

Culture

ONWA holds third annual MMIWG Powwow

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

The Ontario Native Women's Association 3rd Annual Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Powwow featured the Grassy Narrows Women's Drum Group as the host drum.

"It was a little bit controversial when the women with the big drum came out at first," says Dawn Lavell-Harvard, president of ONWA. "The traditions differ across our many nations and the women were talking about how that drum was given by her father and how it was part of their tradition for the women to be at the big drum. As we are becoming more aware that many people don't exist in those very discrete boxes of male and female all the time, it is important that we honour that."

The powwow was held on Sept. 8 on the grounds of the ONWA office building in Thunder Bay, with a sunrise ceremony at 7:30 a.m.

"We are having a powwow today to celebrate the memory of our missing sisters and our missing mothers, grandmothers, aunts, nieces, all of those of our Indigenous sisters who have passed on to the spirit world, who have gone missing," Lavell-Harvard says, "to remember them and celebrate them and honour them so we are not focusing solely on the tragedy of that loss of life but honouring that spirit and remembering them in a positive way."

Sharon Johnson, organizer of the Full Moon Memory Walk, also delivered a special presentation featuring photos of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women during the powwow.

"Those are only some of the photos of the women that we walk for when we do the Full Moon Memory Walk," says Johnson, whose sister Sandra Johnson was murdered and found on the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway in February 1992.



"Those pictures here that you see, that's just a small fraction of all the women that we lost and that are missing and that were murdered and lost their lives way too early."

Johnson says the 14th Annual Full Moon Memory Walk will be held on Sept. 24 beginning at City Hall in Thunder Bay.

"We've been walking to raise awareness about what is happening out there to families like mine," Johnson says. "It's something that I carry in my heart, this work. Every year when we do this memorial walk, my family comes together and they all help out with whatever they can."

Johnson says she prints the photos of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women to put faces to their names.

"I do what I can so they are not just mentioned in the news

once or twice and then forgotten about," Johnson says. "These women were mothers, sisters, daughters, aunts, best friends."

Lavell-Harvard says it was important for Johnson to deliver her Full Moon Memory Walk presentation to keep the attention on the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women.

"With the National Inquiry happening, we don't ever want to get to the point where people feel they've had the inquiry and this work is done," Lavell-Harvard says. "We want them to keep working until we are in a place where our sisters are safe or our daughters are safe. We can't let up for even one minute. We have to keep carrying on the message and really inspiring each and every one of us to do what we can with our own individual actions to keep our sisters safe."



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Top: Ontario Native Women's Association president Dawn Lavell-Harvard spoke about the importance of supporting the healing journeys of Indigenous families during the opening of ONWA's 3rd Annual Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Powwow on Sept. 8 on the grounds of the ONWA office building in Thunder Bay.

Above: Full Moon Memory Walk organizer Sharon Johnson spoke about the importance of putting faces to the names of missing and murdered Indigenous women.

ONWA's Red Dress was also displayed next to the flags on the powwow ground.

"It's never meant to be worn

by anybody here on this realm," Lavell-Harvard says, "but it was for all of those murdered women who are in the spirit

world now so that they can journey on into the spirit world in that red dress in beauty and dignity and honour.”

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Education

Oshki holds training for ECE's across the north



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News
Olivia Chow, founder and director of the Institute for Change Leaders, delivers a presentation during the Oshki-Pimache-O-Win The Wenjack Education Institute In-service Early Childhood Education Professional Development Program.

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

Oshki-Pimache-O-Win The Wenjack Education Institute's In-service Early Childhood Education (ECE) Professional Development Program was a success for 19 Indigenous ECE's from across the north.

"It's been very informative," says Jennifer Meekis, an ECE from Sandy Lake. "I've been networking with a bunch of ladies from different parts of Ontario and finding out how we can help each other find funding and how to write proposals."

Meekis enjoyed the presentations by Olivia Chow, founder and director of the Institute for Change Leaders, on the last two days of the program, which was held at Shkoday Abinojiwak Obimiwedoon-Aboriginal Headstart in Thunder Bay.

"She is a very powerful woman and it is great listening to somebody who gives you motivation to work hard," Meekis says.

Chow delivered presentations to the ECEs on building skills for change.

"I'm here for the second time to teach them about community organizing and I feel very blessed to share some time with them," Chow says. "We talked about the importance of celebrating their work (and) to be able to express the importance of their work to the community and to acknowledge their own accomplishments."

Chow encourages the ECEs to pursue their ideas on improving their communities and the lives of the children they serve.

"I want them to have the confidence and the skills to be able to express it and organize around it," Chow says. "So whether (it) is a play structure or a playground or a childcare centre, they know they need it in the community and I want them to lead people in the community to make it happen so that their community would be a better place for everyone, especially the children and the families."

Meekis says her community does not have a daycare facility, but it has an Aboriginal Headstart for parents and children to attend together.

"I want to network with other ECEs, other Headstarts, to see where I can expand for our children in our community," Meekis says. "And to hopefully find a funder where we can open a licensed daycare."

Marissa Nabigon, an ECE from Long Lake #58, says the opportunity to learn from Chow was "awesome."

"She's great — her spirit makes me look forward to coming the next day and staying and participating," Nabigon says, noting that she also attended the session in February when Chow delivered a presentation. "I was excited knowing that she was coming back for this session."

Nabigon says her community has a daycare but needs a play-

ground structure.

"All we have is pretty much sand, so what I am learning here is where to start and how to start to ask for these type of things," Nabigon says.

Lori Huston, ECE program coordinator with Oshki, says the program was delivered through a partnership with Shkoday Abinojiwak Obimiwedoon and Maamaawisiwin Education Research Centre with funding from Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC).

"We are in our second Institute of delivery, where we are developing leadership skills with our Indigenous educators," Huston says. "We are giving them opportunities to mentor and high-end training through Ryerson University, University of Toronto (and) others have been involved in this program."

John Hodson, director of Maamaawisiwin Education Research Centre, says the idea of the program is to increase the on-reserve capacity of ECEs.

"What (INAC) is interested in is increasing capacities in this area of Early Childhood Education, but also interested in the research associated to it, so what works and what doesn't work," Hodson says, noting that a talking circle was also scheduled to ask the ECEs what they liked about the program. "Our thinking is that anything we do to increase the capacities of Early Childhood Educators will have an impact down the line."



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Arts and Entertainment

Art gallery celebrates Indigenous Youth Residency participants

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

The six Indigenous youth who completed the Indigenous Youth Residency program were celebrated during an opening ceremony at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery.

"The opening was amazing," says Quill Christie-Peters, creator of the program. "It's always nice to honour these young people and to hear them speak about their work."

The program provided the six youth, aged between 12-24, with a paid full-time six-week land-based artist residency where they engaged with Elders, knowledge keepers and local artists while working through a rigorous curriculum that taught them how to articulate their experiences of settler colonialism.

"This is the fourth time I ran this program, but previously it was out of large institutions," Christie-Peters says. "So this is the first year that it is being run independently, not tied to an institution."

Christie-Peters says the program included a three-day visit by the six youth to her grandmother Agnes Kabatay's home in Couchiching.

"She kind of did some unstructured teachings with them," Christie-Peters says. "My aunts came too and we worked with birch. They were just getting to know each other, so it was a way to bring us all together."

The youth also worked with local artists such as Jean and Leanna Marshall and Jana-Rae Yerxa, visited the Sexual Assault Road Show, learned

about harvesting spruce roots and making birchbark baskets in Fort William and travelled to the Art Gallery of Guelph and Art Gallery of Ontario in Toronto.

"It was amazing because we had a lot of opportunities to reconnect with our identities as Indigenous people," says Bethany Koostachin, a youth from Fort Severn. "And we learned a lot about our culture and our history with the government of Canada. I personally learned how to be comfortable with taking up space as an Indigenous person in these colonial structures. I just learned a lot about racism and how to combat that."

Koostachin also enjoyed learning about how Indigenous people are connected to the land during the program.

"We learned that Indigenous people have this huge connection to the land and we also learned about how that connection ended up being cut off," Koostachin says. "(Kabatay) was very educational about what life was like back then and how we took care of ourselves and the water and the earth."

Regan Ferris, a youth from Constance Lake, enjoyed the opportunity to learn from the Elders about the land.

"Myself personally, being in the city, I don't really get much time to be with Elders and to get knowledge from Elders," Ferris says. "So it was really nice to go visit them on the land and ask them about their life and teachings."

Ferris also enjoyed building friendships with the other youth during the program.

"We went down to southern



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

The Indigenous Youth Residency Program participants created a collaborative art project as part of their six-week land-based artist residency.

Ontario for a week and that is when we got really close with each other," Ferris says.

Corrina McKay, a youth from Thunder Bay, says the project enabled her to integrate her artistic skills with her heritage.

"I gained more skills in traditional arts," McKay says. "And I got to learn more about my own culture, things that I didn't even know that really surprised me. And I made some friends."

McKay also enjoyed meeting people with different experiences and participating in the collaborative art project, which was unveiled at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery during the opening ceremony.

"It was new and interesting," McKay says. "I liked it a lot."

The other youth who participated in the program were Adrian Polson, Megan Slipperjack and TJ Munroe.



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Rachael's practice is dedicated primarily to Aboriginal Law, Police Services, Education Law, and Labour & Employment Law. Where possible and appropriate, she integrates Indigenous Legal Traditions into her work in Police Services, Education Law and Labour & Employment Law.

Rachael has broad and deep knowledge of the structures, actions, limits and challenges of First Nations, First Nations Organizations, First Nation Councils, Education Boards and Education Authorities. That said, she also works extensively outside the domaine of Aboriginal Law. In addition to assisting clients with litigation and arbitration, she also advises and supports in policy-development and provides training relevant to her areas of practice.

Rachael was born in Sioux Lookout and raised in Northwestern Ontario, resided both on and off-reserve, and is bilingual in Northern Ojibwe and English.

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Arts

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So it was really cool to experience the whole thing, and we're going to take that and move with it because that's what we do — I go up north and I teach in the community here."

Murray says he has already been working on creating videos in Thunder Bay.

"So we're just going to take this as a learning experience," Murray says. "We're trying to get our own location here in Thunder Bay, a permanent location instead of a mobile location, where youth can come and work on their stuff when they're coming from other communities and just the youth who live here."

Ivy Durston, a youth from Thunder Bay, says working with Wapikoni Mobile was a "learning experience."

"I really developed my skills," Durston says, noting that she had previously done some work on films. "I didn't realize there was this much talent until I actually delved into it, so it was really fun."

Durston says she wants to continue making more videos in the future.

"I would like to thank Wapikoni," Durston says. "They opened my eyes to things that I didn't realize about myself and they made me delve into my own creativity and push my limits."

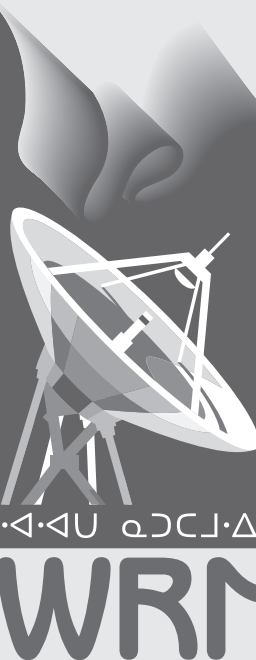
Thomas Simon, youth outreach worker with Wapikoni Mobile, says it was challenging working with the youth in Thunder Bay.

"They are really talented and they were fun to work with because they are awesome people," Simon says. "I loved all of the films — they are incredible. It was really challenging for us to do two fictions in that short of an amount of time because usually fictions take longer, but because we were with talented people, it turned out to be quite nice."

About 300 youth participate each year in Wapikoni Mobile's visits to communities across Canada. Participants are trained in screenwriting, directing and in the technical aspects of filmmaking with professional equipment.

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11:15 AM – SAAFE WALK
12:00 PM—Welcome
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12:45 PM — Guest "Earl Lambert: Sober is Sacred"

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Arts

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Arts and Entertainment



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News
Eagle Lake's Michelle Derosier was one of about 10 musicians and hand drummers who performed at the 1st Annual Memorial Concert Dancing in the Sky In Memory of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News
The 1st Annual Memorial Concert Dancing in the Sky In Memory of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls featured a variety of musicians and hand drummers on Aug. 23 in Thunder Bay.

First annual memorial concert honours MMIWG

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

The first Annual Memorial Concert Dancing in the Sky In Memory of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls featured hand drummers and musicians from Thunder Bay and the region.

"It went pretty good — I am pleased with the turnout and the support," says Sharon Johnson, who organized the concert.

"We need more events like this to raise awareness about violence against women, not only the vigils and the memorials, (but) to kind of celebrate in a good way, in a positive way. I think that's what we need too, to balance it out."

Johnson plans to hold another Memorial Concert next

year.

"If no one showed up and these tables were empty, that would have made me sad," Johnson says. "But to see people here enjoying the music and just being here. I'm going to start working on it right away, tomorrow."

Arnold George Cook, a musician originally from Berens River in Manitoba, enjoyed performing at the concert at Waverly Park on the north side of Thunder Bay.

"It was pretty good — I'm enjoying myself here listening to good music," Cook says. "It's a good turnout. I'm for Native people should support each other. And I do have a lot of granddaughters I think about all the time — I hope they are going to be doing alright in

their lives. I'm telling them to be aware out in the world here and don't get yourself mixed up into drinking or drugs."

Lisa Labelle, therapist with Thunder Bay Counselling, says the music was "wonderful" at the concert.

"I have hope that with years to come there will be more exposure and it is an event that will continue to grow," Labelle says. "People have been coming up (to the booth) asking questions and taking some of the resources from the table. It looks like people are engaged with some of the community resources available today."

Katherine Brooks, community engagement coordinator with Thunder Bay Counselling, says it was important to remember the Missing and Murdered

Indigenous Women and Girls.

"It was a fantastic event to remember the women and the girls that we have lost and are missing," Brooks says.

Collin Graham, manager of community development with Ontario Native Women's Organization, says the concert was an opportunity for the community to come together and have an open and meaningful dialogue about Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

"Today we brought the Grandmother Earth Dress, also known on the trail as the Red Dress," Graham says. "She is here today and will be coming

back to this event next year for sure and is still continuing on her journey throughout the rest of the province, as she has been invited to a lot of gatherings when they are talking about Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls to help families grieve in that process and help them envision their loved ones in regalia."

Cassandra Blair, communications administrator with Beendigen, says the concert "went really well for a first year."

"There's a bunch of people sitting over here enjoying the music, there's been a lot of great artists and they've been sharing their stories," Blair says.

Notice of Commencement of Terms of Reference Springpole Gold Project – First Mining Gold Corp.

First Mining Gold Corp. ("FMG") is beginning an Environmental Assessment ("EA") under the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act* ("EAA") for its Springpole Gold Project (the "Undertaking"). This undertaking involves the establishment, construction, operation and decommissioning and closure of an open pit gold and silver mine, ore processing facilities and any ancillary facilities required for the project. The Springpole Gold project site is located in northwestern Ontario approximately 110 km northeast of the Municipality of Red Lake. The Town of Ear Falls is south of the property and is within the Red Lake Mining District. The property has a long exploration history and has been explored intermittently for gold since the 1920s.

The Provincial EA Process: This study will be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the *Environmental Assessment Act*. The first step of the EA process is the preparation of Terms of Reference ("ToR"). The ToR will set out the proponent's framework and work plan for addressing the *Environmental Assessment Act* requirements when preparing the environmental assessment, including such things as the alternatives that will be considered and the public consultation activities that will be carried out. If approved by the Minister, the ToR will provide the framework and requirements for the preparation of the environmental assessment.

In addition to the Provincial EA process, the Undertaking is also subject to the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* (CEAA 2012) and FMG has already commenced this process with the submission of a Project Description to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) and on June 19, 2018 the company obtained the Final Guidelines for the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012. For additional questions or information please contact: Springpole Gold Project, CEAA, 55 York Street, Suite 600, Toronto, Ontario M5J 1R7. Telephone: 416 952 1576, Fax: 416 952 1573 E-mail: Springpole.acee@ceaa-acee.gc.ca

Consultation: Members of the public, Indigenous communities, agencies and other interested persons are encouraged to actively participate in the planning process by attending consultation opportunities or contacting staff directly with comments or questions. Consultation opportunities are planned throughout the planning process and will be advertised in local newspapers, on local radio, on the Project website and via community newsletters.

For further information on the proposed study, please contact:

Dr. David M. Mchaina
Director, Sustainability & Stakeholder Engagement
Telephone: 519.241.9655
dmchaina@firstmininggould.com
<https://firstmininggould.com/projects/tier-1/springpole-project>

Mr. Giovanni (John) Sferazza
Manager, Permitting and Environmental Assessment
Telephone: 705 929 5245
john@firstmininggould.com
<https://firstmininggould.com/projects/tier-1/springpole-project>

All personal information included in a submission – such as name, address, telephone number and property location – is collected, maintained and disclosed to and by the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change for the purpose of transparency and consultation. The information is collected under the authority of the *Environmental Assessment Act* or is collected and maintained for the purpose of creating a record that is available to the general public as described in s.37 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. Personal information you submit will become part of a public record that is available to the general public unless you request that your personal information remain confidential. For more information, please contact the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change's Freedom of Information and Privacy Coordinator at 416-327-1434.

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Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

"We had a really great turnout," Guthrie says. "We had an eight-team tournament with lots of subs on both teams, so the action was quick and fast paced."

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A black and white portrait of Donald M. Pelletier, a middle-aged man with a receding hairline, smiling. He is wearing a dark suit jacket, a white shirt, and a dark tie with diagonal stripes. The background is a blurred architectural structure.

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