


December, 2015



"Living With Us..." page 20



The Power of Unity, The Dignity of Difference

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BACK ROW- LEFT TO RIGHT: Brian Baxter (Marten Falls), John Ashpanaquestkum (Nibinamik), Kelvin Moonias. (Neskantaga), Dwayne Gagnon (Aroland) Photo Credit: Laura Prior

November 4 – The Matawa Mineral Technical Committee (MMTC), Community Communications Liaison Officers (CCLOs), Four Rivers staff and the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines (MNDM) staff were invited to participate in a tour of Goldcorp Inc's Musselwhite Mine located at Opapamiskan Lake in North-western Ontario. They toured the mine site and met with the Environmental Working Committee (EWC) which consists of the signatory First Nations and Goldcorp. A few topics of discussion were environmental monitoring, catering services which are contracted by the signatory First Nations and job retention for the signatory First Nations. The signatory First Nation communities are North Caribou Lake, Cat Lake, Kingfisher Lake, Wunnumin Lake along with Shibogama Council and Windigo Council. Musselwhite Mine was one of the first mines in Ontario to enter into a comprehensive Impact and Benefits Agreement (IBA) with the local First Nations communities.

Welcome New Staff and more....



Shareholder Advocacy Leadership Training (SALT)



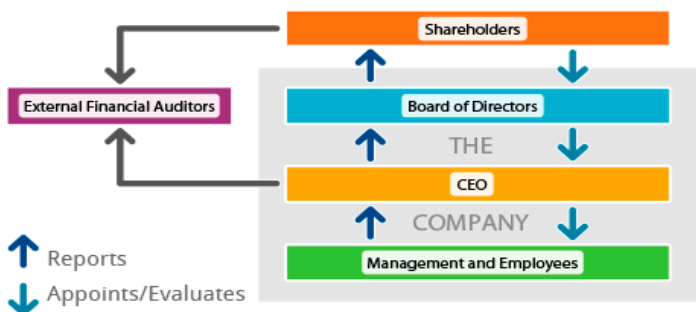
Day One of the SALT Training at the Victoria Inn in Thunder Bay
Photo Credit: Jonathan Neegan

November 5 & 6 – Matawa First Nations members and staff completed a 2 day Shareholder Advocacy Leadership Training (SALT). The unique training was provided by First Peoples Worldwide, which commemorated a developing partnership between Matawa First Nations and First Peoples Worldwide.

Matawa First Nations will serve as the SALT Centre for Eastern Canada; this will be the 2nd SALT Centre in Canada. Participants included the Matawa Mineral Technical Committee (MMTC), Community Communications Liaison Officers (CCLO), Matawa Economic Development Committee (MEDC), Regional Framework community representatives and elected officials. A total of 40 Matawa First Nations members and staff completed the training.

SALT is a valuable tool to assist Matawa First Nations members in the Matawa First Nations Community Driven Regional Strategy and also to prepare the them in any future development on their traditional territories.

SALT will assist Matawa First Nations’ members communicate and engage with shareholders of public traded companies when the First Nations feel that the companies are ignoring their protocols and rights. It will allow the Matawa First Nations members’ to give their side of the story.



“Shareholder advocacy is a strong element in planning for your future and is an excellent tool for Indigenous Peoples to exercise their market power.

In order to fully provide free, prior and informed consent on projects in the extractive industries and others, we must fully understand how publicly traded or held companies operate and how collaborative linkages can be built.”

– Chief Johnny Yellowhead, Nibinamik First Nation

Agoke Development Corporation Moving Forward in the Ogoki Forest

Matawa Economic Development and Four Rivers staff have been working with Aroland, Eabametoong and Marten Falls community representatives to build capacity for the First Nations working group on the forest tenure and associated business requirements in the Ogoki Forest. The working group developed a concept for a corporate structure for forest management and business development to maximize economic opportunities with the forest. Earlier this year, the 3 First Nations signed a co-operation agreement which outlined how they would work together on forestry related projects, a Matawa Chiefs Council resolution was accepted at the annual Matawa Chiefs Assembly in late July to support their position on the Ogoki Forest.

In November, the working group met to discuss immediate opportunities and have established the Agoke Development Corporation to complete a feasibility study to explore options for harvesting wood and bringing it to market. With the information for the study the board of directors will be positioned to make informed decisions which could help find partnerships.

The three First Nations are also looking to assume greater control with forest management practices and are pursuing a long-term license to manage the forest. Meetings with government officials are being planned in the near future to discuss funding for the process.

Matawa Communities Start Business Plan for Broadband Utility



In early 2015, the Matawa First Nations Broadband Feasibility Study indicated that development of a broadband utility owned and operated by our First Nations – is achievable. Following analysis of the broadband environment in the Matawa First Nations area and the communities' existing infrastructure, the study found that Matawa First Nations communities has a strong opportunity to own and operate a broadband utility offering broadband Internet, telephone and other services to residents, businesses and community anchors within the area. The findings and recommendations of the study were presented to the Matawa First Nations broadband working group, who in turn recommended that the Matawa First Nations Chiefs Council accept the findings of the report and take next steps to continue development of the broadband utility.

In September 2015, the working group met to initiate the project which will include finalizing a concept of a preferred route, the validation of construction costs and completion of the business plan for the First Nations Telco. The working group which is comprised of representatives from the communities involved in the project has been working with Matawa Economic Development, Technical Services and Four Rivers staff. We are seeing in many of our remote communities have issues with bandwidth and internet connections timing out because of the limitations of satellite and microwave towers. When this phase of the project is completed (expected March 2016) we are optimistic that we will be in a better position to table the proposal for federal and provincial capital funding to con-

struct the fibre optic network and provide our First Nations with faster, more reliable internet services.

This network will allow our community members to communicate with other people living in other communities and open doors for new ways to learn online and get health services. The Matawa Chiefs passed a resolution last year that asked for ownership of the fibre optic network to ensure the communities benefit as much as possible. This also allows our communities to oversee the construction to make sure it is done properly. We are expecting our communities to do as much as the line cutting as possible and are looking to employ our youth. If we can get the line cutting done in the winter 2016 then the first communities can be connected in the spring of 2017. We will be asking the community members to sign a petition so that we can make the case to the federal and provincial government to get funded. We are also asking the local businesses and organizations that use the internet to provide letters of support.



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(3:00 - 3:30 CST)**

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89.9 FM in Sioux Lookout
106.7 FM in Timmins
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UPCOMING SHOWS

December 15, 2015
January 12, 2016
January 26, 2016

Another Successful Season for the Native Camp Operators



The Native Camp Operators Alliance is a group of remote, fly-in fishing and hunting outpost camps owned and operated by First Nations People of Matawa First Nations. All of the camps (Chipai, Wapikopa, Fishbasket, Ozishki, Kanuchuan, Winisk River) within the group are located somewhere within three of the five main watersheds of Ontario: the Winisk River, the Attawapiskat River and the Albany River, all of which flow into James Bay or Hudson Bay. Most of the camps are located anywhere from 300 miles to 500 miles north, northwest or northeast of the city of Thunder Bay. All camps are remote and accessible only by float plane. In the past, guests have travelled from Thunder Bay International Airport to one of the floatplane bases located in either Pickle Lake or Armstrong, then to the camps. There are four main fish species that visitors expect to catch at the various camps are walleye, northern pike, lake trout and brook trout, (also known as speckled trout).

The Matawa Economic Development Department assists the camps with general management and business planning. Over the past few years, the most active camps have been Wapikopa operated by John and Stephen Ash, and Chipai which is operated by George Whitehead. Both camps are located near Webequie. In November, the group met to discuss the past few seasons which have been very successful for the active operators and discuss plans for next year. The Native Camp Operators' goal is to book more groups, raise profit margins and help bring new camp operators on board. If you have any questions please contact Jason Rasevych, Matawa Economic Development Manager at jrasevych@matawa.on.ca.



Ginoogam Development Corporation Exploring Business Opportunities in Kenogami Forest

Ginoogaming First Nation (GFN) has been actively involved in forestry business activities for several decades, under the guise of their solely owned company called Giizhagaakwe Development Corporation (GDC). GFN has historically implemented a number of partnership agreements with the Longlac sawmill with a number of its members currently employed at the sawmill.

Earlier this year, Aroland, Long Lake #58 and Ginoogaming signed a co-operation agreement to develop a better relationship and move forward with business development related to the Longlac sawmill. Now the three First Nations are in the process of incorporating a new company named Ginoogam Development Corporation. The long-term desire of the three First Nations is for Ginoogam to have the capacity related to harvesting and delivery of wood to the mills. There is the possibility of number business to business relationships to develop between the various First Nations and mills with interests in the Kenogami Forest.

The First Nations have been working with Matawa Economic Development and NADF to secure funding for a feasibility study which will in turn provide input to their business plan. Business Development Canada (BDC) will be providing technical and financial assistance to the group and will utilize local forestry expertise on an as-needed basis to ensure any business scenario developed and assessed is grounded in local realities.



Inquiry-Based Mathematics Taking Root at Johnny Therriault School

By: Bill Beaucage, Principal

For the past 2 years, teachers and Education Assistants at Johnny Therriault School (JTS) in Aroland have closely partnered with the Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study Laboratory School at the University of Toronto which is well renowned for its educational excellence, teacher preparation, and child study in Canada.

The School is dedicated to engaging children and their teachers in an educational experience that is enriched, innovative, and compelling. The education provided to their students prepares them for a lifetime of asking good questions, finding robust answers, and contributing to the nurturing of our world and the people in it. Teaching practices and learning opportunities in the school are anchored in inquiry, developmental readiness, and emerging research.

What is Inquiry-based learning? It is a dynamic, engaging and emergent process that builds on students' natural curiosity about the world in which they live. It places ideas at the centre of the learning experience. This includes children's ideas, interests, and questions about the world, "big ideas" in mathematics and science, and pedagogical ideas. Teachers using this approach encourage students to ask and genuinely investigate their own questions about the world. Teachers further facilitate students' learning by providing the tools, resources, and experiences that enable learners to investigate, reflect, and rigorously discuss potential solutions to their own questions about a topic the class is studying.

The approach is not a rigid methodology or set of procedures. Rather, it entails an overall pedagogical mindset, one that pervades school and classroom life to foster a culture of collaborative learning and idea improvement. Teachers continually encourage students to contribute their ideas and engage in critical problem-solving processes in a variety of contexts, whether curricular or social. When engaging in inquiry, children are constantly in the process of "figuring out" or "making sense of things." The process of student learning, more so than the teacher's focus on 'covering curriculum' is paramount. Questions such as, "**How can we find that out?**" and "**What will happen if...?**" permeate inquiry-based classrooms.

By encouraging active learning and creating experiences for children that involve high cognitive demand, teachers enable students to deepen their understanding of the content in a manner appropriate to their needs and developmental stages. In October, teachers at JTS had the good fortune of being able to visit the Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study to see and experience firsthand the engaging academic environment this school provides all learners. While on their 2 day visit, JTS teaching staff witnessed ICS's mission in action, a mission that focuses on excellence in childhood education, teacher

education, and research in an intentionally diverse environment. At the Jackman ICS, it was very evident the importance that is placed on fostering a secure learning environment that inspires exploration, creativity, curiosity, and confidence to flourish. It was unmistakably clear that the school honours diversity and values a deeply interconnected community, in which all members feel known, respected, and supported as active participants.

Throughout their visit, the teachers at JTS gathered and discovered many insights, understandings as well as teaching and learning strategies. This visit helped the teachers to further enrich environmental inquiry at Johnny Therriault School and better understand the pedagogical foundation and research based practices in order to "go deeper" with putting inquiry-based learning into practice into the classrooms.

Further exciting learning and research also came out of this visit. Through the evolution of this partnership with I.C.S., Johnny Therriault has now also partnered with The Robertson Program for Inquiry-based Teaching in Math and Science (University of Toronto).

Team members from The Robertson Program for Inquiry-based Teaching in Math and Science (University of Toronto) visited Aroland First Nation School on November 16th and 17th to further their understanding of how students learn math in SK to Grade 3.

The Robertson Program team is working to improve student learning in the areas of geometry, measurement and spatial reasoning. Zack Hawes, Zach Pedersen, Jisoo Seo and Larisa Lam spent time with each student in SK - Grade 3 playing math games that draw on spatial language, visual-spatial geometry, 2D mental rotation, and symbolic numerical comparison. The team was invited to Aroland First Nation as part of its ongoing partnership. The collaboration focuses on recognizing, honouring, and drawing on Indigenous knowledges to expand the teaching and learning math.

Teachers are very excited about this newly developed partnership with The Robertson Program for Inquiry-based Teaching in Math and Science (University of Toronto). Next year, teachers will be involved in several Professional Development sessions with researchers and will be provided with learning opportunities to explore mathematical ideas with their students in tandem with developing computational skills and conceptual understanding.

Inquiry empowers students to make sense of the world in which they live. It is a way of honouring students' thinking and questions, building on their cultural knowledge and interests, and developing their identities as doers of mathematics. Exciting times await the students and teachers at JTS.

Community Environmental Planning Conference

Four Rivers hosted a Community Environmental Planning Conference in Thunder Bay on October 20-23, 2015. The Conference was a great success, with over 100 people attending the 4-day event! The focus was on Environmental Assessments (EAs), talking about what EAs are and how they work. The goal was to get community conversations on EAs started both at home and throughout the Matawa region.

Community-lead discussions were held on the environment, natural laws, and communications, including several interactive videos, presentations and hands-on activities. Information was also presented on the Enhanced EA concept being proposed through the Regional Framework discussions. Even the lunch hour was packed with information, with a presentation on climate change and carbon credit trading in Ontario, and a networking lunch that connected community members with government and industry EA staff.

Community input from the event is being compiled into a report that will be available to all Matawa communities to continue the EA conversation. Thank you to everyone who attended and shared your knowledge, your participation made this Conference a great success!



WHAT is an EA?

An Environmental Assessment (EA) is a process to study and predict the environmental impacts of a proposed project before the project begins, with the goal of reducing the negative impacts of a project.

Want to know more?
Contact Kim at Four Rivers!
kjorgenson@matawa.on.ca
(807) 346-6516



Welcoming Remarks from Marten Falls First Nation Chief Bruce Acheepineskum



Daniel Magiskan and Robinson Meshake of Aroland First Nation

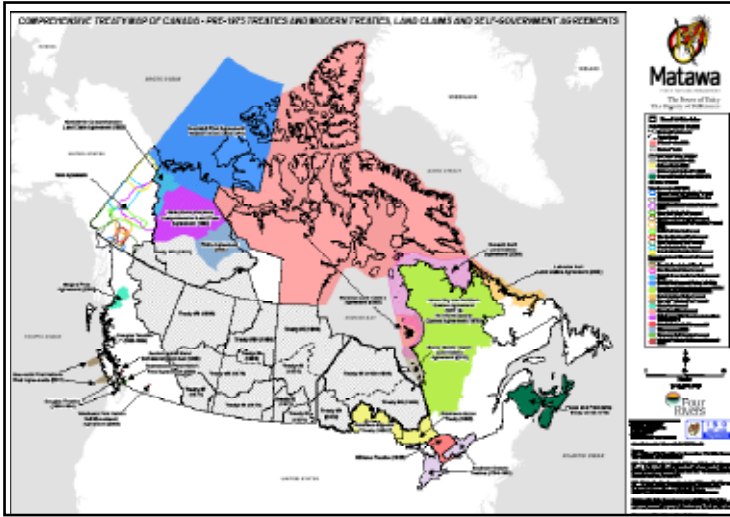


Waylon Atlookan of Eabametoong First Nation, sharing information on his community's communications approach



Community values, hopes and fears for development in the region

Four Rivers Treaty Map Published in 2016 Mapping Calendar



Congratulations to Jennifer Duncan of Four Rivers, one of 12 finalists in a Canada-wide ESRI Map Calendar Contest! Her winning map, titled “Comprehensive Treaty Map of Canada,” will be featured in next year’s ESRI calendar for the month of May. Showing all currently existing treaty boundaries within Canada, the map is an excellent visual reference which Jennifer plans to turn into an interactive story map. This will be a teaching resource for learning about First Nations treaties across Canada, and will be available to the public. Digitizing the treaty outlines took nearly two weeks, and the resulting comprehensive map is a unique depiction of Canada’s relationship with First Nations. Jennifer is currently in the Mapping & Geomatics branch of Four Rivers and designs and produces hundreds of maps per year for Matawa communities. Copies of the calendar will be sent to communities in the New Year. Well done Jen!



Beginning in October 2015, Matawa Learning Centre and Right to Play have initiated an exciting partnership, bringing the Promoting Life Skills in Aboriginal Youth (PLAY) Program directly to the youth in the Centre. Right to Play is an international organization focused on the empowerment and development of youth through play-based learning around the world. The PLAY program works in partnership with 85 First Nations, Metis, and Inuit communities and urban Aboriginal organizations across Canada to assist local youth workers to design and deliver weekly sport and play-based programs that encourage physical activity, tackle issues relevant to Aboriginal youth-including health, education, employment and healthy relationships-and promote their development into leaders. At Matawa Learning Centre, the program will focus on the development of healthy relationships and increased healthy behaviours through consistent delivery of in-school, after school, and weekend programming.

Partnering with Right to Play also offers exciting opportunities for growth, development, and networking. Twice in a program year, Right To Play brings Community Mentors from across the country together to learn and share best practices from their programs. Two youth from each community also get the opportunity each spring to participate in the annual Youth Symposium, which brings youth from across programs together for a week of leadership development and connection making. To add to the excitement, partner communities also have the opportunity to apply for complimentary programming such as Sport for Development clinics, which integrate professional athletes and clinicians into school and community settings to (re)inspire youth, coaches, and community to make sport a part of their daily lives.

Matawa Post Secondary Graduates 2014 -2015



Arsenault, Travis - Computer Programmer
Barbeau, Brook - Interior Decorating
Bedwash, Kirsten - Baking & Pastry
Bouchard, Karen - College Access
Echum, Miranda - Aboriginal Canadian Relations
Fisher, Hannah - Political Science BA Degree
Fisher, Natasha - Music Production
Gaudette, Caitlynn - Concurrent Disorders
Heidrick, Kurtis - Welding Techniques Program
Iserhoff, Lucille - Native Specialization Social Work
Jacob, Angela - Honours BA of Education Degree
Jacob, Shannon - Concepts of Wellness in First Nations' Communities
LaBelle, Mandy - Early Childhood Education
Lane, Mathew - Business Administration Degree
Legarde-Echum, Samantha - College Access
Levesque, Carl - Welding Techniques Program
MacGuigan, Tecumseh - Journalism
Magiskan, Jill-Marie - Social Service Worker
Medeiros, Jasmin - Practical Nursing
Moonias, Beverly - General Arts & Science
Moonias, Clyde - Native Access
Moonias, Coleen - Business Diploma
Nabigon-Guerin, Marcella - Masters of Social Work Degree
Nabigon, Sampson - International Business
O'Nabigon, Anisa - Native Access
Proulx, Cindy - Principal of First Nation Schools
Ritch, Eric - Electrical Engineering Technology
Sagutch, Keirsten - Aboriginal Community Advocacy
Shebagabow, Mandy - Early Childhood Education
Shewaybick, Elaina - Police Foundations
Shewaybick, Laura - First Nations Leadership, Director of Education for First Nations
Suganaqueb, Matilda - General Arts & Science
Sutherland, Theresa - Office Administration
Taylor, Geraldine - Native Child & Family Worker
Taylor, Jessie - Early Childhood Education
Wabasse, Kerina - Business Fundamentals
Wabasse, Glen - Business Fundamentals
Warner, Jessica - Developmental Service Worker
Wemigwans, Allan - Pre-Firefighter Education Program
Wesley, Harold - Transitions
Wesley, Natasha - Pre-Science Technology
White, Brent Sebastian - Police Foundations

Johnny Therriault School Partner with OISE University of Toronto and Featured in Newsletter

The Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study is a Laboratory School of the University of Toronto's Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE). Part of their role is to be a resource to teachers in the area of environmental enquiry. In October, they published this article (below) on their unique work with Aroland First Nation's Johnny Therriault School (JTS) in their monthly newsletter. Congratulations to staff and students of JTS for making this project an on-going success!

Aroland First Nation Johnny Therriault School



In September, a small team from Natural Curiosity and the Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study Laboratory School accepted a second invitation from the Johnny Therriault School to visit their community 14 hours north of Toronto in the Aroland First Nation. Our team was privileged to join with local teachers in knowledge building and professional development, and also experienced the school's second annual Fall Harvest Festival featuring fish smoking, cleaning duck, skinning beaver, birch bark crafts, bannock making, and a talk by an expert trapper.



Two weeks ago, the Johnny Therriault teachers visited the Jackman ICS Lab School. They toured the school, observed inquiry lessons and participated in a professional knowledge building circle with the JICS staff. The teachers also visited Fraser Mustard Early Learning Academy and The Grove Community School to observe inquiry in action.

One of the partner teachers from Johnny Therriault, Marlo Sobush, is collecting stories of her teaching journey to share in our second edition of Natural Curiosity.

Natural Curiosity extends a special thank you to the teachers and community members of the Aroland First Nation and look forward to a continued partnership and our next visit.



Making The Shift
A Journey Through Inquiry-based Environmental Education

www.naturalcuriosity.ca



Save the Date!

MATAWA 2016 EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Oshki Maajjikewinan—New Beginnings

Workshops will include:

Early Learning, Native Language, Numeracy, Special Education, Reporting, Operations and Maintenance, Administrative Support, and more!

March 10 — 11

**Valhalla Inn
Thunder Bay**

For more information or to register online, go to:
education.matawa.on.ca

Matawa First Nations Management Quality Management System & ISO 9001:2008

One of Matawa's top priorities is to ensure that we provide our First Nation communities with the best service possible. Matawa's Quality Management System is a great framework for employees to follow to ensure that we are meeting the needs and wants of our community members

As of November 2015, Matawa has been re-certified with the ISO 9001:2008 Registration for another 3 years! Over the next few years, Matawa must transition to the new ISO 9001:2015 Standard. Our goal is to get this done before the next Surveillance Audit in November 2016.

As part of Quality Assurance, Matawa must receive feedback from interested parties and use that information to improve the services that we provide. This feedback can be in the form of a survey, focus group, meeting, interview or simple conversation.

Matawa welcomes any comments and constructive criticisms that you may have. All feedback will be examined and used to strengthen the programs and be services that Matawa currently provides. We look forward to hearing what you have to say!

For more information, please contact:

Shelly Boudreau
Quality Assurance Coordinator
(807) 346-6502
sboudreau@matawa.on.ca



Matawa and Bowmanville Rotary Club Bursary

The community of Bowmanville is located in Southern Ontario about 75 kms east of Toronto. Bowmanville Rotary Club contributes financial assistance for bursaries to assist Matawa First Nations students to follow their educational dreams and goals.

Through the partnership with Matawa Education department in 2008 and on-going support of this bursary program, the Bowmanville Rotary Club is encouraging Matawa First Nations students to strive for academic excellence while promoting literacy, leadership, initiative, perseverance, and community involvement.



2015 Recipients

Matawa Education and Bowmanville Rotary Club Bursary

ELEMENTARY CATEGORIES (KINDERGARTEN - GRADE 8)

The class will create, write and illustrate a legend or story collaboratively, in the form of a book demonstrating commitment to positive community values and/or activities.

2015 Recipients



Senior Kindergarten - Johnny Therriault
Memorial School

Teacher: Tamara Vernier
Aroland First Nation
"Seven Grandfathers" story



Runner-Up

Grade 4- Simon Jacob Memorial
Education Centre

Teacher: Josh Hansen
Webequie First Nation
"Bulina the Bully" story

HONOURABLE MENTIONS OF OTHER ENTRIES:

- Mr. River's Grades 3 & 4 class, Long Lake #58 First Nation
- Miss Siru's Grades 1 & 2 class, Aroland First Nation
- Miss Marlo's Grades 3 & 4 class, Aroland First Nation
- Mr. VanAlstine's Senior Kindergarten class, Eabametoong First Nation
- Miss Sarah's Grade 2 class, Webequie First Nation
- Miss Alex's Grade 3 class, Webequie First Nation

GRADES 5-8

INDIVIDUAL PRIZES: 1ST, 2ND & 3RD

Students will write a 300 word recount or essay, based on community lore, legend, stories, accomplishments or activities, that reflect positive community values, relationships and/or pride.

2015 Recipients



FIRST PRIZE:

Dustin Gilbeau

Aroland First Nation

Grade 8, Johnny Therriault Memorial School

Teacher: Natasha Davey



SECOND PRIZE:

Luke LaBelle

Long Lake #58 First Nation

Grade 7, Mizigi Wazisin Elementary School

Teacher: Heather Scott



THIRD PRIZE:

Sydney Nate

Aroland First Nation

Grade 8, Johnny Therriault Memorial School

Teacher: Natasha Davey

HONOURABLE MENTIONS FROM OTHER APPLICANTS:

Damien Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation ~ Starleigh Waswa, Eabametoong First Nation
Monica Slipperjack, Eabametoong First Nation ~ Jolinda Slipperjack, Eabametoong First Nation
Malachi Mamakwa, Eabametoong First Nation ~ Caiden Gagnon, Aroland First Nation
Vincent Gagnon, Aroland First Nation ~ Dawson Gilbeau, Aroland First Nation
Christian Megan, Aroland First Nation ~ Karissa Atlookan, Aroland First Nation
Sheridan Gagnon, Aroland First Nation ~ Tyrell Gagnon, Aroland First Nation
Nicholas Megan, Aroland First Nation ~ Marcus Turtle, Aroland First Nation
Isaiah Atlookan, Aroland First Nation ~ Brayden Megan, Aroland First Nation
Miranda Gagnon, Aroland First Nation ~ Langdon Atlookan, Aroland First Nation
Jewel Megan, Aroland First Nation ~ Colby Gagnon, Aroland First Nation
Russell Jr Ossibens, Long Lake #58 First Nation ~ Joshua Bananish, Long Lake #58 First Nation
Precious Abraham, Long Lake #58 First Nation ~ Seth Finlayson, Long Lake #58 First Nation
Raven Legarde, Long Lake #58 First Nation ~ Daylon Patabon, Long Lake #58 First Nation
Reed Finlayson, Long Lake #58 First Nation ~ Madi Towegishig, Long Lake #58 First Nation
Kelsey Messon, Long Lake #58 First Nation

SECONDARY CATEGORIES (GRADES 9 - 12)

YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD \$500

Applicants who demonstrate outstanding community leadership and/or involvement in volunteer work are eligible. Secondary students, who have worked to make a difference in the lives of others, should apply. Leadership may be demonstrated within community organizations and at school in such areas as mentorship, volunteering, youth government, and environmental stewardship.

2015 Recipient



Linden Waboose
Eabametoong First Nation
Grade 12, Sir Winston Churchill
Collegiate and Vocational Institute
Principal: David Isherwood

PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT \$500

Applicants who demonstrate excellence or achievement in academics, athletics, the arts, community service, or other areas, through hard work and perseverance are eligible. Striving to do one's best and achieve personal goals demonstrates determination and commitment, especially when faced with adversity.

2015 Recipient



Summer Wabasse
Webequie First Nation
Grade 11, St. Ignatius High School
Principal: Barry Quarrell

MATAWA LEARNING CENTRE AWARD \$500

Students at the Matawa Learning Centre who demonstrate hard work and perseverance through leadership or achievement in academics, athletics, work, cultural activities, or lifestyle choices are eligible.

2015 Recipients



Dannis Wabasse-Sprenkle
Nibinamik First Nation
Grade 12
Principal: Brad Battiston

HONOURABLE MENTIONS FROM OTHER APPLICANTS:

Hannah Doxtator-Wynn, Eabametoong First Nation
Sullivan Shawinimash, Eabametoong First Nation

POST-SECONDARY BURSARIES

Two \$1,000 Bursaries (One College and One University)

Applicants at the post-secondary level may apply for this bursary on a yearly basis. Students who demonstrate determination, commitment and achievement in their chosen career path are encouraged to apply.

COLLEGE



Elaina Shewaybick
Webequie First Nation
Police Foundations
Confederation College, ON

UNIVERSITY



Lucille Atlookan
Eabametoong First Nation
Native Access Program
Lakehead University, ON

Continuing Post-Secondary
Education Bursary
(amount of the award will fluctuate
with each year based on the bursary
return)

Applicants at the post-secondary
level may apply for the continuing
education bursary on a yearly basis.
Students must have successfully
completed their year of studies with a
minimum GPA of 3.0.



Autumn Barbeau
Long Lake #58 First Nation
Bachelor of Nursing
University College of the North, MB

HONOURABLE MENTIONS FROM OTHER APPLICANTS:

Anisa O'Nabigon, Long Lake #58 First Nation ~ Audrea Oskineegish, Nibinamik First Nation
Brent Sebastian White, Aroland First Nation ~ Victoria Oshag, Eabametoong First Nation
Danielle Yellowhead, Eabametoong First Nation ~ Ardelle Sagutcheway, Eabametoong First Nation
Emmitt Mequanawap, Eabametoong First Nation ~ Ashley Nate, Eabametoong First Nation
Julianne Mequanawap, Eabametoong First Nation ~ Matilda Suganaqueb Webequie First Nation
Glen Wabasse, Webequie First Nation

TRAINING, APPRENTICESHIP AND TRAINING BURSARIES

\$1,000 Bursary

The goal of this bursary is to assist and support Matawa First Nation students in achieving their personal employment, training and educational aspirations. Applicants who demonstrate determination, commitment and achievement in their chosen career path are encouraged to apply.

ADULT EDUCATION



John Gagnon
Aroland First Nation
Aboriginal Skills Advancement
Program (ASAP), ON



Jessie Krieger
Long Lake #58 First Nation
Aboriginal Skills Advancement
Program (ASAP), ON

HONOURABLE MENTIONS FROM OTHER APPLICANTS:

Emylee Missewace, Eabametoong First Nation
Terri-Lyn Towegishig, Long Lake #58 First Nation
Alden Clyde Beaver, Nibinamik First Nation
Ivan Wabasse, Nibinamik First Nation



Eligible Matawa members are encouraged to apply for the 2016 Bursaries!

More information at: www.education.matawa.on.ca

Matawa First Nations Management Welcomes New Staff

Regional Framework

Reintroduction, Administrative Assistant, Rosanna Peever



Hello everyone, my name is Rosanna Peever and I am a Ginoogaming First Nation band member. In late August, I joined the Regional Framework department and was hired as the Regional Framework Administrative Assistant. I have been with Matawa First Nations since the spring of 2014 working in the Economic Development Department as an Intern. My educational background includes a diploma from Confederation College in Aboriginal Community Advocacy and a certificate in Aboriginal-Canadian Relations. I look forward to assisting and supporting everyone involved in the Regional Framework process. Meegwetch.

Matawa Learning Centre

Teacher, Nick Shaver



Boozhoo. My name is Nick Shaver and I was hired as a teacher with the Matawa Learning Centre near the end of August. I was born and raised in Thunder Bay. At Lakehead University I graduated with a B.Ed./B.Sc. Physics. I also earned a civil engineering technologist diploma prior to making the switch into education. I am in my 10th year of teaching full time. The previous 9 years were spent as an educator in Eabametoong First Nation at the John C. Yesno Education Centre. I was initially hired as a computer teacher, but over the years I have held the positions of high school teacher, Special Education Teacher, Vice Principal, and Principal. I love learning and teaching and feel that learning never stops. I strongly believe that education is critical to improving choices and opportunities in today's society. I look forward to continuing to serve the Matawa communities and helping the youth on their educational journey. On a parting note, I have been a diehard Edmonton Oilers fan for the past 27 or so years.

Matawa First Nations Management

Casual Receptionist, Sterling Finlayson



Hi everyone, my name is Sterling Finlayson. I would like to happily announce (with a big smile on my face), that I am a brand new employee for Matawa First Nations. I am from "Longlake" Reserve #58 First Nation and I was hired as a casual receptionist on November 2nd, 2015 at 10:31 am, eastern standard time. I am very excited to become part of the Matawa team and look forward to helping the organization succeed in any way possible. If I can be of service, please don't hesitate to ask. I hope you have a great day.

Matawa First Nations Management

Communications Officer, Carol Audet



Wahcheeyeah, I am a member of Constance Lake First Nation. I was raised both on and off-reserve and lived in the tiny hamlet of Caramat for a time. I started at Matawa in late October in the Communications Department. I have worked in First Nation politics for the past 15 years, spending 12 years at Nishnawbe Aski Nation and recently, 3 years at the Chiefs of Ontario. I worked in various positions including Policy Analyst, Director of Lands & Resources, and Political Advisor. I look forward to assisting Matawa First Nations in their communications needs, to showcasing the programs and services of Matawa and to providing opportunities for our leadership to relay their positions to the public. Meegwetch.

Matawa Education Department

Reintroduction, Distance Learning Coordinator, Jackie Corbett



Jackie Corbett, a member of Marten Falls First Nation, is the Distance Learning Coordinator with the Matawa Education Department. She has been in this new position since November 2015. Previously, Jackie has worked with the Education Department as School Improvement Specialist and GED Instructor, and has experience as a teacher in Matawa First Nation schools. We are pleased to welcome her as part of the PASS (Pathways to Achieve Student Success) team!

Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewin Employment and Training Services

Intake and Referral Officer, Jolene Neshinapaise



Booshoo & hello everyone, my name is Jolene Neshinapaise and I am a member of Nibinamik First Nation, one of nine communities that Matawa First Nations services. In the early month of July 2015 is when I first became a team member to the KKETS Department. I now work as one of the two Intake & Referral Officers. Since I started work here I have met numerous people from various communities of Matawa First Nations. I continue to look forward to assisting and supporting everyone that applies at KKETS as they pursue their Education, Training or Career Work in the coming year! Meeway & Miigwetch!

Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewin Employment and Training Services

ASAP Program, File/Administrative Clerk, Mellissa Gagnon



My name is Mellissa Gagnon and I am a member of the Long Lake #58 First Nation. In late October, I was recently hired as the File/Administrative Clerk for the ASAP program here at Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewin Employment & Training Services. I am excited to be working with the ASAP team and eager to learn all that I can. Miigwetch for the opportunity and all the best in the New Year!

Four Rivers

Environment Officer Intern, Alanna Wade



Alanna Wade was hired as an Environment Officer Intern for the Four Rivers Environment Services Group in May 2015. She is a graduate of the University of Waterloo from the Honors Science program, which consisted of chemistry, biochemistry, and biology. Alanna is a member of Long Lake 58 First Nation, but grew up in Thunder Bay, ON her whole life. Some of her hobbies include reading, playing the flute, and collecting coins.

Matawa Health Department

Health Technical Assistant, Jason Smallboy



Hello my name is Jason Smallboy and I am from Moose Cree First Nation. I started at Matawa on November 9th as the health technical assistant. I am looking forward to working with the Matawa team and the member First Nations. I have been working for people for a long time and to be given an opportunity like this is going to be a great experience. I look forward to working with our people and visiting the Matawa communities.

Regional Framework

Confederation College Student Placement, Emma Neshinapaise



Pooshoo, Emma Neshinapaise nintishinihkaas, I am from Nibinamik. I am enrolled in the Personal Career Development program at Confederation College, and did my 2 week student placement at Matawa in November. I have my B.A. in Indigenous Studies, and Diploma in Native Languages from Lakehead University (LU). I have been teaching the language at LU, Confederation College and Oshki – Pimachi – O – Win Education Institute. In my spare time, I do tutoring by phone to the students from Wisconsin University in U.S and I translate pamphlets for services that need translations. I have a great passion in keeping the Native Language alive, I am always readily available to help with the Native Language wherever it is needed. Miiwe miigwetch.



Matawa Learning Centre

Right to Play Youth Activity Coordinator, Paula Gilverson



Paula Gilverson joined us this October as the new Right To Play Youth Activity Coordinator. She began working in the Northern communities in 2007 with the Frontier College Summer Aboriginal Literacy Camp Program. In 2010, she obtained a Bachelor of Education and began working for Right To Play as a Program Officer. Throughout her University, she would split her summers, tree-planting and then heading up north to work in the communities in the summer. She supervised a tree-plant near Longlac Ontario with the Haveman Brothers in partnership with the First Nations Forestry company, Nedakiminaan. Fast forward to 2015, she currently creates earrings and different creations that she sells at different craft markets. She also is very keen about gardening and growing food and spent the past fall working at two local farms in Thunder Bay.

Kiikenmoga Kikenjigewen Employment and Training Services

Intake and Referral Officer, Glen Wabasse



Hello, my name is Glen Wabasse and my home community is Webequie. I relocated to Thunder Bay few years ago to further my education, and I have been in school for the last three years. In June 2015, I was hired as an Intake and Referral Officer and basically, I am the first point of contact to all KKETS programs (ASAP, RoFATA, ASETS). I enjoy what I do here at KKETS connecting employment, and training opportunities to the Matawa members. Miigwetch.

Kiikenmoga Kikenjigewen Employment and Training Services Aboriginal Skills Advancement Program (ASAP)

Administrative Clerk, Flora Moonias (Meeseetawageesic)



Hi, My name is Flora Moonias (Meeseetawageesic) and I am from Neskantaga First Nation. I was originally from Eabametoong First Nation. I recently received my OSSD and graduated from ASAP in March 2015. During the summer of 2015 I took training for 16 weeks Remote Camp Cook and received certificate from the Confederation College through the RoFATA program. I was hired on August 24, 2015 as File/Administrative Clerk for ASAP (KKETS) office. I enjoy working here and be part of the team. I am grateful to join the staff at Matawa at KKETS/ ASAP.

Aroland First Nation Hosts Matawa's 27th Annual General Meeting

This year, Matawa's Annual General Meeting (AGM) took place from July 28 - 30th. Delegates from all 9 communities, as well as the Matawa Chiefs and staff attended.

The election of the 2015 - 2016 Matawa First Nations Management Board of Directors took place as follows, they will be responsible for the corporate side of Matawa.

Darius Ferris - President
CONSTANCE LAKE FIRST NATION

Frank Onabigon - Vice President
LONG LAKE #58 FIRST NATION

Maurice Waboose - Secretary/Treasurer
GINOOGAMING FIRST NATION

Robinson Meshake
AROLAND FIRST NATION

Charlie Okeese
EABAMETOONG FIRST NATION

Sharon Sakanee
NESKANTAGA FIRST NATION

Roy Spence
WEBEQUIE FIRST NATION

Betty Ann Achneepineskum
MARTEN FALLS FIRST NATION
(resigned in August, position currently vacant)

Stanley Oskineegish
NIBINAMIK FIRST NATION

For further information on program reports provided at the AGM, check out the 2014 - 2015 Annual Report on our website under "Download Reports" or call Matawa Communications to request a hard copy.






Merry Christmas



From the Matawa Chiefs Council

LEFT TO RIGHT: Chief Wayne Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation; Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls First Nation; Chief Rick Allen, Constance Lake First Nation; Chief Allen Towegishig, Long Lake #58 First Nation; Chief Cornelius Wabasse, Webequie First Nation; Chief Johnny Yellowhead, Nibinamik First Nation; Chief Celia Echum, Ginoogaming First Nation; Chief Dorothy Towedo, Aroland First Nation; Chief Elizabeth Atlookan, Eabametoong First Nation



SAVE THE DATE

14th ANNUAL FIRST NATIONS NORTHERN HOUSING CONFERENCE

February 9-11, 2016 Valhalla Inn, Thunder Bay

OLD LESSONS - NEW STORIES

Living with Us... Osaawi Migizi (Golden Eagle)



Osaawi Migizi has golden-brown feathers that shimmer on the back of its head, neck and upper wings. This gleaming raptor's wingspan is an average of 2 meters! They like to nest in the large piles of sticks and twigs up in the tops of cliffs. Rabbits, foxes or other mammals roaming the open areas below will be snatched up by the eagle for dinner. These birds are facing a shortage of habitat and food sources because human development is increasingly occupying the land which they live.

Did You Know... the government has a process for looking at the impacts of large new developments on the land, water and animals before the project can start? This process is called an Environmental Assessment (EA). If the EA finds that the project could cause negative environmental effects, the government has the company adjust their project to reduce or eliminate those impacts. Are you looking for information on EAs happening in the homelands of the Matawa First Nations? Four Rivers can help! We have many resources that can assist you and your community in understanding the process.

For more information, please visit: www.fourriversmatawa.ca



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