



CHAPLEAU CREE FIRST NATION NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER 2020 - PAYTAHITELIMEW

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chapleaucree.ca

Volume 14

Wachay, Fox Lake, Neyhweeneenowuk!

**WINTER
PIPON**



REPORTS WITHIN

- 2: Okimah
- 14: Band Administrator
- 18: Education
- 20: Membership
- 22: Economic Development
- 24: Water Treatment
- 26: Healthcare Coordinator
- 28: Culture & Family Well-Being
- 46: Life's Sacred Journey
- 48: Lands and Resources
- 52: Wahkohtowin

Okimah Report ▷PLb^a - Chief Keeter Corston

Wachay,

Almost three seasons have passed since our last newsletter. The world is a different place now. It has been very difficult as COVID-19 continues to invade us, making us change the way we live our daily lives.

It has attacked the very way we live, causing us to remain distant from each other, even though being close to family and the community are important to our culture.

Throughout the pandemic, Chief and Council have continued to have regular meetings. Safety guidelines were always followed, and because of this, the meetings were not open to Band Members. The focus of our meetings has been the safety of the community and the continued operation of essential services.

Many actions were taken to protect and support the community:

- We set up a roadblock and monitors from March to June
- We worked closely with the Health team to develop a pandemic plan
- Food hampers were delivered to Band Members at Fox Lake

We saw the community pull together through the help of volunteers for this effort. The community was tested by adversity and strengthened through care and responsibility to each other.

PDAC Convention

Before lockdown in March, I attended the Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) convention. Our presence there is important because it sends a message to everyone in the mining industry – prospectors, junior exploration firms and multi-national mining companies. The message is to uphold our Treaty rights on the land.

The convention also gives the opportunity for industry to build relationships with us if they intend to be on the land. I met with new and old proponents who have an interest in working on Chapleau Cree First Nation's traditional territory. We were able to finish a Memorandum of Understanding with Rockridge Resources after the convention.

Ongoing Business

During lockdown, except for modified Chief and Council meetings, there were no face-to-face meetings, assemblies, or gatherings. We were all learning to do things virtually and were challenged by the limits of technology.

Nevertheless, I was able to participate in regular teleconferences on COVID-19 health and safety, food security, and economic recovery with the Tribal Councils and the provincial and federal Governments. I had weekly or bi-weekly calls with Mushkegowuk Council, Nishnawbe Aski Nation, and the Chiefs of Ontario.

We also worked with Westaway Law Group on a legal challenge on Crown consultation and environmental assessment. More details on the judicial review are in the Lands and Resources report later in the newsletter.

We have had some changes on the Reserve. A local physician has closed their practice and Life's Sacred Journey will be sharing the space with Maamwesying in the building. Efforts are being made to hire a nurse practitioner to serve First Nations people and those self-identifying as such.

Our investment in the sawmill and cogen plant at Hornepayne is on an upturn. The venture is going considerably better than year ago as the price of lumber has tripled over the past six months. A new general manager has also been hired, and



improvements in operations are already being seen.

Lastly, after several years of work, we have succeeded in finalizing the Terms of Reference for Resource Revenue Sharing. The resulting benefits were shared with eligible Members in late summer.

Remembering Residential School Children

COVID-19 restrictions eased during the summer, and we held the Residential School Ceremony at the cemetery grounds in early September. Rain fell as we stood by the graves and remembered the terrible destruction caused by residential schools.

We honoured the school children and their families through the songs and prayers of the girls' drum group, the berry keepers, and the people attending. Residential school survivors were among those gathered. Elders spoke about the urgency of keeping the Cree language alive.

Cultural Harvest

In October, we celebrated Cultural Harvest at Grassy Lake.



The event was celebrated differently this year because of the pandemic. Although many new restrictions had to be followed, we felt it was important to have the gathering, especially during this time of hardship and isolation. We were thankful for the gifts harvested from the land and the wisdom of our cultural teachings; for our health, and for each other.

Guardian Program

Wahkohtowin's Guardian Program connects our Youth to land, culture, and



language. Over the past months, the Guardians, under the teachings of canoe builder Chuck Commanda, were involved in building a birch bark canoe.

The canoe was built in seven days. However, many months of planning and work went into the project. Over the spring and summer, the Guardians harvested birch bark, cedar, spruce gum, and other materials from the forest. They learned the seasons for harvesting, how to harvest sustainably, and how to use the materials.

The boreal forest is not a limitless source of

things to bring forward in the new generation.

The canoe was launched on the Chapleau River on November 11, 2020. A ceremony was held and the Chiefs of three First Nations – Chapleau Cree, Missanabie Cree and Brunswick House – spoke at the event. Our girls' drum group attended and sang the water song to the newly launched canoe named Raven.

In closing, we are hopeful COVID-19 will not last, and that everyone stays safe and healthy over the holidays.



wood fibre for endless consumption. It is an ecosystem. Everything on the land is interconnected and relies on and supports itself. There are medicines, food, building materials – everything that is needed to support our cultural ways. The Guardian Program teaches our Youth all these

Wishing you the best of the season and better days in the year ahead.

Meegwetch.

Chapleau Cree First Nation

is proposing to change our name to

“People of the River”

The proposed name change intends to **strengthen our identity** and **reinforces our grass root connection** to the rivers we travelled for sustenance.

Many First Nations are working to change their names and revitalize their languages.

Colonial policies and law sought to eradicate us of our languages, cultures and social structures. This eradication is in **stark contrast** to the **deeply meaningful, personal,** and often **spiritual naming practices** of Indigenous peoples.

Reverting to Indigenous names in relation to oral histories, Indigenous laws, and languages is part of the process of **asserting Indigenous knowledge and territories.**

N Dialect

See pee we Eninowak (Some people can write it this way)

ᓱᐱᐅ ᐃᓂᓂᐅᐅᐅ

Seepee we Eeneeneewak (Another written form)

ᓱᐱᐅ ᐃᓂᓂᓂᐅᐅᐅ

Si pi we Ininiwak (Enunciated form)

ᓱᐱᐅ ᐃᓂᓂᓂᐅᐅᐅ

Please direct any recommendations or comments regarding the name change to:

reception@chapleaucree.ca

P.O. Box 400, Fox Lake Reserve, Chapleau, Ontario, P0M 1K0

Tel: (705) 864-0784, Fax (705) 864-1760



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COVID-19 MEASURES

UPDATED: November 19, 2020

Chapleau Cree First Nation offices have re-opened for business to the general public and continue to provide services to our Members and business associates. We have modified the way we do business and put additional restrictions in place to reduce the risk of exposure to our employees, Members, guests and the community at large.

Meetings are held via teleconference or virtually through a variety of software programs whenever possible. Masks are now mandatory in the office. Guests and visitors must sign in upon entry to assist with contact tracing. Hand sanitizing, temperature checking and limiting capacity inside offices has been implemented and is enforced.

Chapleau Cree First Nation staff will be available by phone, email, and other forms of communication during regular business hours. For your safety and that of our employees and Community Members, we ask that you limit office visits during this time.

Furthermore, social circle and gathering restrictions of 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors *is being followed*. These rules do not apply to '**monitored**' social gatherings.

Our Councillors will continue to keep abreast of the current COVID-19 pandemic and will meet as necessary to review operation planning for Chapleau Cree First Nation. We thank you for patience during this time. I can assure you that we are doing everything possible to assist and support our community, keeping safety and security as our primary concern, while we navigate this difficult time together.

As this situation evolves, we will continue to keep you informed to the best of our ability. Please continue to see our website at www.chapleaucree.ca for further information and updates.

Meegwetch,

Chief Keith Corston

Our Journey - Our Life - Our Destination

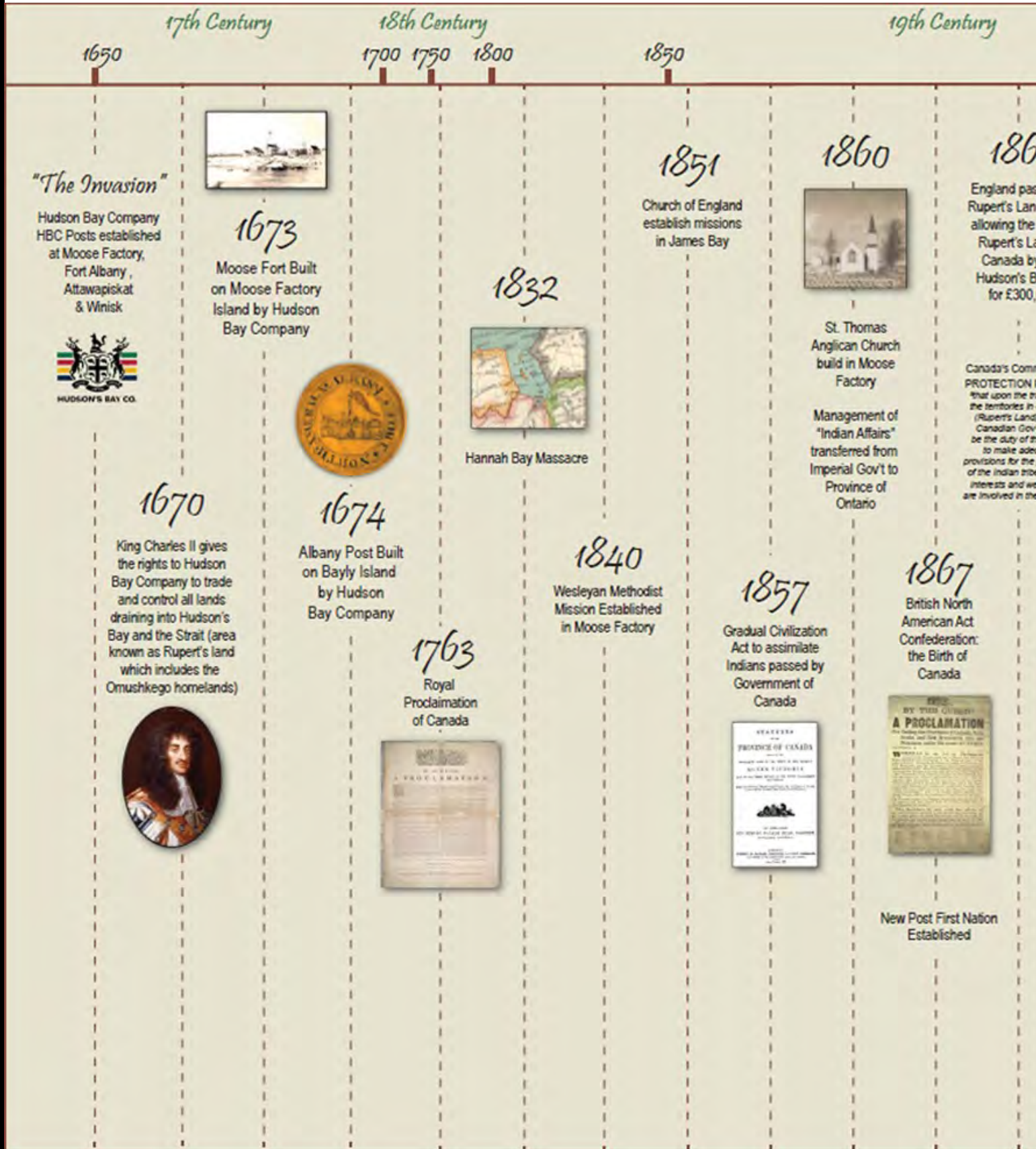
OMUSHKEGO NATION: Sovereign, Self-governing, United and Holistic

The best part of our journey was when we were able to enjoy our Creator's gifts of Land, Water and Air, without any interference or invasion from any other humankind. The Creator's gifts provided us with happiness, good health, richness, unity, spirituality, natural laws and a self-governing nation. As well, the Creator's gifts enabled us to practice to the fullest extent, our traditional values of kindness, love, humility, respect, honesty and honour.

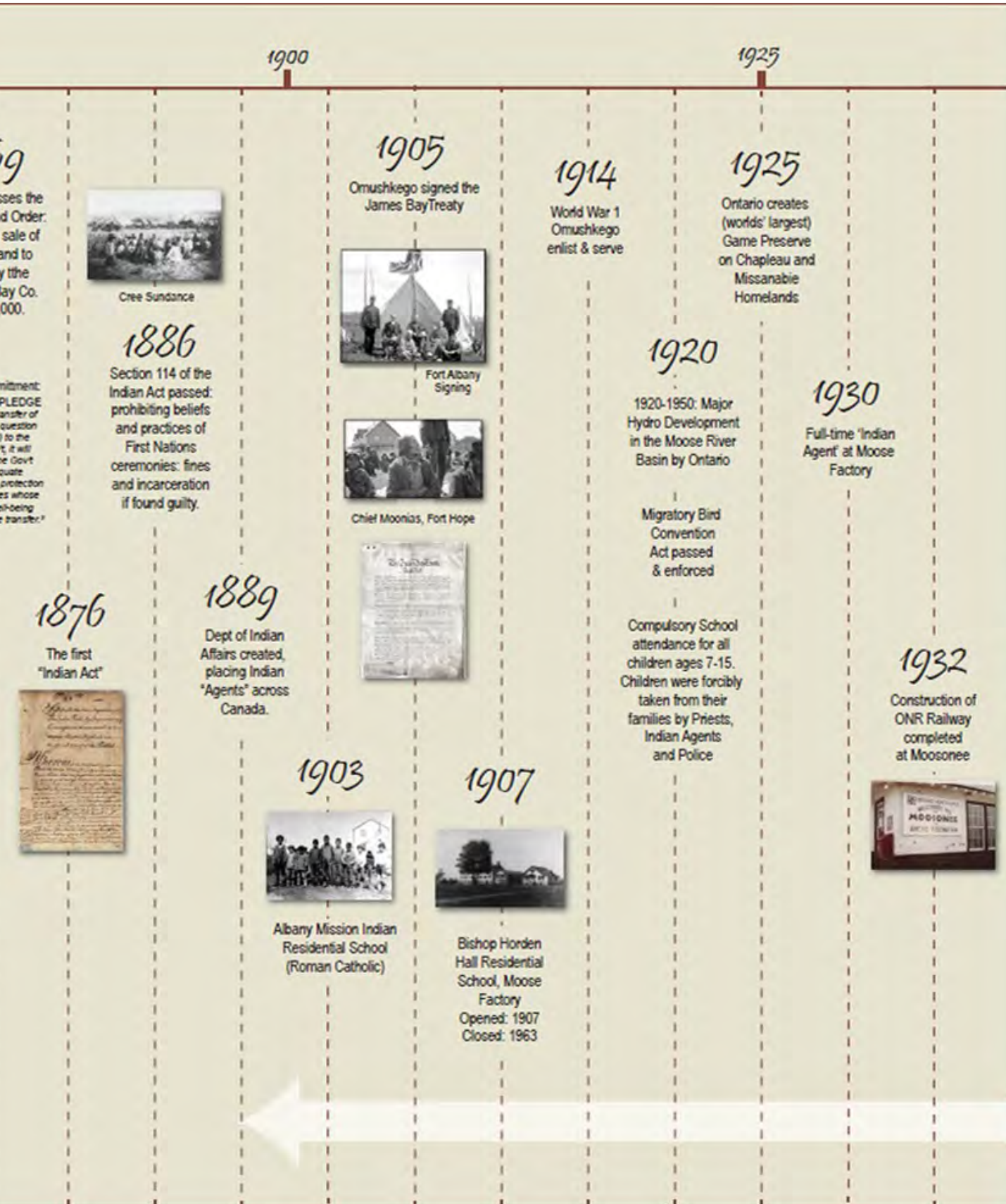


A time of our journey when we, the Creator's original people (Ommushkego) of this region entrusted the newcomers with friendship, kindness, trust and willingness to share the land.

Our Journey - Our Land



Life - Our Destination



Continue

Our Journey - Our L

20th Century

1950

1936



St. Anne's Indian Residential School
Opened: 1936
Closed: 1964

1947

Ontario establishes Registered Trapline System

1944

Chicken Pox ravages James Bay area

1949

Moose Factory Hospital built by the federal Gov't. and opened a year later as a 200 bed Tuberculosis hospital-sanitarium



1951

Oblate Missionaries erect the first hospital in Attawapiskat (St. Mary's Hospital)

1953

Canada establishes Indian Affairs - James Bay District Office opens in Moose Factory

1955

Canada (DND) begins construction of Radar Sites & Bases



1957

Kashechewan relocates from Old Post to present location

1960

Canada's First Nations Peoples given voting rights.



1966

Attawapiskat floods

1970

Ontario creates Polar Bear Provincial Park (largest in ON) within the Ojibwe Homelands

Previous



The influence of the Christian had a profound impact on the Mushkegowuk from 1600's to

Life - Our Destination

1975

1972

Moose Cree /
Moose Factory
Island
connected to
Hydro Grid
System

1976

Kashechewan
Major Flood

1983

Grand Council
Treaty 9
renamed
Nishnawbe
Aski Nation

1985

Bill C31
Amendment to
the Indian Act

1986

Winisk Tragedy
(flood)
Peawanuck
Established

1990

Nishnawbe Aski
Police Service
established

1977

Treaty 9 declares its
independence to the
people of Canada.

1984

Mushkegowuk
Council established
(New Post, Moose
Cree, Kashechewan,
Fort Albany,
Attawapiskat, Winisk
Mocrebec)

Mushkegowuk
Council issues
"Declaration
of Rights"

Indian Affairs
James Bay
District Office
(Moose Factory)
starts devolution
process:
Office Closes in
2000

1995

Daniel George
McMartin's
1905-1906
Treaty making
Diary found



1973

Grand Council
Treaty 9
established

1982

Constitution Act
of Canada Approved.
Section 35 recognizes
and affirms Treaty
Rights as part of the
supreme law of
Canada



Payuktayno
Child & Family
Services



1989

Fox Lake
(Chapleau Cree)
establish
permanent
community
outside
Chapleau

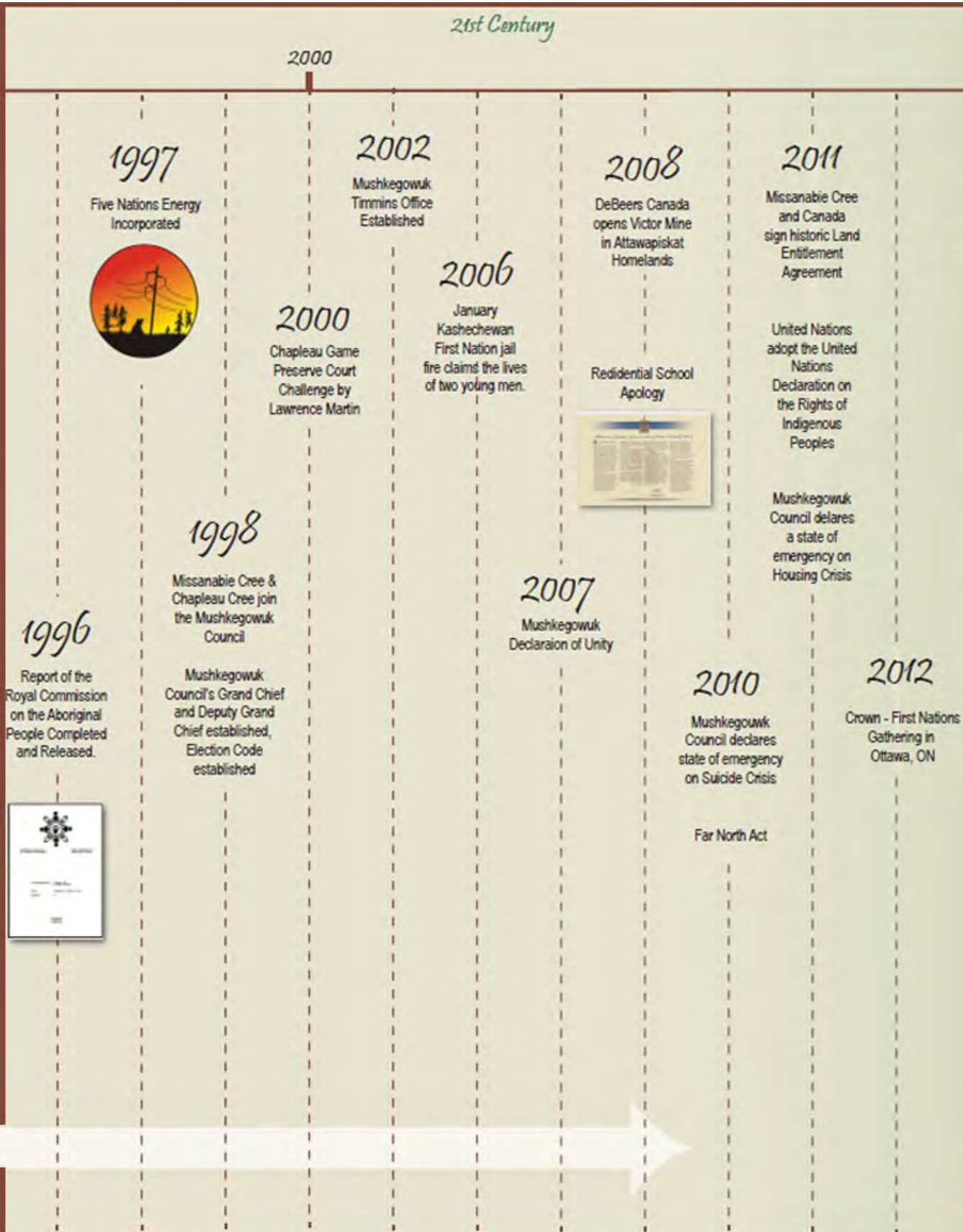
Continue

Missionaries
the lives of the
present day.

Our Journey - Our L

21st Century

Previous



Life - Our Destination

the Coming ...

Days,



- ▶ Go forward with a good clear understanding of our given Inherent Rights as Omuskego
- ▶ Go forward and be guided by our Spiritual Laws, Peoples Law and the Laws of our Homelands
- ▶ As dictated by the Spirit and Intent of the James Bay Treaty, take more direct action to Implement the Oral Promises and Real Agreements of the Treaty
- ▶ Assert and act on our 1985 Declaration of Rights
- ▶ Take necessary action to create a sustainable and self-determined Omuskego Economy
- ▶ Move and act on our Omuskego Nationhood building journey

Months



- ▶ Our Traditional Values, Beliefs and Our Way of Life practiced by majority of the Omuskego
- ▶ Moving much closer to becoming Self Governing Peoples
- ▶ Regain full control and management of Our Homelands
- ▶ Much healthier people and communities

& Years



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Mushkegowuk Council
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Band Administrator Report - *Edith Larocque*

“We rise, we heal, we overcome”

With COVID-19 changing the way we live, our priority continues to do our very best to serve and meet the needs of our Membership and to respond to and carry out the collective will of all Chapleau Cree First Nation Members. We remain dedicated in providing quality, equitable, and accessible support to respond to the social, economic, health, cultural, educational, spiritual, and political needs of Chapleau Cree First Nation, thereby improving the quality of life of our Members.

COVID-19 has had a negative effect on many business and organizations and individuals. Chapleau Cree First Nation was also affected in the operations and overall service and delivery of our programs. At the onset of COVID-19, weekly meetings were

implemented with Chief and Council along with Managers working collaboratively to do everything possible in lessening the effects of COVID-19 and reducing the risk of exposure to our Members.

The Band Office and Health Centre were closed to the public and provided essential services only. Some staff were issued temporary layoffs, while others were placed on a staggered schedule. Employees worked from home whenever possible or continued working as some positions were identified as essential in providing services to our Members on and off Reserve.

Education staff continued supporting our students locally and iPads were purchased to support on-line learning for our school-aged youth both on and off the Reserve. Access to the Reserve was restricted to essential services only. The monitoring of individuals coming and leaving the Reserve was implemented to assist in contact tracing should the need arise.



Groups of volunteers were relied upon for organizing, packing and delivery of essential supplies to all Members in need.

We continue to monitor the spread of the virus and are committed to do our utmost in keeping the risk of exposure to a minimum for the safety of our Members.

We have completed our Annual Audit and have included the statements in the package. Indigenous Service Canada has reviewed our Statements and we have received a favourable reply.

The first draft of our pandemic Plan has been received and forwarded to the Health Committee for review and input. The Health Committee held a meeting on November 12, 2020 to go through the policy and make recommendations they feel necessary. Chief and Council have received a copy of the draft plan for their input as well.

Candice Corston, Consultant for the development of our Membership code, has completed the final draft Membership policy and has submitted it to Council. Chief and Council have reviewed it and have sent the document off for legal opinion.

Tracy Martin, Healthcare Coordinator, has provided valuable support and feedback to all staff and Council during this pandemic. The Nurse and staff have been ensuring the health needs of our clients and Members were at the forefront and remain there. Programs have changed to smaller groups, and activities are limited in size, both indoor and outdoor. Our Cultural Coordinator is working closely with the Health Department and Life's Sacred Journey to provide the best possible wholistic care to all Members.

Our Economic Development Coordinator is moving forward on the proposed Community Centre. An update to this and other economic ventures currently being pursued are included in her report.

Our Lands Director, Janet Broomhead, has been working continuously on protecting our aboriginal treaty rights on the lands by providing clear and consistent direction to



governments and companies wishing to extract resources from our Territory.

Our Water Plant is moving ahead as planned. COVID-19 has impacted our originally scheduled deadline. We have pushed through and the plant is almost complete. Allan Dupuis, Public Works Supervisor, has provided more information contained in the Newsletter further on.

The Public Works Garage suffered damage to the roof due to heavy snowfall. Our insurance provider, AON, was contacted and the reimbursement for repairs was quickly approved. We are now prepared for this upcoming winter snowfall.

Woodward Law remains committed to working with Chappleau Cree in finalizing our draft housing policy. A briefing note has been provided to Chief and Council identifying the remaining topic items to be considered in finalizing our policy. Chappleau Cree First Nation has reached out to First Nation Market Housing Fund for direction on developing our own Matrimonial Real Property Law. We will need to develop both the Housing Policy and Law together as they will work cohesively.

The 2-bedroom duplex has been completed and tenants have taken residence. Plans are in progress to build more homes on the Reserve and extend our seniors complex with the addition of two 2-bedroom units.



Mushkegowuk Council has completed the final inspection for the Nishnawbe Aski Police Service. With plans to hire an additional constable for our area, I am sure the building will be occupied in the near future.

Chapleau Cree has had a few changes to our staff in recent months. New staff at Life's Sacred Journey include E. Brenda Armstrong taking on the role of Band Representative, Gordon Scott as Data Entry Clerk, and Dakota Souliere has been

hired as our Prevention Worker. Barbara Cormier has been hired full time as the Registered Nurse and Renee Caldwell is our new Home Support Worker. Amanda Domingue has also changed roles and is now the Program Facilitator at the Health Centre. Cheryl MacDonald has stepped into the Administrative Assistant role at the Band Office. Chalias Caldwell joins our Finance department funded through Mushkegowuk Training Initiative and Stephane Cherneski was the successful candidate for the position of Custodian.



Congratulations to those employees who have left Chapleau Cree First Nation and gone on to pursue other endeavors. The best of luck to all.

Although COVID-19 had an effect on the planning and the facilitating of our 5th Annual Harvest, it was a huge success with a surprising number of 96 participants in attendance throughout the week.

The underlying intent and vital importance of Harvest is to bring our people together. It is about returning to our roots and coming together on the land. The surprising number of people who gathered for this year's Harvest tells us how important our communal gathering is. Being together is even more meaningful during these difficult times, when isolation



admirable. My heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you.

If you have any ideas or suggestions on changes or additions to our Newsletter, please feel free to contact me. For further information on any one of our projects, policies, or First Nation business, I can be reached by email at bandadmin@chapleaucree.ca or telephone **(705) 864-0784** ext. **226**.

“Stay strong, stay safe, stay in touch”

and despair is also a destructive effect of the pandemic.

With the support of Chief and Council, Elders, staff, volunteers, facilitators, cooks and participants, adjustments were made and implemented. Safety guidelines were observed and included mandatory wearing of masks, daily temperature readings, physical distancing, hand sanitizers, smaller sized groups and meals being served individually.

Our Cultural Harvest continues in the practice of our own Band Members sharing their knowledge and customs. Activities held this year included setting a net, smoking fish, Cree bingo, drumming and singing, bocce ball, horseshoes, traditional cultural games and so much more. Although we did not harvest a moose this year, the many activities were enjoyed by all. Surveys were provided to those in attendance to help improve and expand our next Harvest.

I would like to offer my sincere gratitude to the volunteers, staff and Members of Council for their contribution during these unprecedented times. The willingness to support our essential workers and demonstrated devotion to the health and safety of our Members is



Education Report - *Stephanie Scott*

Nishnawbe Aski Nation's (NAN) Jurisdiction on Education Agreement has been progressing well. NAN Education Jurisdiction Negotiation team has reviewed the Agreement in Principle cataloguing each priority high to low with each item given a time frame. NAN is estimating year 2023 for completion noting it is subject to change depending on community consultations. Derek Chum, from Moose Cree First Nation was recently hired as the new Lead Negotiator.

In partnering with Life's Sacred Journey, iPads were purchased and shipped to Members between age 4-18 to assist with at home learning during the school's shut down. Our youth have faced challenges this year and will continue with adjustments for the new way of life we are now in. It is important to show our next generation the resilience we have that will help them continue reaching their goals.

Chapleau Cree had three grade 8 graduates from the community. Although the students could not celebrate with their peers and have their ceremony, in the normal fashion, the Schools made alternative plans.



Following social/physical distancing guidelines a drive by with the School representatives and Community Members around the reserve and online video ceremonies were implemented to support and honour our students' success.



2020 Post-Secondary graduates include, PH'D Social Science, Bachelor of Science (Agricultural and Environmental Science) and Natural Environmental Technician. Congratulations to all 2020 Graduates!

Summer Student Program had five students with three students starting their first job. There were two Public Works positions and one position at the Gas bar, Culture and Administration. Students worked hard for eight weeks and ended with an appreciation day at Grassy Lake. Workers had lunch and received a small gift in recognition of their hard work and contribution made this year followed by some fishing and a ride in the bush.





Our Aboriginal Student Support Workers are fulfilling their day with support in the classroom with our students and when needed, working with them one on one in the Aboriginal room. New safety protocols in the school can make it a bit challenging to maintain a low indirect/direct contact with students and staff within the Elementary/Secondary school. To help facilitate that, the school has put aside a second room on the Elementary side that ASW's can use to help reduce contact. Our lady of Fatima School has provided a shared space for an ASW to provide services to our students. A worker is now in the school daily to support our students.

The school bus is set up to provide as much social/physical distancing as possible. Siblings and cohort students are seated together. An empty seat is left between students for distancing, hands are sanitized as student gets on the bus and seats and railings are cleaned daily. During this time, no temporary passengers will be permitted to ride the bus.

Stephanie Scott,
Education Clerk

Membership Report - Stephanie Scott

The Treaty Annuity Payment at the Band Office was cancelled due to COVID-19. I have included a Treaty Annuity Payment Claim in this package. The payments are processed annually every February and sent out in the mail for those who have submitted the completed form.

Chapleau Cree has seen an **increase of Registry Members** with the changes to registration. These latest changes **removed the 1951 cut-off from the Indian Act** registration provisions, ensuring that women and entitled descendants could register for status. Eligible individuals include descendants born prior to April 17, 1985 (or of a marriage before that date), of women who lost status or were removed from Band lists due to their marrying a non-Indian man going back to 1869.

Consultation is to be ongoing to discuss the remaining equities such as issues of **adoption, the second-generation cut-off, enfranchisement**, etc. Discussions will also include views on the development of options to transfer First Nations the exclusive responsibility for the determination of the identity of Members. Unfortunately, this past year we only had one meeting in February of 2020.

Chapleau Cree is a Section 10 Band under the Indian Act. This means that we have our own Membership Code that provides us with control over our own list. For those that have family Members who recently gained Indian status, they will still need to

complete CCFN membership application process to access our services and programs.

Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) has extended the validity date of status cards until further notice due to COVID-19 pandemic. **Service providers should accept status cards** or Temporary Confirmation of Registration Documents (TCRDs), with identification, **even if the renewal or expiry date has passed.**

Indian status does not expire. Your registration number confirms your status and can be used to access some services and programs.

***Note: Status Indians registered to Chapleau Cree First Nation have treaty rights to education and hunting.**

You do not need to be a Member to apply for Post-Secondary funding or to hunt within your traditional territory.



Stephanie Scott
Indian Registry Administrator

Registry List	Band Membership List
Administered by ISC; Added to Registry List when registered as a Status Indian; Entitled to all rights as defined under the Indian Act.	Administered by Chapleau Cree; Must apply to Chapleau Cree for acceptance into Membership if not registered at birth with two Band Member parents; Entitled to all rights as defined under the Indian Act; Eligible to vote in Chief and Council Elections; Eligible to vote in Referendums; Receive information packages, Newsletters etc from Chapleau Cree; Entitled to live/build on the Reserve.

In Memoriam



Allen Wayne Fyfe
(July 25, 1947 - September 16, 2020)



Alice McCulloch
(July 9, 1924 - June 7, 2020)



Richard "Gordon" Byce
(April 29, 1922 - October 27, 2020)

Our Sincerest Condolences



Gilbert Fortin
(1944-2020)



John Tangie
(1949-2020)



Rheel Guidon
(1942-2020)



Carol White
(1960-2020)



Dorothy Bignucolo
(1931-2020)

Economic Development Report - Peggy Dominigue

Greetings Band Members,

To say this has been a challenging year is an understatement, and I hope this newsletter finds you all well and safe. I fully transitioned over to economic development as of January 23rd and started this new role fulltime. As a result of the office closure during the COVID-19 pandemic, I was working from home from March 18th until June 15th. This offered a whole new set of challenges as beginning a new position without the ongoing in-person support required was a learning curve. Other challenges were related to community broadband connections limiting ability to fully participate in videoconferencing opportunities and the lack of in-person community consultations. However, despite the challenges work was completed, video conferencing was accessed, albeit sketchy as times, projects moved forward, and community consultations took on a new form.

Below you will find a brief synopsis of some of the work completed within the Economic Development office;

Ecolodge Project had continued to move forward despite COVID-19 restrictions and changes to funding envelopes to assist with the pandemic by various funders. We have secured the required funds to continue to move this project forward and the final design process with Two Row Architects. Plans are to have this project shovel ready for Spring of 2021 with



completion by April 2022.

The proposed **Band Complex Project** resulted in many community engagement sessions through videoconferencing to enable the project to continue to move forward. The conceptual design and business plan have been completed. The anticipated budget for this project is approximately 9 million. Therefore, we are reviewing the possibility of commencing the project with various phases and will be holding further discussions with Council. We are currently working on moving the project to the next step by locating project funders. Once again there is a COVID-19 related challenge as many funders have realigned their funding programs to COVID-19 related activities thereby limiting our funding options at this time.

It has been a busy time with numerous tele/videoconferences, online conferences, training sessions as all organizations are moving to this medium to continue to conduct business.



An expression of interest and **housing application under Section 95 has been submitted to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) for two 3-bedroom homes and an extension on Mukeso House** to include additional two 2-bedroom apartments. We are awaiting final approval on this project.

Work continues with the North Superior Regional Broadband Network (NSRBN) on a **Community Broadband Project** for numerous Northern municipalities and First Nations. This project is moving along well with soon to be an official partnership

with Crown Capital moving forward, subject to approval of Councils and Mayors groups.

We are also working on a **Local Broadband Initiative**, independently of the above-mentioned group NSRBN, to fill an immediate gap in our Broadband servicing with Vianet. It's has been evident since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic that we need immediate improvements to meet the 50 Mbps download speed / 2 Mbps upload speed thresholds.

Work continues on the **Lands Code Initiative** to implement the next steps to begin the community engagement process after a brief hiatus due to the pandemic.

I participated in various information sessions on the **impacts of COVID-19** and how to navigate government funding, laws, etc.

We are attempting to have our First Nation participate in the **Sustainable Food Initiative** with the University of Guelph and have been keeping the lines of communication open for opportunities with our contact.

Discussions have been held with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) regarding **reserve lands descriptions and Environment site assessments**. Follow-up meetings will be held to further discuss the final report and concerns/inconsistencies identified within the final report.

Completed various economic development related reports. Worked with the **Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP) and Emergency Repair Program (ERP) programs from CMHC** to complete applications and move projects forward to completion for the current fiscal year.

Participating in discussions with Nancy

Pine from First Nation Housing Market Fund and legal counsel, Jane Woodward regarding the **draft housing policy** and legal revisions required to address our current requirements. I am also moving forward on setting up the market housing funding program for our First Nation.

Have developed a relationship with Ferrovia Services to assist in their search for various employees required for the upcoming winter season. Should there be any interest in the job opportunities with this employer, reach out to me and I will be pleased to facilitate a meeting.



Jordan's
Principle

Jordan's Principle:

In addition to my duties as Economic

Development Officer, I have also maintained the Service Coordinator position for the Jordan's Principle Program. It should be noted that this program is readily available to our youth both on and off-reserve. Please contact me directly for a confidential consultation regarding the needs of your child/ren at **(705) 864-0784 Ext. 231**

Cell: **(705) 542-6276**

Email: **edo@chapleaucree.ca**

Please note that this is an ongoing program through the Government of Canada and applications can be submitted on an ongoing basis. Please do not assume what will or will not be covered, give me a call and I will do my best to obtain funding.

In closing, stay safe and reach out if I can be of any assistance or should you have any questions regarding any of the projects and would like to have a conversation.

Water Treatment Plant Report - Allan Dupuis

Hello everyone!

The **Water Treatment Plant Upgrade Project** is nearing completion. Since the last newsletter we have completed auto commissioning and are now running fulltime on the new system. While the project was delayed overall due to various reasons, COVID-19 did cause a lot of issues at an important stage in the project as well. While COVID-19 did cause issues with on-site access and team coordination we have moved past these issues. The end is in sight!

period begins. The warranty period is very important because as operators, it is now of utmost importance to find and report any issues that may arise with the process or equipment that was not detected or identified during the construction phase. The only way to do this is to continue running the plant and monitoring the processes, equipment, data and maintenance. Any changes or issues reported are the responsibility of the engineers (First Nations Engineering Services Limited) or the general contractor (Belanger Construction).



So, I know the big question everyone will be asking is **when is this plant going to be finished** completely? Well the honest answer is anytime between now and a year from now. While we are almost at the end, we have a one-year warranty period to start once the project is signed off as finalized and complete. Once this is done, the “substantial” payment is released to the general contractor and the warranty

Are the Trihalomethanes (THM) and Haloacetic Acids (HAA) issues corrected?

Yes and no. The way that THM and HAA testing is completed is on a quarterly basis. Which means that even though on August 13th our sampling data shows that we are under the THM Maximum Allowable Concentration of 100, our score was 69.5 but our overall average is still 167.13 due to the high numbers from the 3 prior samples

A. Water Treatment Plant Treated: 03 Treated Water Tap

Quarterly Chemical Water Sample Lab Results		Parameters Tested			FAC	Turbidity
		Total Trihalomethanes (THMs)	Total Haloacetic Acids (HAAs)	Nitrates		
Drinking Water Standard	Objective	100 µg/L (p.p.b) or less	80 µg/L (p.p.b) or less	45 mg/L or less - federal 10 mg/L or less - provincial	mg/L	NTU
	Type of Objective	MAC*	MAC*	MAC		
2020-08-13		69.5	43.9	0.05		
2020-03-12		209	205	0.01		
2019-10-2		223	281	0.01		
2019-7-16		167	152	0.03		
Running Average:		167.13	170.48			

that were taken. The same can be said about the HAAs. So, while the sampling and data is showing that the process is working, it is important to note that it may take until August of 2021 before we have enough data to officially say the THM and HAA issues are resolved. Our next quarterly sampling for THM/HAAs will be conducted in November and it should be very informative and telling.

There were **additional projects** completed alongside the larger Water Treatment Plant Upgrade Project that were not in the original scope of the project. The first was an upgrade to the Fire Pump Piping in the plant. This piping was beginning to oxidize and rust and was not identified on the original project. This has now been brought up to current standards and we are grateful for the upgrade. We also had the entire clearwell cleaned and the distribution system swabbed.

Clearwell cleaning and distribution swabbing is a very expensive but an important maintenance project. It is usually scheduled to occur every five years on typical maintenance plans. Organic material builds up in the storage cells of treated water causing a film or staining on the walls and ground. Inside the piping in the distribution system, scaling and film buildup. This allows for additional THM and HAAs in the system to occur. The process of cleaning the clear well is simple: a team goes into each cell after being drained and they pressure wash each cell until they are clean and then pump out the remaining water and debris. Once completed the cells are disinfected to ensure they are not contaminated. Distribution swabbing involves sending “bullet” style sponges in a coordinated effort to all parts of the distribution system allowing them to clean the side walls of the system. All debris and organic material is expelled through hydrants which are left flushing until the water returns to clear conditions.



Our community was very understanding and patient while we implemented many Low Consumption Orders and Boil Water Advisories due to plant shutdowns, low pressure events and maintenance projects that required imposing such sanctions. I know our community understands the importance of this upgrade and I hope to include pictures from the “Open House” or ribbon cutting for the next newsletter.

Be safe and I look forward to updating you again.

Allan Dupuis
Water Treatment Plant
Overall Responsible Operator (ORO)



Healthcare Coordinator - Tracy Martin

Greetings to all!

Hoping everyone has been keeping safe and healthy. I am the newly appointed Healthcare Coordinator and accepted the position just as the pandemic took off. These last six months have been very hectic, trying and quite scary times for all of us during the course of this pandemic. These last few months have been difficult, programming wise, as COVID-19 restrictions limited gathering sizes and staff was limited to essential workers and services only. Many planned activities were cancelled during this time to ensure the health and safety of our community.



March and April were busy times sorting through food deliveries from Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) to be distributed to the community as well as delivering/ mailing reusable face masks for Members. With the school closure affecting our youth's ability to connect virtually with their teachers and classmates, iPads were shipped to all elementary and secondary school aged youth on the Band registry to ensure continuity in their education.

We are slowly trying to adjust to the new norms and figuring out different ways of providing programming to the community when social distancing at functions cannot be



maintained with the use of social media platforms, Zoom for example. Some of the programs that have been initiated or resumed are Northern Fruit & Veggie Program, Quarantined Kitchen, Meals on Mocs, Virtual Family Fish Derby, Orange Shirt Day Contest, Nutrition BINGO, Women's Breast Cancer Awareness, Alzheimer's Coffee Break, Men's Health, Movember, Progressive BINGO, Youth Halloween Haunted Maze, Youth Movie Night, Archery Lessons, First Nation Student Nutrition Snack Program, Foot Care, Flu Shot Clinic and Seniors Activities just to name a few.



We received approval for just over \$500K through a Choose Life proposal for youth ages 0-18 years of age for land-based programming targeting suicide prevention. We are hopeful to have four seasonal mini youth camps throughout the year for land-based teachings and activities as well as monthly workshops for the youth.

Please continue to stay safe and healthy.

Respectfully,

Tracy Martin
Healthcare Coordinator

CHAPLEAU CREE FIRST NATION

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS FROM COVID-19

PLEASE PRACTICE SOCIAL/PHYSICAL DISTANCING

USE OF FACE MASKS AT ALL CCFN BUSINESSES

WASH HANDS FREQUENTLY

PLEASE STAY HOME IF YOU ARE ILL

LET'S KEEP EACH OTHER SAFE



CHAPLEAU CREE FIRST NATION

REGRETFULLY, DUE TO COVID-19
THE ANNUAL COMMUNITY
CHRISTMAS DINNER
HAS BEEN CANCELLED

*Wishing you and your family
a very Merry Christmas*

Stay Safe & Stay Healthy



Culture & Family Well-Being - Cheryl Dupuis

Wachay/Greetings,

Spring Season 2020 (March and April)

As the beginning of COVID-19 was introduced to our community, it affected planned activities/events for the Family March break trip and/or the delivery of “essential services” which ultimately affected cultural services. With that being said, I returned to work to assist the Health team in the Administrative Support position with minimal cultural services including delivery of meals and goods “Made with Love from the Quarantine Kitchen”.

The Family Well-Being Program held a “Family Scavenger Hunt” with two (2) families gifted either a \$50 Google play or a \$50 Apple Store & iTunes gift card.

Blooming/Earth Season (May and June)

“Made with Love from the Quarantine Kitchen” offered a Mother’s Day Dinner with moose stew, wild rice and blueberry cake, sacred medicine epsom bath salts and sacred medicine candles.



National Indigenous Peoples Day occurred upon Summer Solstice and Father’s Day.

A literature package with the history of the 1932 canoe trip “Moose Factory or Bust ” (which was experienced by six of our Band Members) and ideas for activities to celebrate summer solstice with family were provided.

A Fish Fry Dinner “Made with Love from the Quarantine Kitchen” a was offered along with gifts for Fathers which included homemade cedarwood shaving oil, all-natural bug repellent spray and a citronella candle.

Summer Season (July and August)

The Youth Cultural Camp was cancelled due to COVID-19.

NON-Restricted Firearms Course & Ontario Hunter Education Safety Courses were offered on-line through www.firearmsandhunterscourse.ca or <https://www.ohep.net/courses/online-huntered>.

Family Well-Being Program held the “Amber’s Fire Safety Campaign” to increase fire safety and prevention in your home. The idea was for families to know how to test their smoke alarms, change the batteries and develop a home escape plan. An email of a picture with the floor plan marking two ways out of every room, marked locations of their fire extinguishers and smoke and carbon detectors and meeting place in your yard. The picture must show escape plan posted on their wall where all family are able to see. Only one family submitted an entry and won \$50 gift.

Cultural Services was gifted with a summer student, Charleston (CJ) Spence Jr. It was a pleasure working with CJ as he learned about cultural practices, administration and working with staff and community.



Elders & Seniors Sharing Circle and Luncheon was held outside the Turtle Lodge with social distancing. Participants were very happy to be celebrating the “gathering”, food and enjoyed in sharing.

The 27th Annual Traditional Gathering & Pow Wow was cancelled due to COVID-19.

Boater Exam Course was offered on-line through www.boaterexam.com/canada

Fall Season (September and October)

St. John’s Residential School Commemoration Ceremony and Luncheon was offered.

Dinners were offered as we began the following; Lil Kwe Drum Group, Older Kwe Drum Group and Boys Drum Group

Women’s Teachings and Dinner with two-

part session was offered.

Cree Language with Annie Metat.

Women’s Sharing Circle and Dinner. Circles continue with conversations that are purposeful opportunities for women to gather and talk about topics that are important and meaningful. A space where women can encourage, challenge and support each other; a way to amplify the power of women’s leadership.

Every Child Matters Ceremony took place at the Turtle Lodge. Afterward, a light lunch at the Band Office was offered.

Chapleau Cree First Nation’s 5th Annual Cultural Harvest at Mushkwashewee Saakaaeekaan (Grassy Lake) was held Oct. 5-9. COVID-19 guidelines were strictly followed with pre-screening of monitoring

temperatures daily prior to registering, gathering or attending teachings and activities. Four shapatawans (gathering places) were set up for teachings and activities with plenty of space for social distancing.

Ninety-six participants were screened and registered with ages from 3-month old Celina McAuley Whitehead to 80-year old Elder, Michael Cachagee Sr. The gathering this year was a bit cooler than the previous year and overall the gathering was well attended with teachings and activities being offered by our very own Band Members and families sharing the knowledge, skills and crafts and leads for games.

Meegwetch to all the people including the tremendous assistance from our partners, Kasey Bissaillion from Maamwesying and Amberly Quakagesic and Jacey Jolivet from Wahkohtowin as well as several Band Members and staff that contributed to the proven success of our 5th Annual Cultural Harvest!

Freezing Up & Winter Season (November – February) & Spring Season (March and April)

Hoping to continue our exciting plans for spiritual and cultural teachings and activities ahead such as:

- Winter Cultural Camp
- Snaring and trapping teachings from one of our own Chapleau Cree FN Members
- Story/legends telling and reflecting
- Revitalizing indigenous language
- Indigenous movie time
- Youth Ice Fishing Derby
- Duck and geese hunting/teachings
- Smelt fishing
- Regalia teachings
- Round Dance

- Nishnawbe Aski Nation's (NAN) Family Well-Being Program's (FWBp)
- Men's Initiative Advisory Committee Member (in support of men healing)
- Ceremonies, drumming, sharing, gatherings and potential outreach to Band Members off-Reserve.

Looking forward to building and strengthening relationships, engaging and supporting all our Membership and families and offering family well-being and cultural programs/services.

Respectfully,

Cheryl Dupuis
Cultural Coordinator





Nature Category



People Category



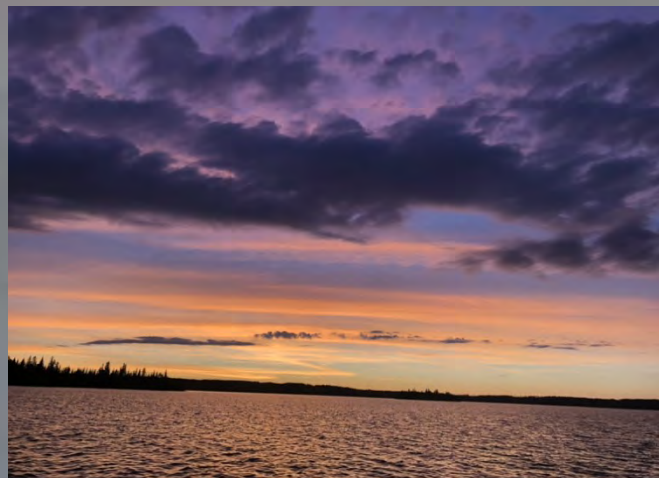
Wildlife Category

5th Annual Cultural Harvest Photo/Video Contest

Videography



Honourable Mention







Moose Factory or Bust

Chapleau Cree First Nation is excited to share with its Members the records of an adventurous canoe trip taken by six Members in July of 1932. The original record will be provided as written.

Moose Factory or Bust

This is a chronological account of a canoe trip made from Chapleau to Moose Factory via the Missinaibi River in July 1932. It was put in writing as the trip progressed. There are changes to-day (1968), as much of the timber has been cut along the river by greedy lumberman who have put roads for many miles parallel to the stream. There are also a few tourist outfitting camps established along the route now and possibly more pollution.

In early May, six adventurers of Chapleau contemplated a canoe trip to Moose Factory. These young men were, Donald White, Oliver (Doc) Potts, Howard Cachagee, Mike Turner, Fred McAuley and the author. Plans were completed and on July 1st, 1932 the six took the train from Chapleau to Missanabie, with two canoes and all equipment. We arrived at Missanabie about 8.30 p.m. and immediately started on the first lap of our canoe journey. We camped a couple of miles north of the railroad track, in the Chapleau Crown Game Preserve, the largest of it's kind in the western hemisphere. After a late supper we sat around the camp fire, telling stories, as the fuel turned into dying, glowing embers. The night was clear and cold and after making our canoes and provisions safe from marauding animals we turned in with high expectations of the morrow.

Shortly after sun-up the next morning we were having breakfast of bacon and eggs. The aroma of this repast with the boiling coffee whetted our desire for the adventure and it was not long before we were on our way. Loading up our big freight canoes with equipment and three men to a canoe, we were content to let a small three horse-power engine do most of the work for the first day. The night had been cold and frosty. The surface of the lake was like a sheet of glass and was covered with millions of mosquitoes, presumably killed by the

frost of the previous night. The steady purr of the Johnson engine was music to our ears. It sent a challenging message to Mother Nature as it's echo resounded from hill to hill.

Nearing the end of Dog Lake we disturbed two moose eating lily pads. They paid very little attention to us as they stopped munching to watch our canoes go by. Possibly we, or the presence of humans were an every day occurrence in their lives. After a seven mile run up the lake we portaged to Crooked lake. This portage was a distance of one hundred and fifty yards. All along the shores of Crooked Lake, the length of which is about eleven miles, we saw moose and bear and in almost every bay, either a live or dead beaver house. The trip along this lake was uneventful and upon reaching the north end we made another short portage over the height-of-land to Missinaibi Lake. This height-of-land separates the waters flowing into Lake Superior from those flowing into the James and Hudsons Bays. A hundred yards along from the north end of the portage there is a beautiful log cabin built by the Department of Game & Fisheries and called Lodge Eleven. This cabin faced the west arm of the lake known as Baltic Bay which is about fifteen miles long. The south arm which runs southeast towards the village of Dalton is about six miles in length and that of the northeast bay, about twenty five miles. This was the route that we had to take.

Separating Baltic Bay from the Northeast arm is a long peninsular varying in width to three miles. It terminates abruptly in a granite cliff, towering in places to well over two hundred feet. This is known as Fairy Point. Many years ago, the Cree and Ojibway Indians banded together for self protection from marauding bands of Iroquois and drove an armed band over the cliffs to complete destruction. Looking closely at the cliffs one can discern Indian pictographs of centuries ago which only time can eliminate.

The shores of Missinaibi Lake are very heavily wooded with spruce, pine, birch and poplar that the axe of man has not yet touched. Travelling some eight miles further along we came to a bay where the Little Missinaibi River empties its waters into Big Missinaibi Lake through a very beautiful, red granite, steep-sided gorge at the foot of which is Wiasatchawa Falls. This is a paradise for fishermen. Pickerel by the score could be seen swimming or basking themselves on or just below the surface of the water. We stopped here an hour for dinner. This majestic bay was fascinating and we were loathe to leave. However we must.

Another thirteen miles brought us to the Ontario Department of Game & Fisheries station, which consisted of two beautiful log cabins for the officers stationed there. Here we met, Fred Watson, who is a game warden, an old acquaintance, and his wife Alma. After being offered a cup of tea and homemade cookies we bade them adieu and pointed our canoes towards Brunswick House, a half mile away and on the opposite shore, to explore the remains of this once thriving Hudsons Bay Post. Most of the buildings are in ruins but a few still stand. The grass has grown high on the once clean site and wild raspberries grow profusely all over the vacant land. On the shore is the remains of an old lake or possibly a York boat, once used to transport fur to the south end of the lake and thence to Missanabie for shipment to the world's market. All along the beach and in the ruins of the buildings can be found old rifles and flintlocks with the stocks nearly eroded completely away. After making a complete round of the buildings we turned our attention to the old Cemetery where to this day, descendants of those Indians who once lived at Brunswick House make pilgrimages every few years to keep the hallowed spot of their loved ones clean and in good order. From here we set out in our canoes again for another two miles to where the river starts its long journey north from the lake and we could not help but think of the wonderful stories that these

buildings could tell if they could only speak.

It was here as we entered the river that our trip began in real earnest. Fred and I had been over this route before and we knew what was in store. We had to pit our knowledge and skill against the obstacles that nature had placed in our path or else make many tiresome portages around the many rapids on the river. From this point on we stored the engine in one of the canoes as the fast water made it's use of little value. From the lake to the Hudsons Bay Post at Peterbell on the Canadian National Railway we ran all the rapids except one. We had traversed the entire distance across the Chapleau Game Preserve, about sixty miles, in a day with time out for the many stops we made enroute.

We pitched camp without putting up the tent on the shore of the river near a cabin belonging to an old friend of mine, where we had a well earned supper of fish, bannock, jam and tea. We spent a couple of hours at the Post renewing acquaintances then retired to the river bank where we crawled into our eiderdowns and with the sky for a roof, slept as only those on the trail can sleep, seldom being troubled by the mosquitoes and black flies. Before being encircled by the arms of Morpheus we made an agreement that we would only travel ten hours a day, this to include an hour for dinner.

The next morning again dawned clear and bright. After a good breakfast of fish, bannock and coffee we disappeared around the bend with a salutation of Good Luck ringing in our ears from Jim, standing at the cabin door. Downstream we paddled and helped by the ever increasing speed of the river the miles slipped by very quickly. Rapids after rapids were run until we came to Smooth Rock rapids. We portaged here because of a waterfall at the bottom. It was a beautiful place. Large shelves of red granite thrust themselves out into the water and smooth as glass from the incessant flow of water over the centuries.

The next large rapid that we came to was the Cutfoot. Here one man out of each canoe would walk over the portage with a load of packsacks and would wait at the bottom snapping pictures of our battle with the white water. The next rapid of note was the Wavy which is a very treacherous one. Fred was by far the oldest member of the party and the one we looked to for advice. He said that we would have to portage but Donald who was with Fred and I in one canoe said "what is the use of portaging when we can run them". All of us were good white water men but Fred was more cautious- being older and with less of the daring spirit that he had in his younger days. We loaded Mike and Fred with packsacks and they started across the portage. After a thrilling experience in the worst rapid yet we reached the bottom much to the relief of Fred who was waiting for us. As we pulled in to load Fred and Mike, Donald remarked " it gives you a tingling feeling, shooting rapids like these". A few miles further on we encountered the Greenhill rapid where owing to the large swells we were forced to portage. At the bottom of the Greenhill we had dinner near where the Greenhill River which has it's source in the Chapleau Game Preserve discharges it brook trout laden waters into the Missinaibi River.

The rapids that we had encountered so far had been from a few hundred yards in length to a half mile. Now we were to be met with longer and more dangerous ones in which the swells would be higher. Whirlpools would be encountered at the bottom of some and woe-betide the canoe that got into the worst ones before they broke. The first one was the Calf rapid just below the mouth of the Nottawa River. It was a half mile in length, swift and studded with rocks rising to three feet above the surface. A few rapids below the Calf is the famous Split Finger rapid where in the distant past five men, employees of the Hudsons Bay Co. had been drowned. Their canoe got out of control and had smashed on the rocks. We ran this one with a lightened canoe while Mike

snapped pictures of us battling the white water. Further on was the Split Rock rapid. It was a beautiful spot. It was a sort of a gorge in which the rock was squarely cut. It was too much for our small canoes so we portaged. We were afraid that the swells at the bottom would swamp our craft. The next portage that we made was over Thunder Falls. We hurried past the mouth of the Fire River which also has its source in the Chapleau Game Preserve and further on at Flat Rock rapid we decided to camp for the night. It was a lovely place. The bare rock swept back from both sides of the rapid for some distance. The surface was very flat but rose to a distance of about thirty feet to the treeline.

Very noticeable of this days trip was that the river was widening a little, it was running faster and the banks were becoming higher. The high water mark of the spring flood was very plainly seen as the trees, shrubs and banks had been cut by the ice. It was here that we had our first experience with a small green sort of a sand fly. They covered the canoes, packsacks and our clothes as soon as we landed. After setting up camp and enjoying a supper of fresh fish, bannock, boiled rice, strawberry jam and tea we sat around the dying camp fire recalling the events of the day. Many laughs were had and to top the evening off we portaged the canoes back to the top of the rapid and ran them again. By the time we were ready to crawl into our sleeping robes, the moon was high lighting up the scene as bright as day. Our beds were made on the flat rock and we crawled in, a pretty tired bunch of young bucks as Fred called us.

Next morning after another hearty breakfast we passed one of the few islands in the Missinaibi River. Here a cow moose and her calf were feeding in the river and they hurried into the woods as soon as they saw us. Further down we passed the mouth of the Brunswick River. Further up this river not too far from the Missinaibi is Brunswick Lake.

A very old abandoned Hudson Bay Post, very historic, is situated at the north end of this lake. We continued on down over Ponds rapid through the "Devils Gap" at Half Breed Portage finally coming to rest at a falls in a wide part of the river known as the Spout, the portage being called Sugar portage, for our noon day meal. This was so named as a raft of sugar went over the falls with loss of life during a freighting trip of the Hudsons Bay Co. After dinner we shot the Devil rapid and shortly after while travelling around Wilsons Bend, which is quite a sharp twist in the river, we met an old Indian friend of ours, Simion Cheecheego and travelling companion. After spending an hour chatting with Simion we said adieu and journeyed past the mouth of the Mattaichewan River to Albany rapids. This rapid is about three miles long and studded with huge rocks. We had to be careful in picking our way and shooting the few little swifts. We finally ended up at Big Beaver rapid where we spent the night. Here we had a rather unusual experience. The flies were very numerous so we thought that instead of sleeping in the open we would put up our canopies of which we had three. The tops were of very light canvas and the sides were cheese cloth. After making our beds of balsam boughs we had supper and proceeded to make bannock for the following day while the rest of the boys sat around the fire and told stories until it was time to turn in. After laying awake for a half hour or more I began to feel very itchy all over my body. The itching got so bad that I made the excuse that I was too hot and was going down near the water to sleep on the rocks. I was doing a lot of thinking hoping against hope that we had not contacted body vermin some place. Very soon who should wander down with their blankets and robes but the rest of the boys each of them making some excuse for not wishing to sleep under the canopy. After a very restless night amongst the mosquitoes and black flies we rose before sun-up and finally I broke the spell by asking if anyone was itchy during their stay under the canopies. They all broke out in the same chorus- "Itchy, not half".

Well, after searching in all quarters we found the cause of the itchiness. The sand flies had found their way into our blankets and robes from under the balsam boughs. After a refreshing swim in the river and a good breakfast of bacon, bannock and coffee we forgot all about the torture of the previous night and started on our trip again. After portaging over Big Beaver rapid we ran, in turn, Sharp Rock and Crown rapids and came to beautiful Glass Falls at Sandy Bay portage. Another few miles and we arrived at the Hudsons Bay Post of Mattice, on the Canadian National Railway, (Old Grand Trunk Pacific) at about ten in the morning. Here we decided to spend the rest of the day washing our clothes and darning socks. After paying our respects to the Hudsons Bay Factor we pitched our tent by the river close to the Indian Chief's home. When our socks were dry we undertook to darn them. One of the elder Indian girls was watching my feeble efforts with the darning needle. She started to laugh and informed me that I was not doing the job right so she undertook to erase the hole with yarn and did a much better job. After that we went visiting and replenished our supply of food at the Hudsons Bay store. We were shown every courtesy by the Factor.

After supper the Indian Chief came down to our tent and invited us to a dance being held in his home that evening. The cost for all of us was twenty five cents. I was intrigued with this request and asked the Chief what it was for. He said "to buy coal oil for the lamps". The money was cheerfully given and about eight o'clock that evening we found ourselves at the Chiefs home listening to music from two violins and a moose hide drum. Everyone danced jigs and reels which included the Midsummers Night and the Rabbit dance. To top off the evenings entertainment, Fred who is a violin player of no mean ability, gave the folks a lesson in step dancing which was received with loud cheers and hand clapping.

Next morning the Indian Chief and his family came to the river bank to bid farewell to us. The banks of the river were getting much higher, the river a little wider but much faster. We ran the Rock Island rapid and then portaged the Black Feather. Here we saw graves of men who lived in the far distant past and who were either drowned or killed while in the employ of the Hudson's Bay Co. Every few years a group is employed by this company to keep the graves in repair. It is an example of the high esteem in which these men were held by the Hudson's Bay Co. The next rapid below the Black Feather was where we had our only mishap of the trip. While running this rapid we hit a submerged rock, amidship and about two inches below the water line. We lost no time in running the remainder of the rapid and there was about two inches of water in the canoe when we landed. We turned the canoe upside down to the sun so that the six inch cut would dry to allow for patching. We decided to have dinner here. When we opened one of the packsacks we found that one of the tops had blown off one of the cans of jam. What a mess. Howard and Fred cooked dinner while the rest washed every article in and including the packsack and repaired the canoe. We were ready to resume our journey about one o'clock.

The next rapid of note was the long dangerous Kettle Portage. Long flat shelves of rock form the sides. It derives its name from the perfectly round holes observed at the bottom. These holes vary in diameter to fifteen inches and are of an unknown depth. They were no doubt formed by the water washing out a deposit of softer rock that had formed in the harder rock. We were making excellent progress and the swiftness of the river made paddling much easier. We sailed past the mouth of the Mattawishkiwa River in high spirits. The next rapid was the Conquering House where in years gone by the Hudson's Bay Co. had a winter post. It was now deserted. This rapid is about five miles long. It is dotted with numerous rocks jutting to a distance of six feet or more above the water line. We laid our paddles aside and cut poles to

to guide our canoes through this jungle of rock. At the foot of this rapid we spent the night high on a bank overlooking the rapid. Fresh fish was caught for supper and after an exchange of stories and many laughs we turned in with the knowledge that we had come a very considerable distance that day even though we had been delayed for an extra hour by our little mishap in the morning.

We were up bright and early the next morning with a determination to be camped on the Moose River that evening. In our haste to depart we left behind, Mike's camera, some clothes and dishes. But what are they on a trip like this. We shot Frenchman's rapid and then portaged Frenchman's Gorge. It is a very beautiful place. The gorge is cut out of red granite and the square cut rock is topped with black spruce. What a place to stop and ponder over the beauties of nature that the north is so profusely endowed with. We then ran Store rapid, went by the mouth of the Pivabiska River and eventually came to Long rapid. It is cut out of red granite. It is a canyon and so wild that only those with wings would venture along it's course. The portage is a mile and immediately at the bottom we were met with a long series of rapids known as Hell's Gates. It was cut through high forbidding rock walls and is about five miles long. We ran them and arrived safely at the bottom with little water in the canoes from the swells. We then passed the Wowieastha an Indian name for a very steep bank on a curve of the river and continued down past the mouths of the Wabishagami and Soveska rivers and came to an old prospectors cabin still in good shape. A few feet from the cabin the owner had built a bushmans oven out of clay in which bread was made. We then reached the Opazatika river where two twin calf moose were playing in the shallows. We had dinner a few miles from the Moose River and while Donald and Mike cooked the repast we tried to catch sturgeon that were laying in the pools near the shore. Shortly after we were on our way again we entered the mighty Moose River at the junction of the Missinabi and

and Mattagami Rivers. At the point where these rivers join is a large island that the Indians call "Kissass". Behind are Grey Goose and Merry islands. Also at this point the river widens considerably. We were confronted with the only rain on our journey at this point. The rain came down very heavily for two hours while we lay under the canoes on a rocky shore to keep dry. About four o'clock the rain ceased and the sun came out, nice and warm. We continued on our way and eventually camped for the night at the white limestone rocks on the Moose. The low rock cliffs are very white and soft. They form the river bank for about one mile. The next morning we travelled down the broad expanse of the Moose, past the mouth of the Abitibi and Kwataboahegan rivers and dined at the foot of a rapid where the view ahead was nothing but sky and water, the river was descending so quickly. We reached Moose Factory about four in the afternoon.

We had made this trip in six days, travelling time. It is a record and still stands to this day (1967). Only two other parties have been known to make this journey in the past 35 years and have taken two weeks to traverse what we did in six days.

For the next two weeks we stayed at Jenny Massey's home with her husband at Moose Factory. Jenny is known to many people at Chapleau by her maiden name of Corston. We visited old friends and made many new ones. We loafed and rested. It was a grand picnic. Mike, Oliver and I were recruited to play ball for the Moose Factory team. Games were played frequently with the team from Moosonee, alternating between the two settlements. Then came the day when we had to depart, so early one morning we left for home. Our course back to Chapleau was via the Moose, up the Mattagami and then into the Kapuskasing rivers to the town of Kapuskasing. From here we continued on to Elsas on the Canadian National Railway at the northeastern corner of the Chapleau Game Preserve, then into the Nemegosenda River to Trout Lake and into Twin, Round, West, LePlane, Emerald and Loon or Borden lakes. A portage of

a mile took us into the Chapleau River and another three miles brought us back to our starting point at Chapleau.

Notes of the return trip have been lost but it was made in 12 days travelling time from the junction of the Mattagami and Missinaibi Rivers. For the first two or three days we propelled the canoes with poles as paddles were useless against the fast water and rapids.

We worked much harder and longer hours on the return trip than we did on the downward course.

Life's Sacred Journey Report - *Eva Brenda Armstrong*



Wachay

My name is Brenda Armstrong, and I am the Band Representative for Chapleau Cree First Nation's Life's Sacred Journey Program. I am excited to be servicing our Band Members with the knowledge and skills I carry with many years' experience working within the various Child Welfare and Prevention agencies. I look forward to building relationships with our Band Members and servicing them to suit their individual needs.

As part of my role as Band Representative, I support Band Members who may be involved with Child Welfare agencies. I will continue to guide and provide direction, so they understand their rights for themselves and their children. Families always have the right to have a Band Representative with them during any Child Welfare meetings, home visits and telephone calls. Under Part X of the Child Welfare Act, it is the Child Welfare agency's responsibility to notify both the Chief and Band Representative when there is involvement with our Band Members and

affiliates of Chapleau Cree First Nation. All information is kept secured and confidential.

It is important that Child Welfare agencies are practicing Customary Care with our Band Members. Should a Band Member or affiliate require removal of child/ren from the home our practice is to place with family Members or friends of the family where there is no risk of harm to the child/ren. Chapleau Cree supports child/ren to remain in their home community. The First Nation will enter into a Customary Care Agreement with the parents, the First Nation, the Child Welfare agency, and the caregivers caring for the child/ren. It is custom for our First Nation to practice our way of life and avoid the use of court proceedings while the parents make changes to lower the risks for the child/ren to be returned to their care. We have support services for court, and we have legal counsel for Child Welfare matters.

Life's Sacred Journey has recently hired a Data Entry Clerk. We have purchased a high-quality secure data information system. It is important that as service providers, we at Life's Sacred Journey with Chapleau Cree First Nation hold a high respect for our Members and confidentiality is our top priority for servicing our Band Members.

Life's Sacred Journey's Community Culture Prevent and Wellness worker offers programs such as parenting and life skills, children/youth programs, anger management, school support for students, and other programs that will benefit our Members should they require support for any services. Due to COVID-19, programs may be set up at ZOOM or by numbers allowed inside and outside. Life's Sacred Journey continues to network with other programs within the Chapleau Cree First Nation such as our Health and Cultural department.

The youth play an important role in our future and they will be able to voice their suggestions for the services they feel would

be beneficial to the Youth Program.

It is very important that we include our Elders when planning events as they have much knowledge to share to guide our Members.

Life's Sacred Journey, Community Culture Prevention and Wellness worker, will be doing home visits and obtain ideas or programs that our Members would like to see happening in the community. Should our Band Members require support or assistance with anything they feel important, our program may be able to assist or refer you to services that can assist you, your family, and the community. Our program can request knowledge keepers, facilitators, or healers for ceremonies.

Over the past year, Life's Sacred Journey assisted with the costs of the COVID-19 gift cards, supplies for families and the annual Chapleau Cree First Nation Cultural Harvest. The Annual Fish Derby was enjoyed by all and the program networked with all departments within Chapleau Cree First Nation. The Annual Cultural Harvest

was a great event that puts our Members out on the land and gather and unite as we did historically as First Nation people. Life's Sacred Journey had events for medicine-bag-making, a scavenger hunt which entailed gatherings of Creation from the earth and Community Members were able to make a medicine wheel.

Life's Sacred Journey has offered financial assistance with gift cards for emergency situations. Band Members can utilize Jordan's Principal as well to obtain financial assistance.

Your vision for our program is important to us and all Band Members. Should you have any questions, enquires or visions feel free to contact our program and we will do everything we can to assist and guide you.

Respectfully,

Eva Brenda Armstrong
Band Representative



Lands and Resources Report - Janet Broomhead

Forests

In January 2020, on my first day of work as Lands and Resources Director, I attended the Forest Sector Strategy Regional Consultation Session with Chief Corston in Timmins. This meeting set the stage for Chapleau Cree First Nation's land management direction, and all the work that has taken place since then.

We attended this meeting and others like it to protest the lack of meaningful consultation when the new forestry strategy was drafted. Leading up to this, in prior years, Chapleau Cree First Nation advocated for a Customized Consultation Approach (CCA) for forest management to uphold First Nations' Aboriginal and Treaty rights. The CCA is a mechanism that when used will go further to accommodate our input on the sustainability of the forests and the protection of the environment. None of this had happened, and a new provincial forestry regime was set to deploy.

It was clear that the Crown was not moving forward honourably. As a result, three First Nations, namely Chapleau Cree,

Missanabie Cree and Brunswick House, hired Westaway Law Group to challenge Ontario's Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks for its refusal to give an Environmental Assessment for the Gordon Cosens Forest Management Plan.

Chief Corston galvanized leadership at the Tribal Councils to take action. Mushkegowuk Council, Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN), and the Chiefs of Ontario (COO) support our legal challenge. Some have launched legal action of their own on similar issues. These issues affect all forests and all Ontario First Nations.

Since the legal action began, over 40 meetings have taken place on two fronts: 1) the ongoing negotiation to finalize an agreement with the Ministry for customized forestry consultation; and 2) the Judicial Review.

With increased pressure on the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, progress has been made on the draft Customized Consultation framework. We continue to push for resources to fund implementation.



The court date for the Judicial Review has been set for March 9, 2021.

Land Use Requests

Beyond the forestry consultations, a variety of land use requests cross my desk, including work permits (culvert and boat launch at Nagasin Lake); getting maps for CCFN projects (Sideburned, Grassy and Schewabik Lakes); Harvesting applications; and Land Tenure consultation requests.

By far the vast majority of consultation requests are Early Exploration permit applications from Ontario's Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (MENDM).

In the past months, we received a dozen Early Exploration permit applications. Each has been reviewed to ensure that no cultural values are impacted by early exploration activities.

When a cultural value near the claims is identified, further actions are taken to protect the land. Our goal is also to ensure that there is an agreed understanding of land use with the applicant and that the economic benefits of the land are shared with Chapleau Cree First Nation. To that end, we have signed several Memoranda of Understanding, and others are in the process of being agreed.

Time was also spent locating past permits that have been issued, so that we have a clearer understanding of activity that is taking place on the Traditional Territory. So far, eleven more permits have been found, and a review of location and cultural values is underway.



One goal going forward is to expand and update Traditional Ecological Knowledge on the homeland through community interviews and GIS mapping.

Working with the Crown and Industry

We have had one unprecedented success story. We worked closely with the Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines and succeeded in protecting areas of concern identified within a mining claim. Timelines were extended to complete the consultation, and for the first time, cultural values were protected. Some of the drill holes that were originally planned for the site were removed from the workplan entirely. Other areas further away from the drill sites were protected with buffers. Stipulations were noted in the Early Exploration Permit.

With Council's approval, I now act as a resource to our Band Representative on Newmont's Environmental Management Committee. This is an important



communication link to share information with the Band Representative, the IBA Coordinator and Newmont to ensure cultural values are protected.

Learning through Collaboration

Ongoing learning and collaboration strengthen my role as your Lands and Resources Director. Our work is interconnected, and I meet regularly with David Flood, the General Manager of Wahcohtowin Development. Valuable support has come from him on forestry strategy and the building of the department.

Prior to the COVID-19 lockdown, I attended

meetings organized by Wahkohtowin in Timmins. Topics included governance for the Missinaibi Enhanced Sustainable Forest Licence (eSFL); Indigenous Forestry Workshop; and a presentation by Boreal Products for the Tree to Home initiative.

As an observer, I attended two Directors' Meetings for Missinaibi Forest Management Inc. with Chief Corston, and Wahkohtowin's Annual General Meeting. All have given me a deeper understanding of governance from a First Nation's perspective.

I also attended several virtual workshops with Mushkegowuk Council. Topics included the Global Importance of Conserving the Hudson Bay Lowlands; Mining Exploration Plans and Permits; Treaty Rights and Duty to Consult. The last two sessions on Treaty Rights and Duty to Consult were facilitated by Luke Hunter from Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN). As a group, we reiterated the need for Environmental Laws developed by the tribal council. This would strengthen our position in all consultations.

Looking Ahead

The focus of the coming months will be to build the capacity of the Lands and Resources Department. This means more people, where each team Member will have a dedicated role.



Although we are heading into the winter season, the work is far from dormant. During these next months, we will ready ourselves for the new beginnings of spring and the work to come.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Broomhead
Lands and Resources Director



Wahkohtowin - David Flood



Wahkohtowin
Development GP Inc.

*Your First Nation owned
Community Partner in
Developing Sustainability*

Wacheyay, Ahnii from Wahkohtowin!

Priority Projects

- 1) Provide the oversight and management of Wahkohtowin Development to meet the Strategic Plan 2018 – 2024 outcomes and priorities.
- 2) Support completion of Customized Consultation Approach outcomes for Forest Management Planning – both the Judicial Review cases and the accelerated negotiations.
- 3) Lead Business Development and Fee for Service delivery by Wahkohtowin Staff – target 50% of gross income by 2024.
- 4) Guardian Program Development – Program Manager Hired – Programming and fundraising underway.

Business Development

Tree to Home – Received IIHI Grant in January 2020

- Goal is to partner with Boreal Products to create affordable thermo log home kits using the supply chain from Hornepayne and establish manufacturing in Ontario.
- Currently focusing on a build for each First Nation – with \$30k to offset costs to a project.
- Missanabie Cree FN was exploring replacing Island View Lodge and has now focused on a Cultural Building (see draft images)

Wawa Wood Processing Plant

- Currently have an Non-Disclosure Agreement in place
- Targeted operations start spring/fall 2021

NEW – Solar Thermal Panels – NRCAN Pilot with Guardian Program

- Build and install systems at community homes or other facilities as a skills transfer initiative and bring energy cost offset to households. (Would see a \$42k contract to compete 4 installations – ending Aug 2021)

Enhanced Sustainable Forest Licence – Missinaibi Forest

The Shareholder Agreement is in place and a management body has been formed Missinaibi Forest Management Inc. to begin implementing the agreement and organize future management.



Important:

- Selecting a Board of Director (currently Chiefs)
- Selecting Representation on Operations Committee and First Nations Committee
- Wahkohtowin is attempting to negotiate space in forest management and operational services contractual opportunities; this will put our staff compliment to good use on behalf of the communities (generate revenue) and see integration of our Guardian Program (Youth focused) into projects and initiatives.

Active Programs and Applications

- Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency – Indigenous Participation Fund Climate Action – Environment Canada and Climate Change
- CORDA – Completion of Renovations – Innovation Lab 40 Pine Street NOHFC – Completion of Renovations – Innovation Lab 40 Pine Street McConnell Foundation – Guardian Program
- Federal – Ministry of Justice – Natural Law Initiatives – Guardian Program

Strategic Partnerships

- Our First Nations owners – we are committed to providing services to support the development of Lands and Resources Departments
- Ecotrust Canada – a not for profit that introduced the concept of Conservation Economy where we explore diversifying the economy beyond traditional commercial industry – the team at Ecotrust provide expertise and participate in application development.
- Canadian Forest Service – Herbicide Alternative Program – building investments into research and projects to generate reforestation and silviculture

system alternatives that will lead to the no more Herbicide Spray.

- Mistikuskahk Resources Inc – partnered with First Resources Management Group
- FSC Canada – NEW National Certification Standard. – project with ECCC to raise awareness of the new national forest certification standard, explore landscape level solutions, upholding Indigenous Peoples rights, species at risk, and establishing three coordinators to conduct outreach located in western, central and eastern Canada.

Chi-Miigwetch,

David Flood, RPF
General Manager

Current Staffing

Financial Controller: *Marguerite Ross*
Project Forester: *Isabelle Allen, RPF*
Senior Project Manager: *Chelsie Parayko*
Guardian Program Coordinator: *Amberly Quakegisic*
Seasonal Guardian: *Jacey Jolivet*
Wildlife Biologist – Intern: *Elena McCullough*





After a **fire** completely destroyed their home in 2019, the community is **delighted** to see the family move into their new home and wish them a lifetime of new memories.



Staff Directory



Chapleau Cree First Nation

Box 400, 828 Fox Lake Road, Chapleau, ON, P0M 1K0

Band Administration | Phone: 705-864-0784 | Fax: 705-864-1760

Chief	Keith "Keeter" Corston	222	chief@chapleaucree.ca
Band Administrator	Edith Larocque	226	bandadmin@chapleaucree.ca
Senior Assistant for Chief	Kara Dupuis	222	chiefassist@chapleaucree.ca
Receptionist / Admin Assistant	Cheryl MacDonald	221	reception@chapleaucree.ca
Financial Controller	Lorelei Moreau	225	finance@chapleaucree.ca
Accounting Clerk	Connie Martin	229	finance2@chapleaucree.ca
Finance Clerk	Chalias Caldwell		finance3@chapleaucree.ca
Lands and Resources Director	Janet Broomhead	232	landsdirector@chapleaucree.ca
Economic Development Officer	Peggy Domingue	231	edo@chapleaucree.ca
Communications Coordinator	Matthew Dupuis	223	communications@chapleaucree.ca
Custodian	Stephane Cherneski		admincustodian@chapleaucree.ca
Environmental Monitor	Dustin Van Horne		envmonitor@chapleaucree.ca

Education | Phone: 705-864-0784 | Fax: 705-864-1760

Education & Membership Clerk	Stephanie Scott	227	education@chapleaucree.ca
Aboriginal Student Support Worker	Marlina Cloutier		education1@chapleaucree.ca
Aboriginal Student Support Worker	Cindy Fletcher		education2@chapleaucree.ca
Aboriginal Student Support Worker	Sandra Ruffo		education3@chapleaucree.ca
Bus Driver	Charles Orton		schoolbus@chapleaucree.ca

Chapleau Cree Health Centre | Phone: 705-864-0200 | Fax: 705-864-0206

Healthcare Coordinator	Tracy Martin	202	healthcarecoordinator@chapleaucreehealth.ca
Program Facilitator	Amanda Domingue	206	programfacilitator@chapleaucreehealth.ca
Financial Programmer	Lorraine Desormiers	204	financialprogrammer@chapleaucreehealth.ca
Cultural Coordinator	Cheryl Dupuis	217	culture@chapleaucree.ca
Administrative Support	Dianna Sanchioni	201	reception@chapleaucreehealth.ca
Registered Nurse	Barb Cormier	205	registerednurse@chapleaucreehealth.ca
Home Support Worker	Terri Bouchard		homesupport@chapleaucreehealth.ca
Home Support Worker	Renee Caldwell		homesupport1@chapleaucreehealth.ca
Janitor	Donna Roy		janitor@chapleaucreehealth.ca

Life's Sacred Journey | Phone: 705-860-0003 | Fax: 705-860-0004

Band Representative	Eva Brenda Armstrong	P:705-860-0003, F:705-860-0004	bandrep@lifessacredjourney.ca
Prevention	Dakota Souliere	P:705-860-0001, F:705-860-0002	prevention@lifessacredjourney.ca
Data Entry Clerk	Gordon Scott		dataentryclerk@lifessacredjourney.ca
Alternative Band Representative	Edith Larocque	P:705-864-0784, F:705-864-1760	altbandrep@lifessacredjourney.ca

Public Works | Phone: 705-864-0784 | Fax: 705-864-1760

Public Works/Water Plant Manager	Allan Dupuis	WTP: 260	wtpw@chapleaucree.ca
PWG Maintenance	Joshua Raposo		publicworks1@chapleaucree.ca
PWG Maintenance	Eric Caldwell		publicworks2@chapleaucree.ca
PWG Maintenance	Brandon Ruffo		publicworks3@chapleaucree.ca
PWG Maintenance	Joshua Boucher		publicworks4@chapleaucree.ca

Chapleau Cree Auto/Truck Garage | Phone: 705-864-9090 | Fax: 705-864-2797

CCAT Mechanic/Manager	Albert Lapierre	40 Mukeso Road	autotruck@chapleaucree.ca
CCAT Mechanic 1	Ulric Larocque		autotruck1@chapleaucree.ca

Chapleau Cree Small Engine Repair | Phone/Fax: 705-864-1045

Small Engine Manager	Michel Lasante	40 Mukeso Road	smallengine@chapleaucree.ca
Small Engine Mechanic	Nick Lasante		smallengine1@chapleaucree.ca

Pimii Kamik Gas Bar | Phone: 705-864-0781 | Fax: 705-864-2921

Pimii Kamik Manager	Brenda Murray	566 Fox Lake Road	pimiikamik@chapleaucree.ca
Gas Bar Clerk	Suzanne Lecuyer		pimiikamik1@chapleaucree.ca
Gas Bar Clerk	Linda Gordon		pimiikamik2@chapleaucree.ca
Gas Bar Clerk	Claude Lortie		pimiikamik3@chapleaucree.ca
Gas Bar Clerk	Jeremy Lefebvre		pimiikamik5@chapleaucree.ca
Gas Bar Clerk	Evangeline Barsalou		pimiikamik6@chapleaucree.ca
Gas Bar Clerk	Vacant		pimiikamik7@chapleaucree.ca
Gas Bar Clerk	Real Mailloux		pimiikamik8@chapleaucree.ca
Gas Bar Clerk	Lillianne Levesque		pimiikamik9@chapleaucree.ca
Gas Bar Clerk	Kevin Paquin		pimiikamik10@chapleaucree.ca

Mukeso House | 809 Fox Lake Road

Upcoming Important Dates

Dec. 25, 2020: Christmas Day

Dec. 26, 2020: Boxing Day

Jan. 1, 2021: New Year's Day

Feb. 15, 2021: Family Day

Mar. 14, 2021: Spring Equinox (Daylight Saving Time)

Apr. 2, 2021: Good Friday

Apr. 5, 2021: Easter Monday

May 24, 2021: Victoria Day

May 31, 2021: World No Tobacco Day

June 21, 2021: National Indigenous Peoples Day

Chapleau Cree First Nation

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