

"Living With Us...Rusty Blackbird" page 12



### MATAWA MESSENGER

The Power of Unity, The Dignity of Difference L<sup>ທ</sup>-b L.J·ΔՐΔՈ·Δ° ΓΡՐ ԵርL<sup>α</sup><sup>b</sup> bʃV<b°ላታ<sup>α</sup><sup>b</sup>



#### **Constance Lake Strategic Planning**



On March 17, 2015, Constance Lake First Nation organized and hosted a Strategic Planning session in Hearst, Ontario with the theme of "Preparing our Journey".

This day was for review of CLFN's governance, history, and Ring of Fire activities to date. They also worked on work plans, and discussed future planning and goals for the community.



CONSTANCE LAKE FIRST NATION

For more information please contact:

Constance Lake First Nation P.O Box 4000, Constance Lake Ontario POL 1B0 1 (705) 463-4511 Chiefs Council Update
Ogoki Forest Agreement
Matawa Open House
AYRAY Awards
and more...



## **Chiefs Council Updates: Press Conference**



Matawa Chiefs gathered for a Press Conference on March 25, 2015 to discuss the opposition of Noront's recent purchases of Cliff's Assets and lack of engagement with the EA Process.

#### **Special Meeting on Education**



March 26 and 27, 2015, the Matawa Chiefs met for a Special Chiefs Meeting on Education. There were various presentations from the Matawa Education department on Stategic Planning, Funding, etc.

#### **Regional Framework Update**



The two signatory parties to the "Regional Framework Agreement" Matawa Member First Nations Chiefs and the Province of Ontario delegates held an engagement meeting to discuss the next steps of the Regional Framework Agreement. Both parties discussed the Regional Framework and shared their ideas in preparation for "Phase Two: The Negotiations". Those in attendance included the Matawa First Nations Chiefs, Community Representatives and Members, Community Advisors, Matawa Lead Negotiator Bob Rae, Ontario Lead Negotiator Mr. Frank Iacobucci and delegates as well as the "Matawa Secretariat" support staff. Negotiations are continuing.

## Marten Falls and Webequie First Nations Sign Agreement



Marten Falls First Nation and Webequie First Nation today entered into a "Negotiation Protocol Respecting Early Exploration in the Ring of Fire". The protocol strengthens the commitment of both First Nations to work together to advance their common interests in a coordinated manner while respecting their mutual and unique interests over their respective lands and approvals to use the lands.

The need for such a protocol is evidenced by over 100 mineral exploration companies that have staked claims and proposed other related developments in the Ring of Fire. Both Marten Falls and Webequie agreed that they had to be come together to set out their mutual expectations respecting early exploration activities in the Ring of Fire. "This will not only be good for us, but will also be good for the exploration companies to know the protocols for exploration on our mutual traditional lands", stated Chief Cornelius Wabasse of Webequie First Nation.

The Government of Ontario entered into a Memorandum of Cooperation with Webequie and a Memorandum of Understanding with Marten Falls related to mineral exploration and development activities. Both of these agreements are recognized in the Matawa Chiefs Framework agreement with Ontario as being a priority with Ontario. Interim Chief Bruce Achneepineskum of Marten Falls First Nation reiterated the importance of recognizing the Memoradum of Cooperation and Memorandum Of Understanding with Ontario. "Our traditional area is wholly within the Ring of Fire. We have a responsibility to the land and our Nation to ensure that all exploration activities that take place have our approval". Both Webequie and Marten Falls agree that the Protocol Agreement is a positive step forward to responsible development within their respective traditional areas.

#### **Matawa Open House**



On March 25th and 26th, Matawa First Nations Management (MFNM) held its annual Open House event! The Opening Ceremonies began with a Prayer led by Wanda Baxter, opening remarks by CEO David Paul Achneepineskum and drum group by Eagle Boy from Aroland First Nation. During the two days, over 350 guests toured the building and were treated to a craft fair provided by community members, traditional food, door prizes and a series of interactive exhibits showcasing the services provided by Matawa First Nations Management.



Information was available regarding the Matawa Regional Framework, mining, and the Ring of Fire Development. There were many materials available about the Community Driven Regional Strategy, as well as various maps and related materials.

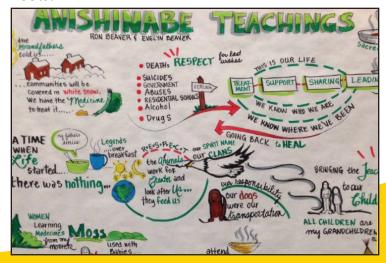
The Four Pillars: Environmental, Socio-Economic, Infrastructure, and Revenue Sharing were the focus of the information being displayed.

In addition to Matawa departments, displays were also provided by the Ministry of Northern Development & Mines, Ontario Geological Survey, Centre for Northern Forest Ecosystem Research, WSP Group, Lakehead University, Laurentian University, Eco Superior and ArrowMight Canada. Matawa is looking forward to seeing even more guests at next year's Open House!

## 5th Annual Prescription Drug Abuse/Misuse Gathering



Matawa First Nations Management 5th Annual Prescription Drug Abuse/Misuse Gathering was hosted by Webequie First Nation on February 10-12, 2015. Voices of Our Families - NanDoTaWiiShiiNam. 70 people were registered to attend from all of Matawa communities. Webeguie FN accommodated our people from several Matawa First Nation communities. It was a huge success! We heard personal stories from people whom once were addicted to prescription drugs and are now off them through help and determination for a better life. Each First Nation shared programs and services provided to their communities in regards to PDA/M. We held a legal panel which consisted of child welfare agencies, lawyer and police detectives to give information/awareness of the negative impacts that are caused by the actions of the addicted person; it not only affects the person but also affects the family and community. Presentations were also held by Tikinagan Child & Family Services, KKETS, SLFNHA, NAN LEGAL presented on Cyber-Bullying. Gifts were given to all presenters and speakers. This event is held annually and helps give awareness and tools to combat the prescription drug abuse epidemic throughout the matawa communities. Back to Our Roots!



## Matawa Chiefs Sign Agreement for Ogoki Forest

On March 25, 2015, Chief Sony Gagnon, Chief Elizabeth Atlookan and Chief Bruce Achneepineskum signed the Ogoki Forest Cooperation Agreement between Aroland, Eabametoong, and Marten Falls First Nations.

The agreement describes how the communities will work together in a cooperative process based on First Nations principles to secure a long-term forest license and wood supply for the Ogoki Forest. The ultimate goal is for these First Nations to lead the sustainable forest management for this forest and to establish forestry businesses that incorporate traditional and ecological values to produce both timber and non-timber forest products. In this way the communities will be able to obtain benefits from the Ogoki Forest while supporting the regional economy.



The Cooperation Agreement was developed by the Ogoki Forest Working Group:

**Aroland First Nation:** Ernie Gagnon (Community Forestry Rep), Mark Bell & Willie Magiskan

**Eabametoong First Nation:** Andy Yesno (Community Forestry Rep) & Lewis Nate

Marten Falls First Nation: Lawrence Baxter (Community Forestry Rep), Delia Okeese & Robin Ranger



The 3 Matawa Chiefs Signing of the Agreement:

Aroland First Nation: Chiefs Sonny Gagnon
Eabametoong First Nation: Chief Elizabeth Atlookan
Marten Falls First Nation: Interim Chief Bruce
Achneepinsekum

### visit matawa.on.ca to see full media release

## **Community Meetings in Aroland, Eabemtoong and Marten Falls**

The Community Forestry Reps are organizing community meetings to share information about the Cooperation Agreement. Most importantly, we want to hear what community members think about the forestry opportunities the Chiefs are working to secure. We look forward to answering any questions you may have. The advice and concerns that you share at the meetings will help to set the direction for the future management of the forest, protection of values and development of forestry business opportunities. We encourage you to attend your community's meeting to share your ideas that will drive the direction of the Ogoki Forest!

# FOR MORE INFORMATION contact your Community Forestry Rep or support staff at Matawa First Nations Management: Niels Carl, Lynn Palmer & Jason Rasevych.







#### **GIS and GPS Training**



During the winter season of 2015, Four Rivers Geomatics staff completed training for GIS and GPS in several of the Matawa First Nations Communities. Training material varied by community, but was tailored to the individual needs of those partaking in training. The picture below shows Geomatics Technician Charlene Wagenaar and Neskantaga First Nation member Edward Moonias out on the winter road learning how to use handheld GPS units. This training course in particular was held over a 2 day period in the community and included 5 participants. Components of the course included some time spent in the classroom learning about theory and how to use the data once it has been collected and applying it with practical hands on activities in the community, including out on the winter road. Four Rivers geomatics staff will be preparing some new material for training in the upcoming 2015-2016 fiscal year, including a comprehensive manual for Geomatics and values collection.

If interested in training, please contact Jennifer Duncan (807-344-4575 ext 2037 or jduncan@matawa. on.ca) or Charlene Wagenaar (807-346-6514 or cwagenaar@matawa.on.ca) for more information. The Geomatics Team will begin holding courses for the upcoming year starting in July 2015. Also, stay tuned for a webinar series on Geomatics theories and applications.

For more information please contact: Four Rivers Environmental Services Group

or visit

www.fourriversmatawa.ca



## **Species At Risk Bird Monitoring Project**



The Four Rivers' team is pleased to announce the start of a research project on bird species at risk in Ontario. "Species at Risk" is a term used to describe a declining population of a specific animal or plant in its native habitat.

There have been reported sightings and sounds of some birds which are listed as a Species at Risk in several of the Matawa First Nations communities, including the Eastern Whip-poor-will and Common Nighthawk. In response, staff from the Four Rivers' office will be travelling this spring to some communities to investigate and work towards confirming the presence of these birds.

Four Rivers plans on using recording devices (called song meters) to determine what birds are in an area. A song meter is a square box with two microphones that records the sounds of the surrounding environment. Each song meter is tied to a tree and left in the forest to collect recordings for a period of time. If you see one of these units around your community, you now know why it's there!



Listen at www.wawataynews.ca/radio 89.9 FM in Sioux Lookout 106.7 FM in Timmins BellTV Channel 962

Listen to our radio broadcast!

UPCOMING SHOWS: May 26 @ 2:30pm June 9 @ 2:30pm June 23 @ 2:30pm

For more information on our broadcasts or if you are interested in sharing community news, please contact our Communications department at 807.346.6505

## 13th Annual First Nations Northern Housing Conference



Bertha Sutherland and Arnold Sutherland of Constance Lake – left, take part in the Builders Challenge

The 13th Annual First Nations Northern Housing Conference (FNNHC) has completed another installment in its ongoing effort to bring knowledge and networking opportunities to delegates involved in Northern First Nations Housing. The conference was held February 10-12, 2015 in Thunder Bay at the Valhalla Inn. There were close to 200 delegates from over 80 Northern First Nations communities that attended the popular event which included a Trade show, Awards program and the 7th Annual Builders

Challenge. With the theme "Building Skills, Building Futures", some of the workshops for this year's event were; Wood Burning Appliances Code Compliance, Fire Prevention & Safety in the home, Entrances & Decks, IAQ and Ventilation Working Details, True Cost of Housing, Wastewater and Public Health, Health & Safety in Ontario, and Managing Housing Tenures. Over 30 exhibitors also participated in a one day Tradeshow that featured housing suppliers and contractors from throughout Northern Ontario and Manitoba.



Marvin Wabasse and Dale Suganaqueb of Webequie –left and Bernard Gagnon of Aroland –right, take part in the Builders Challenge

13th ANNUAL FNNHC

During the tradeshow, the Builders Challenge took place. This year's Builders Challenge focused on Exterior Stairs. It involved demonstrations by our special guest Jon Eakes followed by challenges where delegates competed against each other and were judged on accuracy, speed, and quality. The challenge included; layout and installing the stringer, installing stringer treads and riser, installing the guard posts, installing the top rail and pickets.

Naicatchewenin First Nation was honoured at the awards banquet for their innovative housing program. This annual event was organized by representatives from 11 Tribal Council from Northern Ontario. The main focus of the conference is to address issues/ challenges in First Nation Housing. At the same time it is important for delegates to network with others and bring useful information back home to share. This year's conference is deemed a success and we are already looking forward to next year's conference!

## MFNM Quality Management System & ISO 9001:2008



Hello, my name is Shelly Boudreau and I recently started my new position here at Matawa as the Quality Assurance Coordinator. I am excited to start working with the Quality Assurance Representatives, Employees and Management to continue to incorporate Quality Assurance into our daily work routines.

I have worked in Matawa's Education Department since November 2013. While there, I was the Department's alternate QA Representative and completed training to become a qualified ISO 9001: Internal Auditor through SAI Global.

Matawa's Quality Assurance policy is a promise to provide the highest quality of services to our Matawa Communities and their Members and to continually find ways to improve. We can do this by:

- SAYING WHAT WE DO (in our policies, procedures and work instructions)
- DOING WHAT WE SAY (by following our policies, procedures and work instructions)
- PROVING IT (through the records we maintain
   documentation & checklists) AND
- IMPROVING IT (through Data Analysis, Performance Objectives and Survey Action Plans)

Matawa's Quality Management System can only be effective if it is treated seriously by all employees and is fully endorsed by Management. It is my job to ensure that all Matawa staff have the knowledge and tools to make our Quality Assurance Program a success.

I have spent the past few weeks getting myself familiar with Matawa's Quality Management System so that I can assist with any questions that you may have. Please feel free to contact me by telephone, email or visit my office at any time. I look forward to working with you all!

## **Aroland First Nation Funding Agreement Signing**



Chief Sonny Gagnon signed a Funding Agreement on Tuesday, April 28th on behalf of Aroland First Nation with the general Manager, Eric Lamontagne, of Trans-Canada Project General Partnership (TCPGP). This new Funding Agreement intends to move the proposed mining development forward with participation from Aroland First Nation in order to ensure that mutual benefits arise from the TCPGP Project. Both signatories met to sign and celebrate the funding with a well-attended community membership present. Both parties expressed enthusiasm with moving forward and working together.



## Health & Social Services Task Group Meet in Thunder Bay



Matawa Health & Social Services Task Group & LHINs during the MHSSTG meeting held at the Airlane Hotel & Conference Centre on April 30, 2015.

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# 2015 Aboriginal Youth Achievement & Recognition Awards (AYARA)



This list highlights the Matawa students who were recognized for their achievements:

#### Academic- Sponsored by Lakehead Public Schools Danice Cole Long Lake #58 First Nation Agnew H. Johnston School

Danice is a grade seven student at Agnew H. Johnston. Doing her best in school is important to her because she knows that she needs a good education to have a great job, a house and a family to feed someday. She was nominated by her math teacher who notes that she is always going above and beyond to learn and keep up with her school work and grades.

#### Advocacy & Activism- Sponsored by Thunder Bay Police Services Board Desiree Towedo Long Lake #58 First Nation Sir Winston Churchill CVI

Desiree is a grade 12 student who has a passion for helping others and making sure others' voices are heard in several of the projects she had participated in. This award is presented to an individual whose actions have helped further a cause or belief or enhanced the lives of others. Desiree is described by her teachers and peers as being a devoted and generous person.

Artistic- Sponsored by Matawa First Nations
Management
Regan Ferris
Constance Lake First Nation
Woodcrest Elementary School
Regan is a grade seven student who discovered

painting four years ago. Regan often creates paintings having a person in mind and once the painting is complete, she gives the painting to that person. Seeing the smile on the recipient's face makes her feel happy and encourages her to do more painting.

#### Athletic- Sponsored by Matawa First Nations Management (Cody) Nygel Baxter Eabametoong First Nation Sir Winston Churchill CVI

Nygel is a grade 12 student, who wears Jersey #57 for the Churchill Trojans' football team. Nygel's teammates are quick to tell you that he is a great player and his size and abilities on the field have been a huge help in many of the Trojans' wins this year. Nygel gets along with all his teammates and keeps a positive attitude when things aren't going as planned. He is always courteous to the other team when the game is over. Nygel's coach expressed that the combination of his skills, game and sportsmanship make him a huge asset to the Trojans.

# Peer Mentorship- Sponsored by Office of Aboriginal Initiatives (Lakehead University) Stone Yapput Aroland First Nation Hammarskjold High School

Stone is a grade 11 student. He has experienced many struggles as an aboriginal youth living in the city. He has overcome many significant challenges and suffering throughout his life including poverty, hunger and substance abuse. Throughout the past five years, Stone's attitude changed drastically and he has gone on to lead a clean and healthier lifestyle. He has embrace his vision and is now a mentor with the schools' Aboriginal Mentoring Program to help younger students.

## Linden Waboose Eabametoong First Nation Sir Winston Churchill CVI

Linden is a grade 12 student. He is described by his peers and teachers as an exceedingly encouraging individual who assists others with assignments and helps those that struggle in their studies. Linden often donates his time helping students during his spare period at school. He is an extremely giving person and a role model to other students.

#### Personal Achievement- Sponsored by Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board Jonias Finlayson Long Lake #58 First Nation Migizi Miigwanan Secondary School

Jonias is a grade 12 student at Long Lake #58's high school, Migizi Miigwanan Secondary. In grade nine, Jonias struggled with adapting to his new role as a high school student. With the encouragement of his teachers who saw within Jonias the potential for success and restored his hope, his attendance went from being one of the worst in grade nine to being one of the best in the grades to come. Those who have been fortunate enough to know Jonias describe him as a hard worker who completes every task laid before him with pride, humility and with a smile. He leads silently and by example.

## Steven Okeese Eabametoong First Nation Sir Winston Churchill CVI

Steven is a grade 12 student. He submitted an original writing piece to the James Bartleman Aboriginal Youth Creative Writing Award and was one of the six youth honoured with this prestigious award. His award-winning piece focused on same-sex relationships and family acceptance. Steven is a devoted and extremely generous student who helps others whenever the opportunity arises.

#### Sandra Kakeeway Cultural Award Rhiannon Magiskan Aroland First Nation Sir Winston Churchill CVI

Rhiannon is a grade 11 student who has been dancing since she was 5 years old. She started out as a jingle dancer and she switched to fancy shawl dancing at age 11. At age 15, she moved to traditional dancing which she continues to this day. She wears her Aroland First Nation Crown, where her father is originally from, when she dances. Rhiannon actively participates in Powwows and has shown a great dedication to the preservation and understanding of the Anishinabe Culture.

Youth with a First Nations, Metis, or Inuit ancestry and who are currently living in North-Western Ontario are eligible to be nominated for an AYARA award. For more information, visit www.ayara.ca.

#### **Matawa Education Conference**



The 2015 Matawa Education Conference, held March 10-12 at the Valhalla Inn in Thunder Bay, focused on Sharing Our Strengths. Diverse workshops were held, discussing the topics of effective literacy and numeracy from an Nishnawbe perspective, preparing early learning frameworks, utilizing strengths and interests of students, using technology to teach Objiwe and Oji-Cree, planning for school improvement, maintaining fire safety, and supporting students in post-secondary programs.



On Wednesday evening, Matawa's Got Talent was presented: a showcase of each school's talents and skills. The performances were fun and fantastic, providing many laughs for everyone.



Joseph Boyden was the conference's keynote speaker, reminding us of the importance of story telling. Through his stories and personal anecdotes, Joseph inspired everyone to persevere, support each other, and take action for issues that concern us.

For more pictures from the conference, visit our Matawa First Nations Facebook page or visit our website at education.matawa.on.ca

## Johnny Therriault School Valentine's Day



Valentine's Day took on a new meaning for students at Johnny Therriault School this year. With the help of staff, students, and community members, the Life Skills class was able to fundraise over \$700.00 for the Sick Kids Hospital in Toronto. In addition, they made beautiful Valentine's Day Cards and donated a basket full of toys and treats to the patients at Geraldton Hospital. Their original goal was to fundraise \$240.00 so they could become members of the Sick Kids Miracle Club for one year. However, they surpassed their goal and were able to make a generous donation to Sick Kids Hospital on top of their monthly \$20.00 membership fees.

Miss Shannon, Miss Nora and the students bounced around the idea of becoming Global Citizens and donating money abroad but after some discussion, felt more passionate about donating to Sick Kids Hospital. Sick Kids Hospital is close to the hearts of the students and staff at Johnny Therriault School because they have had a couple of students who have had to use their services in the past few years. One of their students was able to fight and beat cancer with the support of Sick Kids and for that, the school and community are forever grateful.



Both students had seen a commercial about becoming a Miracle Club Member at Sick Kids and advocated for their idea by saying they would read the information they received as donors and would work hard to fundraise for their cause. Miss Shannon and Miss Nora were so inspired by their excitement and signed up immediately. The students were told it was their 'Responsibility' to fundraise \$20.00 every month to pay the membership fees. Both students readily accepted the challenge!

Earlier in January, Miss Shannon told the students she was on the Valentine's Day Committee at the school and if they assisted her in fundraising, they would donate the funds to the Sick Kids Miracle Club Member fund. With the help of the staff at the school, various activities were organized such as a Cake Walk, Bake Sale, Candy Grams, Basket Raffle and Card Making Kits to fundraise for the cause. The Life Skills students were responsible for selling Candy Grams and Basket Raffle tickets during their recesses, delivering Candy Grams throughout the school, making Valentine's Day Cards for the patients at the Geraldton Hospital and baking four trays of treats for the Bake Sale. It took a lot of teamwork and perseverance, but they were successful at completing these tasks and even learned how to work with money! There was such surplus of donations for the Basket Raffle, the Life Skills students were able to donate one basket and some wonderful homemade Valentines Cards to the patients at the Geraldton Hospital.

Miss. Shannon and Miss. Nora agree that the best part about working together to fundraise for a cause has been to see both students gain confidence, advocate for themselves and realize their potential. These students are extremely fortunate to come from a small Northern community because the families, friends and staff at Johnny Therriault School in Aroland have embedded a strong sense of community in each of them. Both students have come a long way since September and Miss Shannon and Miss Nora can't wait to see what project will be next for them.



#### Water Ceremony for Johnny **Therriault School**



On Wednesday, March 4, 2015 the students and staff at Johnny Therriault school welcomed renowned Water Walker, Josephine Mandamin to the community to perform a sacred water ceremony. Miss Marlo's Grade 3 & 4 class had been focusing on water and its importance, during an inquiry unit. After having a wonderful teaching about the importance of water from the Native Language teacher, Miss Pauline, they all thought that it would only be fitting to invite an Anishnaabe woman into the community to help them understand their teachings even more.

Ms. Mandamin began the ceremony by calling forward two students, brother and sister, Langdon and Tenisha Atlookan to distribute water to all in attendance. Each person then made their offering of tobacco in order for her to place the ties into the fire as part of her prayer and offering. Ms. Mandamin explained the role which water plays for the Anishnaabe people and the importance of protecting and preserving it for years to come. She prayed for safety on the water and for good harvesting throughout the upcoming spring and summer seasons. After the sacred prayer, each person drank their water, which had been a part of the ceremony.

The afternoon then moved down to Wawang Lake where the students watched a demonstration of preparing the ice to net fish along with drilling holes for ice fishing. Although no fish were brought in, the fires were burning hot. Bannock and tea were made for everyone to enjoy. The beautiful day and wonderful ceremony will be something which we will all remember and treasure as we move into our new seasons.



#### **Webequie First Nation Student Recognized by DareArts**

Judith Beaver, a grade 9 student from Webequie First Nation, was an award recipient at the DareArts Annual Award Dinner in Toronto on April 16, 2015. As an honored recipient of this award she was recognized for her committed participation in the DareArts Leadership Workshop and demonstration of exceptional personal initiative and motivation in challenging her skills to take responsible action and make positive choices in her life. Judith's active participation in the week long community workshop involved various educational and social experiences in the arts including music, drama, literature, dance and visual arts. These activities empower students in building self-confidence, courage and leadership skills to unlock their potential and ignite change not only in their personal life journey but influence positive change within the community through creative voice, agency and collaborative action. In recognition of her achievement, Judith will receive a medal and \$500.00. Congratulations Judith in taking the Dare challenge: Discipline, Action, Responsibility, Excellence!





#### Matawa First Nations Management Welcomes New Staff

#### **Economic Development**

#### Project Coordinator, Jonathan Neegan



Wachya. Boozhoo. My name is Jonathan Neegan. I am a member of Constance Lake First Nation and I have been hired as the Project Coordinator for the Economic Development department here with Matawa First Nations. I am an industrially aware businessman with a seven year background in hydro

development and production with high-profile organizations. I also have years of experience in Aboriginal housing and counselling in the Greater Toronto Area. My passions are working with our Youth, enhancing the quality of life of our people and educating others through film production. I look forward to working with our Economic Development Officers to improve the self-sustainability of our communities. Milgwetch.





#### Living with Us...Rusty Blackbird (Oohsawii Chachakano)



The Rusty Blackbird's feathers change to a dull reddish-brown colour during the winter months. As adults, their eyes are noticeably yellow. These birds breed in wet forests, including muskeg, swamps, marshes and beaver ponds. The Rusty Blackbird prefers to eat seeds and insects on the ground, but will also wade into the water to catch insects before flying home to their nest in the trees.

**Did You Know...** The Rusty Blackbird is a bird of "Special Concern" under the Federal Species at Risk Act. This means that they may become threatened or endangered due to a number of human-caused impacts, such as the draining of wetlands for farming. Information, training and outreach on the environment is a part of all Four Rivers' programs. Recent bird outreach projects have included visiting community schools and distributing a Species at Risk Calendar. This spring, Four Rivers will be exploring how "song meters" (bird-sound recording devices) can help research and protect birds in the Matawa First Nations communities. If you'd like more information on how Four Rivers can assist your community with bird data collection and recording, please give us a call at 1-800-463-2249!

www.fourriversmatawa.ca

















