local Fort William First Nation, the last names Bannon and different things. They really localized the script to the region."

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Education

Land-Based Learning Conference held in Thunder Bay

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Biigtigong Nishnaabeg education director Lisa Michano-Courchene shared her community's story and knowledge on developing land-based learning over the past 10-12 years during the Fundamentals of Land-Based Learning conference. The conference was held Nov. 10-11 by Anishinabek Employment and Training Services and Biigtigong Nishnaabeg at the Nor'Wester Hotel and Conference Centre in Thunder Bay.

"We still humbly say we don't have it right but we have experience and we have knowledge that we'd like to share," Michano-Courchene says during her Nov. 10 presentation. "The goal for me personally is that you take something from here and you make change in the lives of Indigenous kids, even if it's a small change."

Michano-Courchene says her community's daycare has an outdoor playground with a forested area.

"It's gated off so it's relatively safe," Michano-Courchene says. "The kids are running around and they make trails. It's really neat to see them navigate that ground, to see them pick up trees or plants or rocks."

Michano-Courchene says the daycare also has a greenhouse where the children grow food with the cook and eat whatever is in season at lunch.

"So they're starting off in little ways at our daycare," Michano-Courchene says.

Michano-Courchene says her community signed onto the Anishinabek Nation Education Agreement in 2017 along with 22 other Anishinabek Nation communities, including Long Lake #58, Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek and Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg.

"It's considered one of the largest self-governing agreements in Canada," Michano-Courchene says. "It gives us complete control to write our education laws, to write our education curriculum and to determine what we want in our schools."

Michano-Courchene says the community initially started meeting about curriculum with a brainstorming session in 2013.

"We had over 90 parents and staff and community (citizens) show up and we just started," Michano-Courchene says. "We had chart paper all around the room and we asked one question — what do you want your children to learn in our community school."

Michano-Courchene says they developed curriculum that includes connection to the universe, expectations on expressing themselves and taking care of their physical bodies to live a healthy life.

"We have a section called surviving off the land," Michano-Courchene says. "We have a section on identity, family and relationships, we have all of these sections in this curriculum document and each of them is filled with expectations that came from our brainstorming session, that came from our Elders, that came from our advisors."



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Biigtigong Nishnaabeg education director Lisa Michano-Courchene spoke about her community's development of land-based learning at the Fundamentals of Land-Based Learning conference, held Nov. 10-11 at the Nor'Wester Hotel and Conference Centre in Thunder Bay.

Michano-Courchene says the curriculum still includes the Ontario math and language

"We don't have to follow it to a T, but it's there and it sets the standard in math and reading," Michano-Courchene says. "We still test our kids in literacy and math. We analyze our results, but I think our community and our education staff go beyond that because they start trying to bridge what we do in our schools with some of the Western curriculum."

The conference also featured a presentation on Education System Change: Improving High School Graduation Rates for Anishinaabe Youth by John DeGiacomo, executive direc-

tor at Anishinabek Education and Training Services (AETS), and John Hodson, director at Maamaawisiiwin Education Research Centre (MERC).

"The Fundamentals of Land-Based Learning is an event that talks about the transfer of knowledge from Elders, from family, from knowledge keepers, and we're talking about this at this event because it is a tool that teachers can use to help retain Indigenous youth in school," DeGiacomo says. "When Dr. Hodson and I speak tomorrow with the group, we'll be referencing how this is an example of a tool to retain Indigenous youth in the classroom. We feel this type of landbased learning will connect

more with Indigenous youth and help them find a reason on why they should continue school."

Hodson says the presentation is an introduction to a project that MERC, AETS, the nine First Nation communities of AETS and the associated boards of education that serve the nine communities have partnered on to increase high school graduation rates by working with teachers to improve their practice.

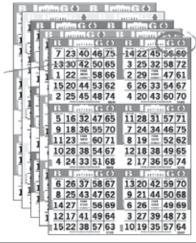
"We do that by teaching them to be not only pedagogues but also Indigegogues, so to be able to teach through our ways as well," Hodson says. "So it's great that this kind of work goes on in terms of land-based education at the elementary school level, but what happens at the high school level. Some of the dropout rates, they're still excessive — 2016 Statistics Canada, northwestern Ontario, only 38 per cent graduate from Grade 12 when they're 18 or 20. So what AETS wants to do is improve that outcome, and we do that by supporting the needs of teachers that work off-reserve."

Other presentations included Learning from the Animals | Fish and Moose Camp, Manoomin | Working with the Wild Rice, Assessment of Land-Based Learning and Professional Development.



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Community



Matawa First Nations Management's Mary Ann Nawagesic and Douglas Gagnon learned how to make a net during a fishnet making project with Fort William Historical Park staff John Walmart and Kris Fedick.

Matawa partners with Fort William Historical Park on fishnet project

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Matawa First Nations Management has partnered with Fort William Historical Park (FWHP) to create and document a land-based resource on fishnet making for a toolkit for schools in the Matawa commu-

"The project was designed to reintroduce and reignite traditional land-based teaching knowledge — fishnet making," says Skylene Metatawabin, Pathways to Achieve Student Success (PASS) program administrator at Matawa. "(We) partnered with Fort William Historical Park on creating and documenting a land-based resource to support and pass on that traditional teaching for our Matawa youth. They are going to continue documenting it and then gather all of that information and put a toolkit together, and that will support our Matawa First Nation schools."

Douglas Gagnon, PASS cultural education coordinator at Matawa, says they had a successful two-day workshop at FWHP.

"As of now we are still compiling all the data to put it into a how-to work binder to send up to the schools for it to be taught," Gagnon says, noting that they received funding from Indigenous Services Canada for

the project. "It's in part with that Truth and Reconciliation for Calls to Action #62. It is to provide the necessary funding to Aboriginal schools to utilize Indigenous knowledge and teaching methods in classrooms."

Mary Ann Nawagesic, PASS mental health lead at Matawa, says they will also be learning how to do diamond-weave fishnet teachings using netting needle shuttle tools during a second workshop with FWHP staff.

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Two-day fishnet workshop

from page 8

"(FWHP) will be calling us probably within the next week or so to go in and learn how to do diamond shape with that fishnet tool," Nawagesic says.

Gagnon says they will also be making spacers to keep the size of the fishnet mesh the same during the fishnet making pro-

"It should be fun, because this first part was a lot of fun for us," Gagnon says. "Once we got good at it we just flew through the (making of the) net. I think the kids will benefit from learning it and they won't forget."

Gagnon says he also dropped off some walleye nets in Webequie and Eabametoong in early November that were purchased through the funding.

"Every community is going to get two nets, one walleye and one sturgeon," Gagnon says, noting that he knows how to set fishnets. "I've reached out to some of the employees and the community contacts and they're really excited about learning themselves how to make the net and actually going to go set nets with the kids."

John Walmark, Indigenous heritage specialist at FWHP, says they created a loom frame to use for making the fishnets, noting that they used clove hitch and cargo net knots during the first workshop.

"One side of the frame for the train-the-trainer is a completed portion of net," Walmark says. "The other side is another three-foot portion where participants in the workshop or people learning the skill can be tying both those knots to create the net and develop the skills to do it."

Walmark says the upcoming second workshop involves learning how to make a diamond-weave fishnet, which is more complicated to do than the first net they made.

"We just set it up the same way on a loom or frame just like this one," Walmark says. "Douglas is talking about different sizes of weaves for everything up to sturgeon, so you're looking at a weave which has bigger (mesh)."

Gagnon says they are looking to revitalize fish netting skills in the Matawa communities.

"We're also going to incorporate (Anishinabemowin) words for the net and the actual setting of the nets and parts of the lake in the classroom," Gagnon says.

Nawagesic says they want to focus on bringing the Elders and knowledge keepers together with the students to work on the fishnets.

"It's bringing the Elders and the youth together ... to bring back and to revitalize these ways of being," Nawagesic says. "Our kids should have been learning these things, but now they're starting to learn it and that's what we're focusing on is moving forward in a good way with our ways of being and

Public Notice of Application for Consent

Clause 53(5)(a) of the *Planning Act*

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing has received **Application 60-C-215541** in respect of lands in the geographic township of Van Horne in the District of Kenora. The purpose of this application is to create a new lot from PIN 42079-0155. The proposed severed lot is developed by a building built in 1996 and is currently and proposed to be a community charity used for resource-based recreational use. The retained lot is developed by a residence built in 2000 and is currently and proposed to be used for residential use. The lands are proposed to be serviced by individual onsite sewage and water services.

The subject lands are described as PIN 42079-0155, Concession, 2, Lot 4, geographic township of Van Horne, District of Kenora and are accessed by McIntyre Drive. The subject lands are 16 kilometres south of the central area of the City of Dryden.

The purpose of this notice is to inform the public of the nature of the applications, invite public input, advise on how to make comments on the application and advise the public of future notification and appeal rights.

Inquiries, Written Submissions and requests to see additional information can be made to Jamie Kirychuk, Planner at (807) 473-3135 or via email at Jamie.Kirychuk@ontario.ca or via mail at Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Municipal Services Office – North (Thunder Bay), 435 James Street South, Suite 223, Thunder Bay ON P7E 6S7.

Appeal of a decision of the Minister in respect of this consent may be made by any person or public body not later than 20 days after notice of the decision is given. If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Minister in respect of the proposed consent, you must make a written request to the Minister at the above address. If a person or public body that files an appeal in respect of the proposed consent does not submit written comments to the Minister before the Minister gives or refuses to give a provisional consent, the Ontario Land Tribunal may dismiss the appeal.



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Child & Family Services

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Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Dilico Anishinabek Family Care director of health Natalie Paavola and Mazinaajim Children's Foundation director Yolanda Wanakamik celebrated over the \$51,398.91 that was raised for the foundation through the Honouring Our Children Reconciliation Run fundraiser.

Dilico reconciliation run raises over \$50-thousand

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

The Mazinaajim Children's Foundation Board of Directors was presented with a \$51,398.91 cheque from the Honouring Our Children Reconciliation Run fundraiser that was held with about 750 registered participants.

"Today on behalf of the

Mazinaajim Children's Foundation we are proud to accept this cheque from the Dilico health management team who has raised over \$50,000, the biggest fundraiser that Mazinaajim has seen," says Yolanda Wanakamik, director at the Mazinaajim Children's Foundation. "The funds from this event will support Indigenous youth as they strive to reach

their life goals. Events like this raise funds needed to provide bursaries to youth within our communities. These bursaries provide new and life-enriching opportunities in a broad range of areas, including recreation, culture, education and leadership opportunities."

con't on next page...

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The strength of the wolf is the nack

750 people ran in the event

from page 10

The Honouring Our Children Reconciliation Run was organized by the Dilico Anishinabek Family Care health management team as an opportunity to bring the community together to be part of reconciliation and to fundraise for the Mazinaajim Children's Foundation.

"As a previous employee, I know how much work goes into organizing these events," Wanakamik says. "We are so unbelievably grateful for their support. This year Mazinaa-jim Children's Foundation has funded 19 bursaries to date — most recently we have provided funds for a family to obtain bicycles to increase family recreation, transportation to connect with each other, to their education opportunities."

Wanakamik says they have also provided funds to a young girl to travel overseas with her school to learn from other Indigenous cultures around the world as well as hockey equipment and registration fees for sports.

"We would like to also thank the many local organizations, businesses and schools who participated in the day and continue to contribute to the foundation," Wanakamik says. "With your support we can continue to invest in our children, families and communities to ensure they advance in education, health and well-being."

Natalie Paavola, director of health at Dilico, says she was pleasantly surprised that they reached their goal with the Honouring Our Children Reconciliation Run fundraiser.

"It is very satisfying," Paavola says, noting there were two visions for the fundraiser. "One, I wanted to bring community together, I wanted to create partnerships and provide a tangible opportunity to take part in moving towards reconciliation. So actually providing an event where we could educate each other and come together as a community and support each

other is what this event was all

Paavola says the second vision was to see a sea of orange going around Boulevard Lake, where the Honouring Our Children Reconciliation Run was held.

"...just to see the variety of athletes come together and community people come together to support this event was overwhelming..."

– Natalie Paavola

"And we achieved that that day," Paavola says. "It gave me goosebumps, chills just to see that happen, to see it come to fruition and then ... even further to actually have met our goal of raising \$50,000, so this whole event was a huge success, not only for Mazinaajim Children's Foundation and all the children that will be impacted but for our community as a whole because we came together and we stepped up and came together to support our community to move towards reconciliation."

Paavola, who participated in the half marathon at the Honouring Our Children Reconciliation Run, says the 13-mile run was amazing.

"The runners in the 13-miler were very inspirational because they were all strong runners," Paavola says. "And just to see the variety of athletes come together and community people come together to support this event was overwhelming."

The Honouring Our Children Reconciliation Run also featured drummers and dancers, with hand drummers encouraging the runners along the course.



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

A group of Dilico Anishinabek Family Care and Mazinaajim Children's Foundation.

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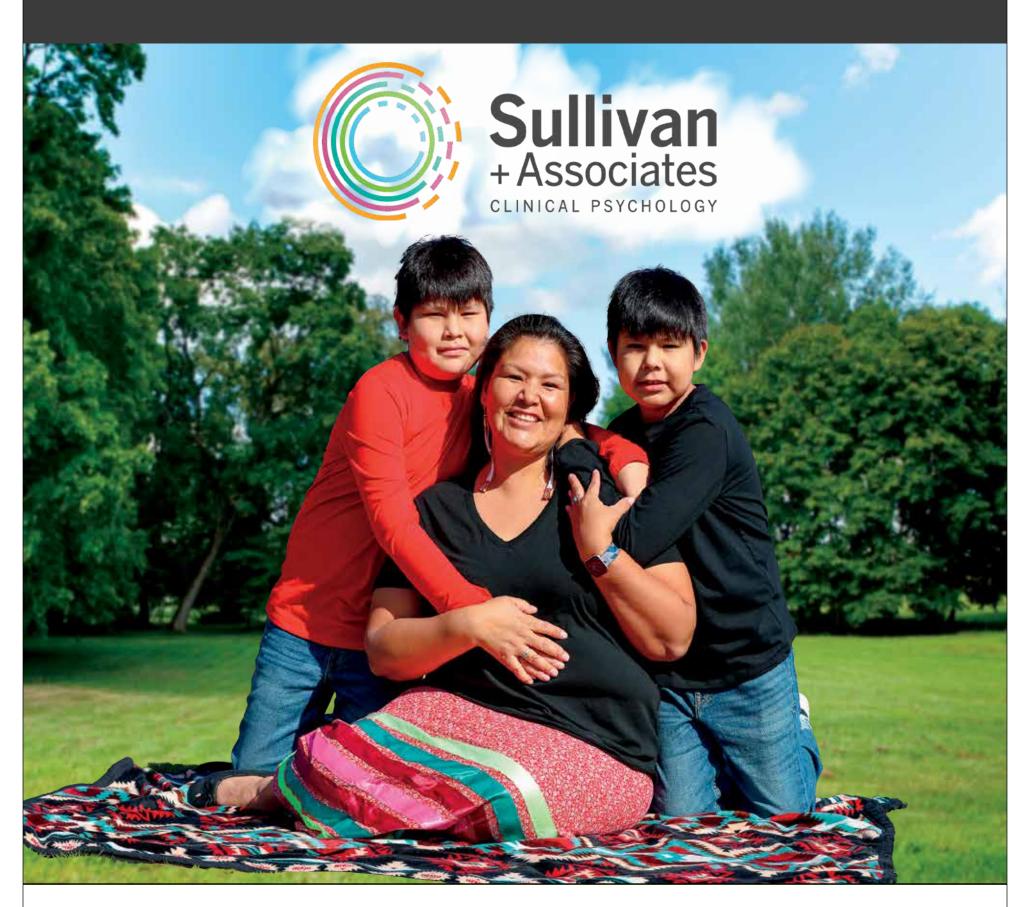
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Thunder Bay Police Board appoints new members to Governance Committee

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

The Thunder Bay Police Services Board has appointed three Indigenous leaders, Denise Baxter, Cora McGuire-Cyrette and David Paul Achneepineskum, as community members of its Governance Committee. The first priority for the committee is the recruitment of a new chief of

"(With) the work that I've spent the last 30 years doing and the learning that goes along with it in community, I think I can offer a really important lens as we look at the kinds of qualities that we are looking for," says Baxter, vice provost Indigenous Initiatives at Lakehead University. "For me it's really important to build upon the strengths that we currently have in our police force and look at what that means to find a leader that can move that whole entire force forward with definitely a lens on Indigenization and decolonizing but also about what equity and inclusiveness means in terms of policing and service to the community.'

Baxter says they will be working with a search company on the recruitment of a new chief of police.

"For me it will be a really important piece to make sure

we cast that (recruitment) net widely to get the kinds of candidates that we hope to get,' Baxter says. "I'm just really honoured to be serving for the next two years, and I think it is important that people recognize that I consider this a great responsibility as we work to find a leader for the Thunder Bay Police."

McGuire-Cyrette, executive director at the Ontario Native Women's Association, says her two-year appointment is an opportunity to bring forward the perspectives and voices of Indigenous women to assist the Thunder Bay Police Services Board in developing effective policy for management of the Thunder Bay Police that prioritize the safety of Indigenous

"The biggest piece for being involved with the committee is two main priorities, the hiring of the new chief of police and being able to focus in on ensuring the new chief has a thorough understanding of all the external reports that there currently are and recommendations for reform, also including the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and the Calls for Justice." McGuire-Cyrette says. "For me, that's the critical component to be able to look at how the new chief of police also needs



Ontario Native Women's Association's Cora McGuire-Cyrette, pictured at a recent event, was appointed as one of three community members of the Thunder Bay Police Services Board Governance Committee.

to address systemic racism and discrimination and the barriers that Indigenous women are continuing to face."

Achneepineskum, CEO at Matawa First Nations Management, says he is pleased to accept his three-year appointment with the Thunder Bay Police Services Board Governance Committee, which will work towards modernization.

"Having been a resident of Thunder Bay for over three decades and with my lived experience as an Indigenous person, I am aware of the systemic changes that are needed

to achieve the goal of re-establishing a police service that better meets everyone's interests and needs," Achneepineskum says. "We must come together as one to make Thunder Bay the best place to live, work, play and to further educational goals. I look forward to working with the (Governance Committee) and TBPS (Thunder Bay Police Service) senior management to achieve this end."

Malcolm Mercer, acting administrator at the Thunder Bay Police Services Board, says the board is honoured to have Baxter, McGuire-Cyrette and

Achneepineskum on the Governance Committee.

"Their knowledge, experience and community involvement is significant and we welcome their expertise in the decisions we will make as a board," Mercer says. "We would like to thank the many individuals that came forward to offer their time, experience and insight to the committee. We were extremely fortunate to have so many strong offers of service and support and it is clear that the community is very engaged in this process.

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Builders competition featured at the 2022 First Nation Housing Conference



Rick Garrick/Wawatav News

First Nations Housing Working Group member Clarence Meekis speaks at the opening of the 2022 First Nations Housing Conference, held at the Valhalla Inn in Thunder Bay.

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

The 2022 First Nations Housing Conference's Builders Challenge competition featuring former Mr. Chips TV host Jon Eakes was a hit with participating teams on at the Valhalla Inn in Thunder Bay. The competition was held on the second day of the conference, which has evolved into a leading, national event for First Nations housing professionals, government and industry leaders over the past 20 years.

"We tried to focus in on teaching details that could be useful in home maintenance," says Eakes, who has about 35 years of experience in teaching wood working and residential construction. "We jumped all over the place with fans, plumbing and crooked doors, how to get them un-crooked and things like that. The first (competition) was changing window screens."

Eakes also emphasized the importance of the proper routing of exhaust ductwork in the attic of homes.

"If it runs like a snake and goes up and down it'll collect water in any low spot," Eakes says. "So you want to come out of your fan, go as high as is reasonable and then (have) a downhill slope all the way to going out. And you do not want to go out in the soffits because the hot air just turns around right back into the attic."

Fort Nelson First Nation's Michele Fisher and Kristin Lowe won the second competition, the Washroom and Dryer Exhaust Fans Demonstration and Challenge.

"It was pretty good, I don't think that it was my first time," says Fisher, housing manager at Fort Nelson. "There's lots to learn here (at the conference), every First Nation does something different, and just to have new knowledge to bring back to our community is important."

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Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Jon Eakes explains some of the details of installing exhaust ductwork.

Installing window screens part to the challenge

from page 14

"It's been fun, it's been great, lots of knowledge, well organized, it's been wonderful."

Lowe, housing projects coordinator at Fort Nelson, credits knowing which tape to use and having a plan of attack for winning the second competition.

"It was fun," Lowe says. "I just really enjoyed the (conference) presenters, how organized everything is, meeting new people."

Wasauksing's Joe Beagan and Walter Tabobondung won the third and fourth competitions, the Washroom Sink Plumbing Service and Toilet Repair Demonstration and Challenge and the Door Repair, Balancing and Installation Demonstration and Challenge.

"It was a fun learning experience, from not having a plumbing background," Beagan says.
"Jon made it really easy to

go ahead and install it, so we learned something new today."

Jonathan Gregg, a member of the First Nations Housing Working Group that organizes the conference, says the conference went well with lots of positive feedback from the participants on the content and programs.

"People enjoyed the Trade Show day and again the Builders Challenge was a success," Gregg says. "Overall, people are asking when is the next one."

Since the conference first began as a small event for the Shibogama Tribal Council communities in 2003, it has grown to include more than 10 tribal councils and participants from across the province and the country.

"What we'd like to see is more First Nations coming to this from across Canada," Gregg says. "Over the last five years we've been having people coming from almost every territory and province — this year we have some people coming from overseas, which is great. Also this year we had people wanting to come from Africa but they couldn't get their visa in time, but hopefully we'll see them next year."

In addition to the Builders Challenge and the Trade Show, the conference also featured multiple workshops, training sessions, demonstrations and the Community Housing Recognition Awards.

"From leaders to housing managers, the FNHC (First Nations Housing Conference) is the perfect place to discuss challenges, opportunities and solutions for First Nations housing from industry experts," says Clarence Meekis, a member of the First Nations Housing Working Group.

First Nation Housing Conference gives Recognition Award to innovators

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Deputy Grand Chief Bobby Narcisse announced the 2022 First Nations Housing Conference Community Housing Recognition Awards recipients at the Valhalla Inn in Thunder Bay.

"The Community Housing Recognition Awards is where we take the opportunity to recognize First Nation communities for their innovations and achievements in housing," Narcisse says, noting that an online awards platform was introduced this year. "The platform gives Indigenous communities across Canada the opportunity to share accomplishments that make their communities proud. Today we are proud to recognize the Sioux Lookout Area Aboriginal Management Board (SLAAMB), the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte, Chapleau Cree First Nation and Saugeen First Nation."

SLAAMB was recognized for its carpentry apprenticeship training program that currently has 10 young people being trained by two Red Seal carpenters in Hudson.

"So far they have built two duplexes for future carpenters, future trades people to stay in," says Ziggy Robert Beardy, assistant coordinator at SLAAMB. "We are presently working on a three-storey learning centre, a trade school and a garage and a warehouse workshop. Also we will be building a residential unit for female (trainees from northern communities) right across the street."

Beardy says the trainees also take carpentry math through Seven Generations Education Institute.

"We can see their skill emerging," Beardy says. "These young people so far have given three years of their lives to be in Hudson to be trained in carpentry. It's been a combination of classroom instruction and work experience and we're glad for those that have been helping us — the Municipality of Sioux Lookout Mayor and Council have been really supportive and the local contractors in Sioux Lookout have been really supportive of us as well."

Beardy says the learning centre will be used for teaching different trades such as electrical, plumbing, welding and drywalling.

"You name it, we will train young people in that," Beardy says. "Once the training centre is done we will start recruiting young people to come to the site, to live there and to be trained there and to work there as well."

Marcel Arnold Curtis Beardy, a trainee from Bearskin Lake, says the carpentry apprenticeship training program has been a great learning experience.

"It was amazing," Marcel says. "I'm starting my third year now — some parts have been rough and difficult but the overcoming just outweighs it. I hope the future youth (trainees) find their passion like I have, my love for carpentry."

Chapleau Cree was recognized for the construction of

two triplexes with full basements in less than a year through its Rapid Housing Initiative project.

"It's very humbling to receive this award when so many other deserving communities are out there — I'm honoured," says Peggy Domingue, economic development officer at Chapleau Cree. "We have three units filled and then the other three will be moving in on Nov. 1. They love it, they're very happy to be settled in their (new home)."

Domingue says they are planning to build eight more homes in the future, including four stick-builds and four modular units

"We have a wait list, but (with) this influx of homes over the last few years and with this next round, we're going to be pretty close to meeting all of our wait list," Domingue says.

The Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte were recognized for empowering women through on-the-job skills training and providing affordable transitional homes for women and families fleeing domestic violence at the same time. Five Indigenous women were trained in construction trades, and they also helped build two transitional shelters.

"It was a lot of fun, a lot of learning, it was a wonderful experience and I would (encourage) all women to try it," says Tammy McGuire, one of the apprenticeship trainees at the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte.



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Scholarship Awards



Award 2022, Victoria Linklater Memorial School (North Spirit Lake First Nation). Nominated by Cassandra Clace, teacher.

Nevaeh Jeffries, OCCC Willie Wesley Memorial Award 2022, Delores D. Echum Composite School (Moose Factory), nominated by Ms. Blair (no photo available).

The Ojibway and Cree Cultural Centre is proud to announce the Willie Wesley Memorial Scholarship Award and the Gilbert and Barbara Baxter Memorial Scholarship Award for 2022. The purpose of these scholarships is to honour those students that exemplify the following qualities: (a) actively involved with language and cultural activities in the school or community, and (b) show good attendance, attitude, and achievement in school. Both these students received a plaque, a cheque for \$250.00 and mention in the OCCC Newsletter and Wawatay. In addition, the student's name will be placed on a plaque located at the Ojibway and Cree Cultural Centre. **Again, congratulations to our scholarship recipients!**

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