

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

Hajdu says Remembrance Day is a

"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



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.

"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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DGC Narcisse highlights importance of Treaties Recognition Week

"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."

“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.”

**Your fast, courteous delivery of Wawatay News
to our northern communities is appreciated.**



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 (rehabilita-

tion) 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, first responders 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 community.

"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.

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 tragedies.

"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 says.

The recommendations are posted at the Falconers LLP website at: falconers.ca/mamakwa-mckay-inquest-results-in-powerful-recommendations-aimed-at-preventing-similar-deaths-in-future/.

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16-5th Avenue North P.O. Box 1180
Sioux Lookout, ON P8T 1B7

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Commentary

The Tragedy Of War Is Generational



**Xavier
Kataquapit**

UNDER THE
NORTHERN SKY

November 11, Remembrance Day is very meaningful to myself and my partner Mike. Myself and my family lost my great-grandfather 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 point-less 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 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 enlight-ened 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 Euro-pean countries, industrialists and monarchies were all dedi-cated to getting rid of the new idea of sharing of the wealth. Supporting far right authoritar-ian 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. Drink-ing was encouraged during the fighting to make these soldiers forget about the horrors of war and people don't realize that amphetamines and metham-phetamines 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 every-one to think twice about sup-porting 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



**Graham
Saunders**

WEATHER

The fall season was relatively gentle across North-ern Ontario. Most of the region did not experience kill-ing frosts until late in Septem-ber 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 condi-tions took place for the first half of October.

As readers know, tempera-tures 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 tempera-tures were slightly warmer than average. These October condi-tions 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. Thun-der Bay set several records for high temperatures. The persis-tence of summer-like tempera-tures 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 Gerald-ton 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 exception-ally 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 Northwest-ern Ontario.

It was a different story in Northeastern Ontario. A con-siderable area from Timmins to James Bay received more rainfall and snowfall than aver-age. In early November, a low pressure system resulted in sea-sonably 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 fore-casts 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, freez-ing 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 move-ment 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 aver-age. 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.

CONTACT US

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

Phone:(807) 737-2951
Toll Free:1-800-243-9059
Fax:(807) 737-3224
.....(807) 737-2263

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

Phone:(705) 360-4556
Toll Free:1-877-929-2829
Fax:(705) 360-1601

CEO/PUBLISHER
John Gagnon
john.g@wawatay.on.ca

MANAGING EDITOR
Chris Kornacki
chrisk@wawatay.on.ca

**NORTHERN LIGHTS BAN-
NER**
Dan Russell
http://NorthernLightsNow.com

SALES REPRESENTATIVE
Tom Scura
Phone: 807 622-6000
Fax: 807 622-6010
toms@wawatay.on.ca

CIRCULATION/PRINTING
Safeguard Business Systems

Thunder Bay, ON
TRANSLATION
Vicky Angees
vickya@wawatay.on.ca

DESIGN AND LAYOUT
Through the Sky Studio

CONTRIBUTORS
Lindsay Cote
Rick Garrick
Xavier Kataquapit
Graham Saunders

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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 musical.

"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 sold out.

"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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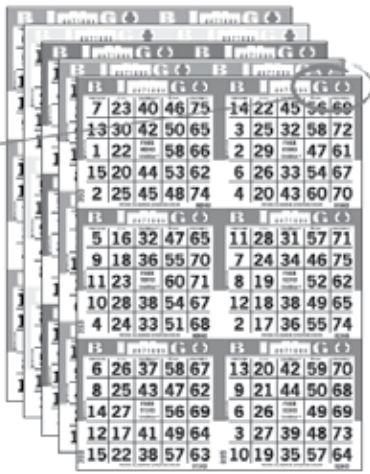
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Community



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

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 communities.

“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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Community

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 process.

“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 doing.”

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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Community

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 police.

“(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 Indigenousization 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 people.

“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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A large group of people of various ages and ethnicities are standing in a circle on a grassy field, holding hands. They are outdoors under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. In the background, there are green trees and a line of white plastic chairs.

Community

Builders competition featured at the 2022 First Nation Housing Conference



Rick Garrick/Wawatay 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 Vallhalla 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."

con't on next page...

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Community



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 Beady, 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.”

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

“We can see their skill emerging,” Beady 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.”

Beady 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,” Beady 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 Beady, 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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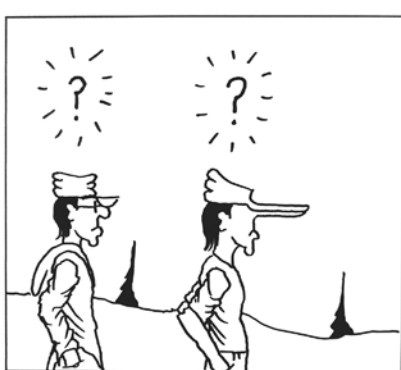


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