



## The Power of Unity, The Dignity of Difference

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## New Leadership Assumes Role at Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment & Training Services (KKETS)

## IN THIS ISSUE:

Welcome New Staff and more....



# Family Math Night at Johnny Therriault School Celebrates Spatial Reasoning in Mathematics



Johnny Therriault School in Aroland First Nation hosted its first ever student-led Family Math Night on February 8, 2017 (article appearing now due to missed March 2017 Matawa Messenger deadline).

The concept of a “Family Math Party” showcasing student work and Indigenous knowledges was something Johnny Therriault Principal Bill Beaucage had been wanting to do for a while. Watching the event come together and being readily taken up by everyone at the school – and the broader Aroland community – was a dream come true, he says.

“I’m really glad to see parents engaged with their kids, working with their kids and learning from their kids,” Beaucage says. “Look at the smile on everyone’s faces, look at the comradery between staff and parents. It’s worked out to be a great night.”

As parents and children streamed into the large gymnasium, community Elder Nora Atlookan offered a smudge and prayer to start the evening event. A five-man drumming group (some of whom travelled an hour from Geraldton, Ont. to participate in the opening ceremonies) provided a powerful opening drumming song to begin the evening.

“Family Math Night gives us all a chance to gather and celebrate mathematics in a new light. Looking around the room, you can feel the positive energy and how engaged everyone is,” says Dr. Bev Caswell, director of the Robertson Program for Inquiry-based Teaching in Mathematics and Science at OISE (University of Toronto). “So often, math is limited to textbooks and here, this school is making it a community celebration.”

More than 15 tables featured engaging spatial reasoning activities, many of which included ways of recognizing and connecting with indigenous knowledges held by the local community.

For example, Steve St. Jean and his Grade 3/4 students created a grid featuring community landmarks that are important to them. They then designed challenges using coding and computational thinking to invite parents and community members to navigate their way to and from the various sites.

After they were introduced to the important historical contributions of the Navaho Code Talkers, Elder Nora Atlookan and Pauline Gagnon came up with the idea to use coding to have students recognize Ojibwe words and syllabics. Grade 5/6 teacher Melinda Rody strategically created materials to bring the idea to life in her classroom, along with Natasha Davey’s Grade 7/8 students.

## Focusing on Spatial Reasoning and Geometry: An entry point into high-quality mathematics

“Most of us have been taught to think and talk about the world using words, lists, and statistics. These are useful tools but they do not come close to telling the full story. Thinking spatially opens the eye and mind to new connections, new questions, and new answers.” (Center for Spatial Studies, UCSB, n.d.)

The Ontario mathematics curriculum combines spatial reasoning and geometry into one strand. Geometry, which translates roughly as “measure of the Earth,” deals directly with measuring and moving objects in space. Geometry is the foundation of mathematics as we know it today. Spatial thinking gave birth to the earliest forms of sophisticated mathematical thinking. We are just beginning to understand the interplay between spatial reasoning and mathematics learning.



“Spatial talent often goes unrecognized in students when it’s really an opportunity to tap into a diversity of student strengths,” Caswell says. “Focusing on spatial reasoning and geometry gives teachers, students and their parents and caregivers an opportunity to see how math is so much more than numbers and computation.”

Spatial thinking leads to mathematics becoming a more visual endeavour and connects with what “real” mathematicians do when they are exploring patterns in the world and making discoveries.

### Forging strong links with school and community

In the days leading up to the event, Bev Caswell, Zach Pedersen and Larisa Lam from the Robertson Program for Inquiry-based Teaching in Mathematics at OISE (University of Toronto) collaborated with Johnny Therriault School teachers and their students to design math activities for the Family Math Night. They worked with educators Nora Atlookan (Community Elder and Education Assistant), Pauline Gagnon (Ojibwe language teacher), Marlo Sobush (Special Education Resource Teacher), Aleysha Williams (Junior Kindergarten teacher), Tamara Vernier (Senior Kindergarten teacher), Kelsey Copp (Grade 1/2 teacher), Steve St. Jean (Gr 3/4 teacher), Melinda Rody (Grade 5/6 teacher) and Natasha Davey (Grade 7/8 teacher).

Over the three days, students were introduced to various math activities that demonstrate a spatial approach to numbers. This provided an engaging “way in” to mathematics. During this time, new activities were designed, “field-tested” and revised at the school. The activities were engaging and participatory, highlighting the importance of a spatial approach to math and providing examples of the beauty and aesthetics found in math. It also demonstrates how math can be used as a tool for reconciliation through language revitalization and raising awareness of Indigenous knowledges.

And what party would be complete without the sharing of food? The evening suitably ended by inviting parents, community members and children to enjoy pizza and refreshments.

“The support, assistance and enthusiasm from the team members at OISE have underscored for the staff at Johnny Therriault School the critical importance of enhancing and refining the spatial reasoning abilities of our students. Let us not forget that much of what we do to navigate our way around in a three-dimensional world requires strong spatial skills,” says Beaucage. “Chi miigwech to the team members at OISE. We continue to look forward to forging our partnership with The Robertson Program to support the academic achievement of our students in mathematics.”



**MATAWA FIRST NATIONS**

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# SUMMER 2017 POW WOW LISTINGS

**July 28 - 30**  
Neskantaga First Nation

**August 12 - 13**  
Constance Lake First Nation

**August 19 - 21**  
Ginoogaming First Nation

**September 1 - 3**  
Long Lake #58 First Nation

Based on available information at print time. To avoid disappointment, contact the First Nation prior to your travels



# 2017 Northwestern Ontario Aboriginal Youth Achievement & Recognition Awards (AYARA)

AYARA was established in 2004 with community partners and generous sponsorship from various organizations and companies.

AYARA believes that recognizing a person for their achievements is a great way to build self-esteem and showcase role models while helping our youth realize their goals are attainable. The awards are based on efforts made by youth and not necessarily always on accomplishments. AYARA recognizes a wide variety of achievements in areas of academic, artistic, athletic, community leadership, personal achievements and culture.

Congratulations to all the award recipients who were recognized at the 2017 Aboriginal Youth Achievement & Recognition Awards! The 2017 AYARA Banquet was held in Thunder Bay on May 3rd, 2017. These youths from the Matawa Communities were recognized for their achievements.

Visit: [www.ayara.ca](http://www.ayara.ca) to learn more about AYARA

## Academic Award

**Summer Scanlon-Wabasse**, a member of Webequie First Nation, is a Grade 12 student attending St. Ignatius School. Summer has been on the Honour Roll every semester throughout high school. Summer will be graduating Grade 12 this June as an Ontario Scholar and will be attending Lakehead University on a scholarship earned through her excellence.

## Advocacy & Activism Award

**Clyde Moonias**, a member of Neskantaga First Nation, is in his 2nd year Honours Bachelor of Arts, Indigenous Learning attending Lakehead University. Clyde is actively involved with many youth committees and programs.

## Community Leadership

**Lucille Atlookan**, a member of Eabametoong First Nation, is in her 2nd year of the Honours Bachelor of Fine Arts attending Lakehead University. Lucille created Neechee Studio and is an active mentor for participating youth attending workshops at the art studio.

**Ricky Ostamus**, a member of the Neskantaga First Nation, is a Grade 12 student attending the Matawa Learning Centre. Ricky is actively involved with being a school ambassador and representing his peers throughout various capacities. Ricky is very dedicated and is a great role model.

**Tenika Wabason**, a member of the Eabametoong First Nation, is a High School student attending Superior CVI. Tenika is the founding member of the Aboriginal Student Committee at Superior Collegiate & Vocational Institute. Tenika volunteers in school activities and encourages fellow student to succeed in school.

## Peer Mentorship

**Stone Yapput**, a member of the Marten Falls First Nation, is a High School student attending Hammarskjold High School. Stone is a Senior Mentor at his high school; he values and strives to preserve his culture. Stone was chosen to be a team leader in Windsor, Ontario, a world meeting of student leaders representing their high school and community.

**Nathan Achneepineskum**, a member of Marten Falls First Nation is attending the Matawa Learning Centre. Nathan is a role model to his peers; he has a positive attitude, strong work ethic, and is a dedicated student. As a Senior student, he likes to assume the role of class spokesperson and often advocates on behalf of his class.

**River Okeese**, a member of Eabametoong First Nation, is a grade 12 student attending Sir Winston Churchill CVI. River's teachers consider him an asset to the classroom. He is very dedicated to his education and shows genuine interest for his fellow students. River is always willing to mentor and assist his classmates with assignments.

**Andrew Cheechoo**, a member of Constance Lake First Nation, is a Grade 12 student attending St. Patrick High School. Andrew treats everyone with respect; he has a positive, energetic and happy approach, and is a great role model to his fellow students. Andrew is an active member of the new Indigenous Cultural Program.

## Personal Achievement

**Jasmine Baxter**, a member of Marten Falls First Nation, she will be a Post Secondary graduate this month from the Native Child and Family Services program at Confederation College. Jasmine graduated with First Class Standing.

**Jo-Ellen Baxter**, a member of Marten Falls First Nation, is a student with the Matawa Learning Centre. Jo-Ellen is a role model for her classmates. She enjoys participating in school and community events. Jo-Ellen recently attended a Mining and Land Use Conference representing her community of Marten Falls on the youth panel.

**Tristan Quisses**, a member of Neskantaga First Nation, is a Grade 12 High School student attending St. Patrick High School. Tristan overcame many personal and academic challenges and he never gave up. Tristan is achieving his educational goals. He will be attending the Police Foundations Program with Seneca College in Toronto this September 2017.

**Miracle Fisher**, a member of Long Lake # 58 First Nation is a Grade 12 student attending Superior CVI. Miracle overcame many personal and academic challenges who never gave up regardless of the obstacles she faced. Miracle pursued her educational goals. She will be attending the Construction Techniques and Carpentry Program with Confederation College this September 2017.



# Community of Eabametoong First Nation Come Together to Donate \$10,000 to Shelter House

Article and Photos courtesy of Shelter House Social Media Post

May 13, 2017 - This past week, our Executive Director, Gary and one of our Supervisors, Susan were invited by former Kwae Kii Win resident, Molly Boyce to visit the Fort Hope Community. They flew to Eabametoong from Nakina for a 3 day visit and were graciously welcomed by the community. The visit was a great opportunity to share information about some of the programs and services we have at Shelter House, while at the same time learning more about Fort Hope and how we might be better able to serve their residents when they venture into Thunder Bay.

Gary and Susan were greeted with sacred drumming ceremonies, they spent a couple of hours talking on the local radio station about our work, toured the community, participated in Career Day at the community's school and were honoured at two different community feasts.

On the final day of their visit, they were incredibly surprised when presented with the \$10,000 in donations, which were taken up by several organizations and community members. When leaving Eabametoong, the entire school emptied out so that all of the children could accompany Gary, Susan and Molly on their walk to the airport.

Thank you for your gracious hospitality and generosity Eabametoong!

Note: On April 18, 2017, Matawa First Nations Management and the Thunder Bay Community Foundation joined together to challenge Thunder Bay to meet the \$200,000 fundraising goal to re-start the Street Outreach Services (SOS) program run by Shelter House. Matawa made a \$10,000 donation at that time.



## Matawa Jurisdiction Working Group



The Matawa Jurisdiction Working Group (MJWG) was officially established in November 2016 after members were appointed by the Chiefs of their respected First Nations. There are nine members of the MJWG representing each signatory community of Matawa First Nations. The MJWG have met numerous times since being formed. They have also met with the Chiefs on multiple occasions to provide updates on their work. The MJWG members are:

Aroland First Nation – Joe Baxter  
Constance Lake First Nation – Charles Baxter  
Eabametoong First Nation – Harvey Yesno  
Ginoogaming First Nation – Wallace McKay  
Long Lake #58 First Nation – Marlow Wesley  
Marten Falls First Nation – Lawrence Baxter  
Neskantaga First Nation – Peter Moonias  
Nibinamik First Nation – Tommy Yellowhead  
Webequie First Nation – Gordon Wabasse



## Matawa Students Learn Baseball Skills and Place #1 in Right To Play/ Jays Care Spring Baseball Training

Early this May, five students from the Matawa Learning Centre got the opportunity to head to Winnipeg for a one-week baseball training camp along with over 70 youth from First Nation communities around Ontario.

The Spring Training Camp was a collaborative program offered through the Jays Care Foundation and Right To Play. The five-day camp was designed for the youth to enhance their skills in baseball coaching, team management and league organization, baseball umpiring, advertising and marketing, broadcasting and meal and food preparation.

Special guests from the Winnipeg Goldeyes made the camp feel extra special by running daily baseball drills for the youth and giving inspirational speeches. They also donated tickets for all youth to attend a Goldeyes game in downtown Winnipeg.

The final day of the camp involved a large Baseball Tournament amongst all the participating youth. Matawa youth, paired up with youth from Cat Lake to form a Championship team!

Out of 8 different teams, the Matawa youth placed first in the Spring Training Baseball Tournament.

Now that we are back in Thunder Bay, the 5 participating youth plan to practice their newly developed Baseball skills by helping run drills and exercises during their Phys-Ed class.

Great work guys and gals!



Please note: Due to staff holidays, the Matawa Radio Show will not be aired during the month of August. It will resume in September 2017.

**TUNE IN EVERY 2ND TUESDAY  
FROM 4:00 - 4:30 EST  
(3:00 - 3:30 CST)**

[www.wawataynews.ca/radio](http://www.wawataynews.ca/radio)  
89.9 FM in Sioux Lookout  
106.7 FM in Timmins  
BellTV Channel 962

### UPCOMING SHOWS

June 6 and 20  
July 4 and 18  
September 12 and 26



## Four Rivers Attends GFN Spring Cultural Week

Four Rivers' Youth On the Land Outreach (YOLO) program had staff attend Ginoogaming First Nation's Spring Cultural Week May 15-18 2017. The weather allowed us to stay outdoors, despite a few drops of rain – typical spring weather! Four Rivers assisted students of all ages with the planting process. Youth started by prepping the soil in individual newspaper pots, then planted the seeds. Seed options included tomatoes, radishes, cucumber, carrots and zucchini. To top things off, they watered their seedlings with the watering can filled of lake water. The youth also made plant labels with popsicle sticks to ensure they remember what vegetable they are sprouting. Youth are encouraged to keep the seedlings in a sunny windowsill until sprouted. Once they are about 2 inches tall they will be ready for the transplanting process. The hope is that the youth are able to start or add to an outdoor garden!

We had many other activities on the go while at the GFN Spring Cultural Week. A favourite activity from the 2016 summer season was the Four Rivers baggie greenhouse craft so we offered that to the GFN youth as well. Kids coloured, cut out and created mini greenhouses using plastic baggies and wet paper towel. They added pinto beans into the bag and left the houses to soak up the sun and help the bean sprout. A few students worked on 'mini books' which simply explained and visually represented the seed sprouting process. The YOLO program has lots to offer – from planting seeds, GPS scavenger hunts, values mapping, owl pellet dissection, to stream demos and fish biology – we have it all... and it's done in fun and interactive ways!

Contact Four Rivers for more information on our YOLO program.



(Anna) Betty Achneepineskum, founder of this award announced in April that the nomination period was open.

The *Louis Waswa Ambassador of Community Wellness Award* is available for one (1) youth between the ages of 12 -25 years old from EACH of the Matawa First Nations. **Deadline to make a nomination is: July 7, 2017** and award recipients will be announced at the 2017 Matawa Annual General Meeting.

Email to [annachnee@tbaytel.net](mailto:annachnee@tbaytel.net) or at the Matawa office at fax (807) 344-2977.

### Louis Waswa Youth Ambassador of Community Wellness Award

#### Award Application

##### Applicant Information

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First MI

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Band Membership: \_\_\_\_\_

Community Wellness Activity: (ie. help in building church, organizing sporting and/or youth events, fine arts portraying wellness, etc...)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

##### Nominator Information

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First MI

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Band Membership: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

##### Instructions

Please have the applicant include a 200-word essay along with this application.





### What is human trafficking?

Human trafficking involves the recruitment, transportation and/or harbouring of persons for the purpose of exploitation typically for sexual exploitation or forced labour.

### The definition of trafficking consists of three core elements:

- 1) The **ACTION** of trafficking means the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons
- 2) The **MEANS** of trafficking which includes threat of or use of force, deception, coercion, abuse of power or position of vulnerability.
- 3) The **PURPOSE** of trafficking which is always exploitation. Exploitation at minimum will include sexual exploitation, prostitution, forced labor or services, slavery and removal of organs.

### Who is at risk?

Children, Women and Men  
 Indigenous populations  
 Teenage runaways  
 Youth in Care  
 Homeless Youth and Women

For more information on how to educate your community members, please contact your local Crisis Team Coordinator or the Regional Crisis Intervention Coordinator at:

### Matawa First Nations Management

233 S Court Street -Thunder Bay  
 Phone: 807-344-4575  
 Fax: 807-344-2977  
 Toll Free: 1-800-463-2249



### Take a Selfie Campaign

Please Join Us on July 30 as we make our voices known that we the Anishnawbeg are against the trafficking of persons. With the help of social media, we can unite as one in this fight to protect our Peoples.



## RFA TPA Joint Workplan Team Meetings



The Regional Framework Agreement (RFA) Transfer Payment Agreement (TPA) Joint Workplan Team, known as the RFA TPA Joint Workplan Team, held their third and fourth meetings of the 2016/17 fiscal year on January 24-25, 2017 and February 23-24, 2017. Each Matawa community participated and was represented by two or more RFA Team Members. The RFA TPA Joint Workplan Team is made up of community RFA Teams, two Ministry of Northern Development and Mines (MNDM) Staff and Matawa Staff. The community RFA Team members vary however usually consists of RFA/ROF Coordinators, Finance Managers, Community Advisors, Community Support Staff and Assistants. The RFA TPA Joint Workplan Team's primary focuses are RFA reporting and assisting with the development of yearly RFA workplans. Their next meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 2017.

## Meeting with Premier Kathleen Wynne

On May 1st, 2017, the Matawa Chiefs met with Premier Kathleen Wynne at Queen's Park in Toronto. All nine Chiefs were in attendance for the meeting. The main topics of conversation were the Regional Framework Agreement (RFA) and Jurisdiction Table. Overall, the meeting between the Chiefs and the Ontario Premier was informative with equal expression of concerns between the two parties. Discussions are continuing and there is a desire on both sides to resolve issues and move forward.





# Healing Walk

*For all First Nations & Communities*

 Hosted by Long Lake #58 First Nation

**Start:** June 25, 2017 at 10:00am Ginoogaming First Nation Powwow Grounds  
**Finish:** July 1, 2017 at Mount McKay, Fort William First Nation

This year, the tentative focus of the walk is broken up into 7 different issues that we will pray for each day during our healing walk; **Drugs/Alcohol Addictions, Cancer, Missing Women/Men, Residential School/Day School Survivors/Decedents, Suicide, Land Water & Air, Racism.** Our current objective is to develop a team of representatives from each surrounding First Nations and communities. Together, we can join in solidarity to fundraise and share ideas to solidify the focuses of this year's walk.

*As we pass through your community you are more than welcome to take part!*

**For more information about the walk please contact:**  
Allen Towegishig at (807) 853-5959 or Lionel McCraw (807) 853-0599  
Or Cecil Mendowegan at (807) 708-4923



To get to know her better, we took the opportunity to ask Carol some questions. This is what she said:

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**What three traits define you?**

Empowerment, learning and being an Anishnabwe Kwe in all its roles as a mother, daughter, sister, aunt, granny, partner, friend, co-worker, steward and mentor.

**What is your personal philosophy?**

I believe in the Greatest of myself. That I am here for a Purpose and that purpose is to put into Life more than I have taken out.

**What's one thing you couldn't live without?**

Family, it is my greatest blessing that drives me to be a better version of myself.

**What is the greatest challenge you have had to overcome in your life thus far?**

Shyness – having to find my voice to empower myself and use that voice to help others.

**Where is your favorite place to be?**

In the bush at camp with family and friends connecting with the land, practicing my traditional harvesting values.

**Where is the best place you've traveled to and why?**

5 hour drive ski doo ride out in the middle of the muskeg away from the reserve standing in the middle of the river watching the Northern lights dance low across the sky hearing them crackle in their brilliant colours, no words to describe that feeling.

**What does true leadership mean to you?**

Leading others by example and mentoring them to be able to fly on their own by showing enthusiasm, a genuine interest in their goal achievement, and providing support. Being transparent, brave and approachable.

**What would you most like to tell yourself at age 13?**

You are worthy. You are loved. It will only get better.

**How do you define success?**

Being true to yourself without stepping on anyone to live a good life.

**What is the best book you have ever read?**

The Secret.

**What would you do (for a career) if you weren't doing this?**

I would be a professional photographer capturing the beauty of our people and the connection we have to the land most especially. For now, it's a hobby.





## Aboriginal Skills Advancement Program Update

The Aboriginal Skills Advancement Program (ASAP) showcased 63 graduates at the graduation ceremony on March 22, 2017. As of April 1, 2017, ASAP is entering the final year of the 3 year agreement with the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development. To date, ASAP has seen 258 learners graduate with their Ontario Secondary School Diplomas.

The following are 2016/2017 graduates:

Name	First Nation	Name	First Nation
Magiskan, Caleb	Aroland	Labelle, Ashley	Ginoogaming
<b>Magiskan, Denita</b>	<b>Aroland</b>	<b>Mazinakouskang, Kerrie</b>	<b>Ginoogaming</b>
Magiskan, Eunice	Aroland	Shaganash, Caleb	Ginoogaming
<b>Magiskan, Jason</b>	<b>Aroland</b>	<b>Taylor, Jenna-Laine</b>	<b>Ginoogaming</b>
Magiskan, Jonah	Aroland	Taylor, Maurice Sandy	Ginoogaming
<b>Magiskan, Savannah</b>	<b>Aroland</b>	<b>Towegejick, Christopher</b>	<b>Ginoogaming</b>
Mendowegan, Rodney	Aroland	DePerry-Carney, Christopher	Long Lake #58
<b>Mendowegan, Valeri</b>	<b>Aroland</b>	<b>Patalon, Adam</b>	<b>Long Lake #58</b>
Towedo, Roger	Aroland	Shebagabow, Cheryl	Long Lake #58
<b>Mattinas, Cynthia</b>	<b>Constance Lake</b>	<b>Towedo, Evalena</b>	<b>Long Lake #58</b>
Mattinas, Diana	Constance Lake	Waboose, Anita	Long Lake #58
<b>Moore, Gary</b>	<b>Constance Lake</b>	<b>Finlayson, Charlie</b>	<b>Long Lake #58</b>
Napash(Mattinas), Genevieve	Constance Lake	Finlayson, Jake	Long Lake #58
<b>Sutherland, Donny</b>	<b>Constance Lake</b>	<b>Waboose, Alphonse</b>	<b>Long Lake #58</b>
Sutherland, Paige	Constance Lake	Achneepineskum, Laurel	Marten Falls
<b>Wesley, Cecile</b>	<b>Constance Lake</b>	<b>Achneepineskum, Sara</b>	<b>Marten Falls</b>
Morris, Eleanor	Eabametoong	Baxter, Bruce	Marten Falls
<b>Atlookan, Bethany</b>	<b>Eabametoong</b>	<b>Baxter, Natasha</b>	<b>Marten Falls</b>
Atlookan, Dorothy	Eabametoong	Coaster, Carolyn	Marten Falls
<b>Atlookan, Maxine</b>	<b>Eabametoong</b>	<b>Paavola, Rebecca</b>	<b>Marten Falls</b>
Atlookan, Sandra	Eabametoong	Moonias, Bradley	Neskantaga
<b>Baxter, Joey</b>	<b>Eabametoong</b>	<b>Salanee, Greta</b>	<b>Neskantaga</b>
Beaver, Dwight	Eabametoong	Waswa, Michelle	Neskantaga
<b>Jacob, Ruby</b>	<b>Eabametoong</b>	<b>Neshinapaise, Justine</b>	<b>Nibinamik</b>
Meeseetawageesic, Lucy	Eabametoong	Yellowhead, Naomi	Nibinamik
<b>Missewace, Alexandra</b>	<b>Eabametoong</b>	<b>Beaver, Michael</b>	<b>Webequie</b>
O'Keese, Margaret	Eabametoong	Jacob(Shewaybick), Charlene	Webequie
<b>Roe, Sharon</b>	<b>Eabametoong</b>	<b>Meeseetawageesic, Shelley</b>	<b>Webequie</b>
Sagutch, Lorna	Eabametoong	Shoomin, Nicole	Webequie
<b>Shawinimash, Dorcas</b>	<b>Eabametoong</b>	<b>Wabasse, Caitlin</b>	<b>Webequie</b>
Slipperjack, Heather	Eabametoong		
<b>Wapoose, Sarah</b>	<b>Eabametoong</b>		
Yellowhead, Mary Ann	Eabametoong		

ASAP provides the opportunity for adult learners age 22 years and over from Matawa First Nations communities to obtain their Ontario Secondary School High School Diploma (OSSD), gain life and employability skills, and basic industrial certifications such as First Aid/CPR, WHMIS, Basic Construction Skills, Safe Food Handling, Service and Service Excellence.

It is KKETS' goal to see the number of graduates increase for its Matawa First Nations. At KKETS, the ASAP team will do its best to support the student while transitioning to Thunder Bay and attending school on a full-time basis. ASAP has partnered with Roots to Harvest to deliver a Lunch Program at our school. Every Thursday, students start to prepare a hot lunch and on Friday, the lunch is completed and served. We have been very fortunate to have Elder Gerry Martin who attends our school every Friday morning to be available for cultural supports.

If you don't have your Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD), are over the age of 22 years old and a Matawa First Nations member, please contact your local First Nation Employment Community Coordinator to complete an application or contact Kiikenomaga Kikenjigew-en Employment and Training Services' office at 1-888-688-4652 or 807-768-4470 and inquire with our Intake Referral Officer. If you have applied in the past, please contact our office to update your contact information. It is KKETS' goal to prepare, educate, train and employ Matawa First Nations members.

## A Look Back at Mining Readiness



By: Angie Britt, RoFATA Project Coordinator

January 16 to March 10, 2017 an 8-week Mining Readiness program was delivered in Aroland, Constance Lake, Eabametoong, Ginoogaming, Long Lake 58, Marten Falls, Neskantaga, Nibinamik, Webequie and Thunder Bay.

The program was offered to our Matawa community members, 108 people participated in the program, these individuals gained the essential skills and work readiness training that is needed to enter mining related employment.

Program overview: 4 weeks—Personal Career Development and 4 weeks—Introduction to Mining. Some of the topics included; goals, self concept, self esteem, communication skills, job readiness, costs of exploration, history of mining, understanding different mining methods and types of explorations used.

The course ran daily, Monday to Friday from 9:00am to 4:00pm. At the successful completion of the program, 55 participants received a Confederation College Recognition of Achievement Credential Certificate.



## Constance Lake First Nation Honours Water



*Photos courtesy of Rapheal Sutherland, CLFN Junior Ranger Facebook*

Despite rain, about 15 members of the Constance Lake First Nation Junior Canadian Rangers, Canadian Rangers and Mamawmatawa Holistic Education Centre (MHEC), along with community members participated in a Water Walk on May 31, 2017.

Community organizer Florrie Sutherland said, "The purpose of the walk was to raise awareness on the need to protect our water, lakes, rivers and creeks." She added, "Water is our life and we need to protect it."

The Water Walk began at MHEC and started with a ceremony, including a water song at the Constance Lake First Nation Elders Complex. It ended along highway 11 at the Kabinanagakami River. The group was escorted by members of the Ontario Provincial Police, Provincial Liaison Team Police Officers, and Nishnawbe Aski Police Services to ensure they were safe walking on Highways 663 and 11.

Participants included: Junior Canadian Rangers: Liam Nakogee, Kyle Nakogee, Trinity Isheroff, Sonny Sutherland-Taylor, Darryl Miller, Chris Jr. Taylor, Wilcey Ferris; Canadian Rangers: Nancy Wesley and Rapheal Sutherland; Teachers: Christine Stephens, Pam Ellis and Florrie Sutherland; Community Member: Leslie Ferris; MHEC high school students: Lauryn Stephens, Taylor Nakogee and Jonah Nakogee.



The Constance Lake First Nation Water Walk is part of many happening throughout Turtle Island. Great Lakes Water Walker Josephine Mandamin has said, "Water can understand us, it feels what we feel." She has walked more than 17,000 kms around the Great Lakes over that past number of years. This year, she started walking from Spirit Mountain in Duluth, Minnesota on April 19. More information on this walk can be obtained on Facebook by searching 'For the Earth and Water Walk 2017.' This page also contains a link to a GPS tracker which provides information on the location and progress of the walk.

On May 26, 2017, a House of Commons E-petition (E-1030 Navigable Waters) was initiated by Edward George from Forest, Ontario calling upon the House of Commons in Parliament to undertake a process by which to formally acknowledge the Great Lakes as Living Entities assigning legal personhood to each Lake including Lake Superior, Lake Huron, Lake Erie, and Lake Ontario. The E-petition was sponsored by MP Elizabeth May, Saanich-Gulf Islands, Green Party, British Columbia. It can be signed here: <https://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-1030>

On March 15, 2017, the New Zealand Parliament passed a bill granting the Whanganui River the same legal rights as a human being.





# Matawa First Nations Management Welcomes New Staff

## Economic Development

### Business Support Officer, Brent Edwards



Hi, my name is Brent Edwards, I'm originally from Fort Albany First Nation. My beautiful wife is Skylene Metatawabin, and I'm a proud father of 4, with 2 beautiful grandchildren. I have graduated from Nipissing University with a Diploma in Education, and a Business Administration diploma with CDI College, and a Business Management Certificate with North-

ern College. I also have an educational background in Business Marketing & Radio Broadcasting. My work experience includes various capacities such as; Impact Benefit Agreement Coordinator with Fort Albany First Nation, Secondary Social Counsellor with Peetabeck Academy and an award winning entrepreneur/small business named Mooselegs2. I definitely look forward to working with all inspiring entrepreneurs within the Matawa region. Over the next couple of months I'll be making arrangements to visit all 9 communities. So, please don't hesitate to stop me and ask me a few questions.

## Matawa Technical Services

### Infrastructure Specialist/Project Manager, Kaitlyn Mauracher



Greetings everyone, my name is Kaitlyn Mauracher and I'm the newest member of the Tech Services department at Matawa First Nations. Born in Thunder Bay and proud to be from Northern Ontario, I am happy to be apart of the Matawa family. My background is in engineering, project management and teaching and I have received degrees from Lake-

head University and the University of Ottawa. In my new role as Infrastructure Specialist I will be working with the communities on the Wellbeing Pilot Projects, which is a wonderful opportunity to support the housing initiatives in the communities. I am lucky to be working with and learning from such experienced and remarkable colleagues at Matawa. On a personal note I play winger for the Thunder Bay Women's Hockey Association and enjoy getting outside for walks at lunch. I am always happy to have a new face join the group so please reach out to me if you are interested in joining. Cheers!

## Matawa Education

### Student Nutrition Program Coordinator, Jayme Jensen



Hello Everyone, my name is Jayme Lynn Jensen. I have recently joined the Matawa Education team as the Student Nutrition Program Coordinator. After living in London, ON for the past 6 years I am excited to be back in my home town of Thunder Bay! My experience

working in food service management and food service administration has prepared me to take on this role for Matawa, and I am honored to be part of the education team at the MLC. I am passionate and driven to make a positive impact on the health of our First Nations people and I plan on doing it one healthy meal at a time. I look forward to meeting all of you. Meegwetch!

## Matawa Education

### School Success Lead, Chris Chapman



Greetings everyone, my name is Chris Chapman, and I am excited to embark on my new role as School Success Lead with the Matawa Education Department. I am from Thunder Bay, and I was raised to love the outdoors and adventure. I began my adventures in education in the community of Behchoko, Northwest Territories, where I taught for five years

and was principal for my final year. Most significantly, I was a student of the local culture, taking every opportunity to learn about, and experience the rich local culture. I have been teaching with Lakehead Public Schools in Thunder Bay for the past nine years. I have a wife and two wonderful children who share my passion for, and pursuit of outdoor adventure. Thank you.

## Economic Development

### Business Support Officer, Brook Mainville



I am a family man from Couchiching and Rainy River First Nations. Married to Chantelle Johnson we have two beautiful children Miigwan and Tristan. My education background is in Commerce at the University of Windsor and Business Management at Confederation College. I have been working with First Nation communities and tribal organizations for

20 years in Finance, Administration and Social Services. I am looking forward to travelling to the communities to help build awareness and capacity when it comes to entrepreneurship in Matawa.

## Regional Framework

### Regional Framework Finance Officer, Tina Gordon



I am Tina Gordon and have recently joined the Regional Framework department as the Finance Officer. I have been employed with Matawa for approximately 5 years as a Finance Officer in the Finance department. I am excited to be taking on this new position to further develop my skills and work on a closer level with the Matawa communities and their

people. I am a graduate of Confederation college and have 25 years of finance experience working in many capacities, both in not-for-profit as well as for-profit companies. I look forward to this new chapter in my finance career and working with the great people in the regional framework office and the Matawa communities.

## Living with Us... PELICAN, KESTREL & SHRIKE



*American White Pelican*



*American Kestrel*



*Northern Shrike*

With spring and summer comes many seasonal visitors to the Matawa member First Nations' traditional homelands. Numerous bird species migrate north from their winter feeding grounds to access to the abundant food that grows quickly in our summer months. Bird species like the Canada Goose travel as much as 1500km northward to reach their summertime home. While we know the Canada Goose well, there are many other bird species that we may not know or recognize as easily. Some migrant bird species are new to visiting some or all of the parts of the Matawa member First Nations' traditional homelands in the summer. The American White Pelican, American Kestrel and Northern Shrike are some interesting species that you may or may not have seen living with us.

**American White Pelican:** One of the largest North American birds and among the heaviest flying birds in the world, the American White Pelican visits our region in the summer to migrate through it and to breed. They dip their pouched bills in the water to scoop up fish and will sometimes work together as a group to herd fish to shallower areas for easier feeding. They often travel in large soaring flocks and typically breed on islands in shallow wetlands.

**American Kestrel:** North America's smallest falcon, the American Kestrel, is one of the most colourful of all raptors. The American Kestrel is reported to visit the Matawa member First Nations traditional homelands in the summer to breed. The kestrel likes to hunt insects and other small prey and will store surplus kills in grass clumps, tree roots, bushes, tree limbs, and cavities to hide them from thieves and keep their spoils for later. The kestrel prefers open territory and hunts from a perch or hovers facing the wind using its long tails to stay in place. Then it can swoop down to snatch its prey off the ground, in most cases.

**Northern Shrike:** A predatory songbird, current information suggests that the Northern Shrike likely only flies through the Matawa member First Nations' traditional homelands on its way to breed in the taiga and tundra. The Latin name for the Northern Shrike means "Butcher watchman" and the bird is known to sometimes kill its prey of insects, small birds, and mammals by impaling them on thorns, spines or barbed wire. If it can, the Northern Shrike will kill more prey than it can immediately eat and store the excess for later.

**HAVE YOU SEEN ANY OF THESE BIRDS?** We would like to know a lot more about the bird, animal, insects and plant species living in, visiting or transiting through the Matawa member First Nations' traditional homelands. It is very important for us to know who we share this land with for environmental stewardship and future development planning. Also, it is important to monitor species with ongoing climate change. We are seeing new species that we have never seen before and we are seeing the disappearance of others. If we do not have a good idea of who is already living with us, it is hard for us to know how the environment around us is truly changing.

For the past several years Four Rivers, alongside member First Nations have worked on several projects to help us understand more about the species that are at risk within the Matawa member First Nations traditional homelands. Projects by either Four Rivers or member First Nations have focused on bird species, caribou, wolverine, and lake sturgeon. This year for the first time, Four Rivers will be working with member First Nations on a project to study bats within the region, with the same song meter technology that we use to study birds.

There is a lot that YOU can do to help everyone understand who is living with us better. If you see a bird, animal, insect or plant that you don't recognize, that seems different or new, please try to get a picture of it and tell us about it. You can either call us at (807) 346-6503; email us at [info@fourrivers.group](mailto:info@fourrivers.group) or record your finding in the new interactive online sighting portal. Our online sighting portal will be active starting in June 2017 and can be accessed through our website at [fourrivers.group](http://fourrivers.group).

