



LONG LAKE #58 FIRST NATION



GINOOGAMING FIRST NATION

MEDIA RELEASE:

Historic Area Landmark to be Demolished

Long Lake #58, August 21st, 2008: An historic regional landmark in Northwestern Ontario, the Infant Jesus Parish Church that sits on the Point at Long Lake #58 First Nation, will be demolished it was announced today. A memorial service will be held for the local communities on August 27, 2008, prior to demolition that is scheduled for September 2nd, 2008.

The Infant Jesus Parish Church was built in 1948 by Father Alphonse Hamel to service the Anishinabek of Long Lake. It was condemned in April 1997 due to structural hazards.

Infant Jesus Parish was the Longlac area's first Roman Catholic Church. The remains of Long Lake 58 First Nation's first resident priest, Father Joseph Marie Couture who arrived in 1927, lie in a crypt in the basement of the Church. A memorial monument will be erected in honour of Father Couture who earned the name, "Needamishkang – the One We Love to See Come".

The church itself holds many significant memories for everyone who attended mass there. It is a beautiful landmark but most importantly it is a connection to the families, the way of life, and the community that was once located there. Its central location on the Point and the size of the building symbolized the strong faith of the people.

The powerful attraction of the breathtaking view still has tourists stopping to take pictures of the church. The charm and magnetism of the church is so great that travelers often come to the community of Long Lake 58 First Nation for information and wanting to visit the church.

"We are very sad to have to tear down this historic church that has become the most recognizable landmark in the Longlac area," says Chief Allan Towegishig of Long Lake #58 First Nation. "The previous Chief and Council have worked very hard over the past many years with

both the Federal and the Ontario governments to access funding to restore the Church but without success. We are therefore left with no other option but to demolish the building due to safety issues.”

Costs to restore the Infant Jesus Parish exceed \$1.1 million. People are welcome to send in their comments, memories and stories about the Infant Jesus Parish Church via email: conabigo@lakeheadu.ca or by mail: Long Lake #58, P.O. Box 609, Longlac, On, P0T 2A0.

The media is invited to attend the celebrations and demolition day to record the event for historical purposes. For further information, please contact the Band Office at: Long Lake #58 First Nation.



-30-

Media Contact:

Long Lake #58 Band Office
Narcisse Kakegabon
Phone: 807-876-2292

Tana-Leigh Sacino

Firedog Communications

T: (807) 767-4443

E: tanaleigh@firedogpr.com