

# Mattagami First Nation *DRUM*



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Volume Four  
Issue Two

# WORDS FROM THE CHIEF



**Chief Chad  
Boissoneau  
Mattagami  
First Nation**

Welcome to this issue of our Mattagami Drum Magazine. I want to thank everyone who supported me in the spring election and I am honoured once again to represent you as Chief of our First Nation. I want to express my thanks and the gratitude of members of Mattagami First Nation to outgoing Chief Walter Naveau for his hard work over the past 10 years in his position as leader of the community. Walter was elected for five consecutive two year terms. He will continue to assist on many levels with his experience and knowledge.

I also welcome our newly elected council members and I look forward to working with them and our administration to serve our membership to the best of our abilities. Congratulations to council members re-elected including: Leonard Naveau Sr., Larry Naveau, Jennifer Constant and Gary Naveau. Welcome to newly elected Wendy DeBastos.

We have one of the most progressive and vibrant First Nations in Canada with so many positive things happening in terms of resource development negotiations and agreements that have provided jobs and training for our people in

working with Wabun Tribal Council and other Wabun First Nations over the years. Most recently we are in negotiations with IAMGOLD as we already had an Exploration Agreement with them and now moving in to further agreements with the hope that the company's exploration develops into a mine.

We have put together a Development Corporation which is controlled by M'hiigan Limited Partnership, a company owned by Mattagami First Nation. This new Development Corporation is in partnership with Certhia, a major project development company. This will all help us in terms of resource development and take pressure off our council and staff in dealing with economic initiatives.

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## ***There is more positive development these days with the Harmony Project***

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Recently we have embarked on developing more new housing for our community and in securing funding for ongoing projects. I know that everyone is very excited to see new housing units being developed and there is such a need as our First Nation is growing with people coming back to the community to work and raise their families. This is a time of growth for us and we need to make sure we are accessing the optimum in funding for housing and infrastructure to accommodate our members and meet the needs of growth into the future.

Our volunteerism in Mattagami First Nation is very enthusiastic with our annual fishing derbys, Beaverfest and the traditional Pow Wow. The Pow Wow is set for August 19 to 20 so make sure to mark

that on your calendar and come out to join in dancing, drumming, singing and traditional and cultural events.

I have been fortunate to be involved in leadership over the years on council so I have watched the First Nation grow and prosper. Things have changed a lot since I was Chief years ago. One of the biggest and most progressive changes has had to do with how our Executive Director, Juanita Luke has developed a better working relationship between Chief and Council, administration and staff as well as our membership. Things are much better these days with open houses that create an opportunity for our leadership to meet with and hear from our staff and membership. There is more positive development these days with this Harmony Project driven strategy that links us back to the original more organic type of government our First Nations experienced in the distant past.

I am very proud of our how First Nation managed to rise to the challenge of dealing with the major CN derailment we experienced. As a key member of our team set up to deal with this crisis, we have managed to assist the government and CN in terms of making things right with clean up and provisions made to our community. As lead person in developing our local Fish Hatchery project and because of my own experiences growing up on the land involved in our traditional and cultural pursuits I took great pride in how our First Nation and the nearby community of Gogama combined to ensure the government and CN moved ahead with an ongoing clean up and monitoring of the water and land affected by the spill and fire resulting from the derailment. We are also very grateful for the support we received from Dr David Suzuki who visited our community.

We have a lot of work to do and I am enjoying the challenges ahead with a supportive and hard working Council, administration and staff. Our time has come.

## **Front Cover Photo**

*The 18th Annual Spring Walleye Tournament had a delayed start as heavy fog and cold weather affected the event. Pictured are anglers on Lake Mattagami on the first morning of the tournament.*  
photo by MFN Fishing

# Election 2017 Results

Mattagami First Nation elections were held April 7, 2017. Chad Boissoneau was elected Chief in a very close election that resulted in second place showing for outgoing Chief Walter Naveau. Leonard Naveau Sr., Larry Naveau, Jennifer Constant and Gary Naveau were all re-elected to council while Wendy DeBastos was elected for the first time.

Chief Boissoneau has held the position of Chief from 2001 to 2004 when he helped to direct his community towards resource development initiatives and job creation. Most recently, he has been involved in leading the Canadian National Railway derailment and spill cleanup for the community and as well developed and directed a Walleye Hatchery project for the community. He has also been involved in many projects over the years related to forestry, job training and business development and has an extensive background working for natural resource initiatives. He completed three years of education as a Forestry Technician.

"I want to thank Walter for all the hard work and dedication he did for Mattagami First Nation. He was elected for five consecutive terms as

Chief and I know we can count on him for continued input and guidance. I also want to congratulate all those councillors re-elected and we are happy to see a new face in Wendy DeBastos joining council for the first time," commented Chief Boissoneau.

DeBastos is involved with her husband and sons in DeBastos & Sons, a forestry business that has been family run since 1987.

"I want to thank everyone who

voted for me and I am committed to serving the community to the best of my ability. I am eager to learn and I want to bring the voices of our Elders and youth also to council as I spend as much time as possible to meet and chat with them to get their input and views on what they want for the First Nation. I believe we are on the right path in terms of growth for the future and I am excited to be a part of leadership for our community," said DesBastos.



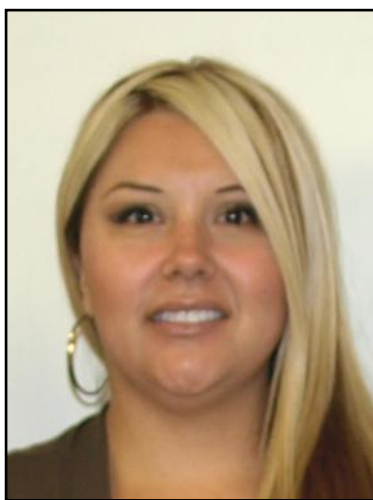
***Wendy DeBastos  
Mattagami FN Councillor  
(first election)***



***Larry Naveau  
Mattagami FN Councillor  
(re-elected)***



***Elder Leonard Naveau  
Mattagami FN Councillor  
(re-elected)***



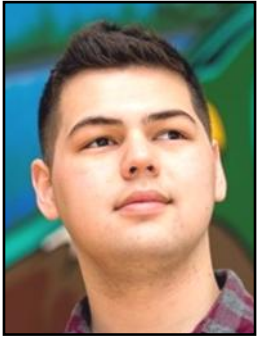
***Jennifer Constant  
Mattagami FN Councillor  
(re-elected)***



***Gary Naveau  
Mattagami FN Councillor  
(re-elected)***



# Kloetstra Develops Diaspora Project



**Sam  
Mukwa  
Kloetstra**  
Mattagami  
First Nation

Sam Mukwa Kloetstra, a member of Mattagami First Nation, is developing a new initiative titled 'Mattagami Diaspora Project' to more firmly connect the community's off reserve members to their home First Nation. 'Diaspora' is defined as the dispersion of any people from their original homeland.

"This is a two fold project that will try to better understand who our off reserve members are and then find ways to connect them to Mattagami First Nation. When I left Mattagami to go to Toronto at the age of 17, I never realized that as a First Nation person we really need that support of our home

community. I learned that with my move to the city," said Kloetstra.

He explained that it is not just about what First Nations can offer in terms of support services to their off reserve members. In the long run, it is beneficial for First Nations to stay connected to its full membership as those individuals can offer their experience and knowledge in turn to help their home First Nation.

Out of the close to 600 members that make up Mattagami FN, over 60 percent reside off reserve in cities and towns across the province, Canada and even internationally.

Kloetstra initiated this project by starting a first phase which involves meeting with Mattagami FN members in various locations throughout Ontario. He hopes to continue meeting members and eventually also gather input from the local community in Mattagami FN. The project is currently still in development but Kloetstra plans to move on to a five phase strategy to gather input and find out how to best connect the dispersed members of

Mattagami FN back to their home community.

"This has been a very eye opening experience as I got to discover members who live in cities and towns in southern Ontario and also in other territories like Nunavut and internationally in the United Kingdom," said Kloetstra.

Over the past few years, he has been active in various Indigenous projects and programs in southern Ontario. He has held positions as a youth representative for the Ontario Ministry of Education Student Advisory Committee, Premier's Council on Youth Opportunities, Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) Youth Cabinet as well as representing youth issues at various regional and provincial forums and organizations.

He also helped to cofound Indigenous Place Making Council, a non-profit organization that aims to restore Indigenous presence to cities, towns and communities, by creating architectural structures or gathering places under the leadership and guidance of Indigenous youth.

## Annual Beaverfest A Success

Mattagami First Nation hosted the Annual Beaverfest in the community on May 6, 2017. The one day event brought together over 350 community members and visitors to take in the celebration of trapping culture and local heritage. The event was led by First Nation Councillor Larry Naveau and his daughter Jessica Naveau, who are both active organizers in the community who try to promote and foster aboriginal cultural practices and local heritage.

"The event was another success for us as it brought together many people to take part in and experience a part of our community's and our people's traditions, culture and history. The event displays the trapping culture but it also promotes our traditional practices of living on the land and our connection to this way of living. We keep events like this going because we want to show our young people that this is how our people lived long ago and that they can still take part in it," explained Larry Naveau.

The event featured live demonstrations of animal skinning and prepara-

tions, which were done by Elder Leonard Naveau, a seasoned trapper who was born and raised on lands near Mattagami FN. The event also featured educational and informative presentations by the Timmins Fur Council. Traditional foods were also served and included roasted beaver and goose. The dinner, which included contemporary foods was also served at the community complex. Musical entertainment was provided by 'Matt James and Railroad Steele' headed by Matt Naveau, a member of Mattagami First Nation.

Larry Naveau, his daughter Jessica Naveau and his father Elder Leonard Naveau are passionate about promoting aboriginal culture, heritage and their people's way of life. Their family has been active promoters of Beaverfest since it was started and they have also been instrumental in developing several major fishing tournaments in the community including the Annual Walleye Tournament held in June every year.

"Trapping and fishing is not all about gathering wildlife from the land.

When we spend time together on the land, it is also an opportunity to take part in our oral history and hear the stories of our families. There is a lot to be learned on the land and it is our hope that our young people can take part in this important tradition far into the future. It is important to keep this heritage alive," said Larry Naveau.

The event was sponsored by Mattagami First Nation, Carol Equipment, Debastos & Sons, Wabun Tribal Council, Ojibway & Cree Cultural Centre, Ontario Power Generation (OPG), J & L Retreat and the Mattagami Health Clinic.

"We are grateful to all our sponsors, our volunteers, the community and everyone that came out to make this another successful Annual Beaverfest," said Larry Naveau.

Beaverfest was founded in the spring of 2000 by Elder Leonard Naveau who is also a First Nation Councillor, in cooperation with friends from the Gogama Fur Council. Elder Leonard Naveau ran the event for many years before handing it off to his son and grand daughter.

# The Passing Of An Elder

Mattagami First Nation is mourning the passing of an historic and legendary Elder Norman Stewart Naveau who died on July 17, 2017 at the age of 83.

He was raised in a traditional lifestyle on the old reserve lands of Mattagami First Nation. He spent his childhood and early life as a trapper with his family as they lived on the land in the territory around Mattagami FN. As an adult, he took on various jobs with mining companies. In 1967, he attended adult school in Elliot Lake which allowed him to move on to training in Timmins as a Diesel Mechanic for a year and then graduate as a certified Journeyman. As a certified tradesman, he went on to work at the MacIntyre Mine and Texas Gulf Mine in Timmins and at an open pit mine in Foleyet.

"When I left my last mining job, I came back to my home community to take part in one of the first drug and alcohol abuse programs in our First Nation and became an alcohol abuse counsellor for two years," said Elder Naveau during an interview in 2002.

In the 1970s, he became politically involved in newly formed Aboriginal organizations that would later become Nishnawbe-Aski Nation. He was appointed by Chiefs in northeastern Ontario to represent what was then recognized as the Wabun area of Treaty #9. He held this position for five years and the area and its First Nations later went on to form Wabun Tribal Council.

In 1967, he married his wife Margaret Naveau, who was originally from Winisk First Nation on the Hudson Bay coast. She was a political leader and actually served as Chief of Mattagami FN. They were both hard working individuals. They moved their family to Toronto where they found employment and later to Sioux Lookout where they both worked for Native organizations.

Throughout his life, Elder Norman Naveau was also a musician and performer who played fiddle. At the age of ten, he learned how to play from his father Walter Naveau Sr. and other old time fiddlers from the community. At first he played for himself and his family as they moved about on the land but as he grew more proficient, he was recognized for his musical ability and won recognition at musical competitions and events. He had the opportunity to perform at the prestigious Deerhurst Resort in Huntsville and was asked to perform in venues in southern Ontario and even

into the United States.

"My music has come in handy and helped me to find work. Once when I traveled south to Temagami in search of work, I was not able to find anything. One evening I attended a wedding dance at a place called Bear Island and asked if I could provide the entertainment and play my fiddle. No one knew who I was but everyone enjoyed the music and had a great time square dancing. By the end of the night I had such a good reception that a contractor in the audience came to me after to offer me a job as a carpenter if I agreed to play at the hall every Tuesday and Friday," said Elder Norman Naveau in an earlier interview.

His children remember him as a devoted father, grandfather and great-grandfather, who was also capable of connecting to everyone he met.

"He treated everyone with kindness and humour. Whenever we saw him or when other people visited, he was always able to find some connection or a fun story to share. He had so much knowledge and history of our community and our people and it never ceased to amaze us to find out how many people he knew or that remembered him," said his daughter Dorothy Naveau.

Elder Norman Naveau had a positive and long lasting impact on his grandchildren.

"I recalled spending a lot of time with my grandfather over the years. He would come and pick me up and take me out to teach me many things about our traditions and culture and community. I will miss him deeply," commented grandson Joshua Luke.

The family expresses gratitude to the community of Mattagami FN for all their support during this difficult time in the loss of Elder Naveau. They are also grateful to the Mattagami FN Health



staff for all the help they provided to their father over the years.

"There were so many people that came to see our family and attend the funeral. It was heartwarming to know that our parents had touched so many lives and although it was a sad reunion we were happy to see everyone who came from all over the country," commented Dorothy Naveau.

Elder Norman Naveau was predeceased by his wife Margaret (nee Patrick) Naveau, his parents Walter and Mary Jane (nee Wawatay) Naveau, his sisters Maggie and Marlene and by his brothers Roy, James, Frederick and Nelson. He is survived by his daughters Dorothy Naveau (Curtis Fowler), Cathy Stoney (Stephen), Kimberly Naveau (Denis Legault) and Beverly Naveau (Brad Picody), his step-son Michel Gauthier; his grandchildren Joshua, Megan, Ryan, Brandon, Jordan, Kanee-sha, Adam, Jerrica, Grayson, Brittany, Amanda, Sage, Isaiah, Jacob, Ambrose and Samara; his great-grandchildren Remiah, Brayden, Bravery, Archie, Dyson, Nodin, Loz, Faith, Richie, Isaiah Jr. and Nibii; his sister Evelyn Boissonneau and by his brother Morris Naveau (Halina).

The family received friends and community members on July 19 at the community complex and a funeral service was held on July 20. Interment was held at the Mattagami First Nation Cemetery.



ELDER NORMAN NAVEAU (RIGHT WITH FIDDLE) AND LES LOUITTIT ON GUITAR BACK IN THE EARLY DAYS OF NISHNAWBE-ASKI NATION (NAN).



# New Housing For Mattagami FN

submitted by Tracy Harnack

Currently Mattagami First Nation (MFN) rental housing portfolio contains 18 rental units which are comprised of a triplex, fourplex, single dwelling units as well as teacherage units. To date there are 65 more homes located within the First Nation.

In May of 2016, Tracy Harnack along with Gerald Luke, who is part of the Public Works staff submitted an application to Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) for the On-Reserve Funding under Federal Budget 2016 'Immediate Needs' Construction of Multi-Units. INAC advised of approval for MFN's application and they were awarded three new duplexes for a total of six units. These units are recognized as social housing and will be completed before the end of 2017.

Along with the application submitted in May of 2016 to INAC an additional application was submitted for Capacity and Development/Innovation Fund. Mattagami received funding under the Innovation Fund to help develop a Housing Committee to implement new housing governance models to support the housing portfolio. With this funding, we were able to hire two housing assistants to assist Tracy Harnack in the development and creation of a Housing Committee. In May of 2017 Cheryl McKay and Candice Andress began their position and will work with Tracy Harnack until March 2018. Some of their duties are facilitating Community consultations, developing surveys and questionnaires, research, write and produce a policy defining the roles and responsibilities of a Housing Committee, and informing Chief & Council as well as community members through newsletters, the website, and community presentations.

In 2016, Mattagami submitted a total of 10 applications to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) under the On-Reserve Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP). The objective of this program is to assist with the repair and renovations of existing substandard housing in First Nation Communities, in order to bring the dwelling to minimum level of health and safety and to prolong the life of homes. All 10 applications were accepted and approved.



THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING FROM L-R: CANDICE ANDRESS, HOUSING ASSISTANT; CHERYL MCKAY, HOUSING ASSISTANT; SYDNEY CONSTANT, TENANT RELATIONS OFFICER AND TRACY HARNACK, PUBLIC WORKS & HOUSING DIRECTOR.

Currently 5 homes are completed with the remainder anticipated to be completed by the end of 2017.

Another new position was made possible through CMHC under the Housing Internship Initiative for First Nation and Inuit Youth Program (HII-FNIY). Sydney Constant began in July 2017 as a Tenant Relations Officer and will assist Harnack in the delivery of the Rental Management Policy, Basic Home Maintenance Workshops, and will be responsible to assist in the development of work plans and initiatives to address the needs and priorities of the rentals portfolio.

Since 2015, Kevin Perreault has been employed as a Housing Maintenance Worker under the On-the-Job Training Initiative through CMHC. Perreault is responsible for ongoing maintenance within our Section 95 rental units as well attending training and setting up a maintenance plan.

Just recently Mattagami has been approved to participate in the Credit Enhancement Facility of the First Nation Market Housing Fund (FNMHF) as well as Capacity Development support will be provided to Housing and Finance staff. There are necessary steps to be taken to customize to fit our First Nation.

"Housing issues and lack of housing is a huge hurdle that we are slowly overcoming so our members will be able to utilize the programs to be able to build their own homes. Producing policies and procedures so that not just

the homeowners know the roles and responsibilities but that the members, Chief & Council and the Housing Department know their roles as well. This will ensure success now and for our future generations to come"

As well, Tracy Harnack is thankful for all the support she has received in helping to achieve these goals.

"We are thankful to Chief & Council for their continued support as well to CMHC, INAC, and FNMHF for their funding support that have made these projects possible".

Tracy is responsible for managing the Public Works Department as well which oversees the local infrastructure on the First Nation. Since starting her position in 2014, her main duties have centered around the operations and maintenance of Public Works including the roads, landfill, school, administration buildings, cemetery, rental units and the Water Treatment Plant. Currently, Harnack has seven employees she oversees with the Public Works and Housing Department. Over the past year and half, with the support of Chief & Council, and having Gerald Luke as an Assistant Manager under Public Works she has concentrated more of her efforts towards housing issues and needs in the community. She has received training in managing rental properties and home maintenance as well as having written Mattagami's Rental Management Policy that was approved by Chief & Council in June of 2016.

# Developments In Mining And Business

Mattagami First Nation is actively involved with mining industry initiatives working in its traditional territory. Newly elected Chief Chad Boissoneau explained that their involvement with the resource development industry is done with the best interest of the community in mind along with the goal of protecting the environment.

First Nation leadership is currently negotiating with IAMGOLD concerning the company's development of the Côte Gold Project located in the Chester and Neville Townships. The company is proposing the possible creation of a new mine project on this property and as the project develops, IAMGOLD is engaging local communities and First Nation interests who would be directly impacted by this development.

"We want to ensure the best possible outcome for our community on this development as it looks like it could be a long term project. There are many concerns such as environmental issues but also economic development and employment opportunities that can benefit our community. Our Council and our resource development workers are working hard in keeping us in touch with the latest developments and we are hopeful for a positive and beneficial outcome for everyone involved," said Chief Boissoneau.

IAMGOLD has completed exploration work on the property and has yet to

make official announcements on the future potential of a major mine project. Mattagami FN leadership is maintaining active negotiations with the company to stay informed on the project.

Mattagami First Nation has also created a Development Corporation to manage the First Nations involvement in various economic development opportunities. The corporation is 51 percent owned and controlled by M'hiigan Limited Partnership (LP), a company established by Mattagami First Nation. M'hiigan is the Ojibway word for 'wolf'. The remaining 49 percent of the partnership is held by Certhia Projects Inc., a private company that specializes in project development and engineering expertise. The corporation is also headed by a board of directors that represents the First Nation and its partners.

"This arrangement alleviates a lot of work for our council. This means that business and economic development projects can move ahead and our council can have more freedom to deal with other issues that are affecting our community. The corporation is still in its early stages but its main goals will be the management of business affairs concerning our work with resource development companies," said Chief Boissoneau.

He explained that Certhia provides their community with the expertise and experience that is needed to manage ma-

ior projects that Mattagami First Nation has been involved in over the past few years. Another main objective of this arrangement is to provide training, education and employment opportunities to First Nation members and allow them to gain certification in their chosen career fields.

"We want this corporation to become a major project management entity not just for mining developments but for hydro and civil construction projects as well. Our vision is that, at first, it will sub contract with qualified contractors with the agreement that our members can be trained and gain experience through these projects. The long term goal is to have our trained members become the subcontractors and maintain this business model ourselves independently," said Chief Boissoneau.

He added that a trained workforce backed by a solid business model can better secure the economic stability of their community and allow Mattagami First Nation to become more self sufficient.

"Our hope is that these arrangements will eventually create an environment where our members have meaningful employment and our community becomes more independent. This self sufficiency would allow us to develop our community in other areas as our First Nation grows and expands," said Chief Boissoneau.

## Colleen Baulne Remembered

Colleen Baulne, a member of Mattagami First Nation passed away as the result of a tragic accident July 14, 2017. At the age of 46 she succumbed to burn injuries at Sunnybrook Hospital Burn Unit. She is survived by her spouse Gilles Bond, daughter Sonia Denis (Roger Miette Jr.), son Martin Denis and stepdaughter Tamara Bond. Also surviving her are grandchildren: Jayden, Milah, Kayden and Kaysen. She leaves behind her father, Ronald Baulne Sr. and her siblings; twin sister Colette, Linda, Ronald Jr. (April) and many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews. She also leaves many brothers and sisters-in-law.

Colleen was predeceased by her sisters Lucy, Lorette, Diane, Denis and Daniel and her mother Clara Naveau. She was an entrepreneur who owned

and operated Sparkcolleen Cleaning Service. As an avid outdoor enthusiast she followed an interest in the traditional pursuit of hunting and she enjoyed spending time at her camp.

The family expresses thanks to Steve Price and Danny Glass who found Colleen and stayed by her side until the Emergency Services arrived. They are also grateful to the staff at the Timmins and District Hospital and in particular to Dr. Ciccone who made Colleen comfortable before she was flown to Toronto and to the amazing people who work in the burn unit at Sunnybrook Hospital. A Celebration of Colleen's life will take place at a later date. Remembrance donations to the Timmins and District Hospital Foundation or Sunnybrook Burn Unit would be greatly appreciated by the family.





# Tournaments Showcase Community

MFN Fishing is experiencing another successful year of tournaments. Organizers Jessica Naveau, Crystel Vallee and Dominique Morin have produced three annual fishing tournaments developing them into major events that showcase Mattagami First Nation and highlight the community and its access to Mattagami Lake as a regular tourism event destination. They make up the MFN Fishing organization and every year host the Pike Tournament in February, the Spring Walleye Tournament

in June and the Fall Walleye Classic in September.

"Every year our tournaments are coming together easier because of a well-organized group of people and volunteers who want to create a positive impression of Mattagami First Nation for our visiting anglers. We are grateful to Mattagami First Nation Chief and Council for their support and to the First Nation members as well for helping us with these major first class tournaments," said Naveau.

MFN Fishing was established in 2015 and came together through Naveau who had been hosting some of the fishing tournaments herself with the help of her father Larry Naveau and grandfather Elder Leonard Naveau. The Naveau family has come to be known as strong supporters of hunting, fishing and trapping culture in Mattagami FN. Leonard and Larry Naveau have run the fishing events at different times in the past and also established the popular Beaverfest which was held for its 15th year in May 2017.

"These events are good for promoting our community and in sharing our hunting and fishing heritage as First Nation people. It is a chance for us to show visitors what our community has to offer in a positive and exciting event

**For more information go to:**  
**[www.mfnfishing.com](http://www.mfnfishing.com)**  
**or facebook page at: MFN Fishing**  
**all photos provided by MFN Fishing**



**TOP PRIZE WINNER OF THE PIKE TOURNAMENT IN FEBRUARY WAS GILLES PARADIS OF \$10,000 FOR A CATCH OF 19LBS 15OZ**

**TOP PRIZE WINNERS FOR THE SPRING WALLEYE TOURNAMENT WERE NICK HUCKSON (FAR LEFT) AND JASON DOYON (FAR RIGHT) RECEIVING THEIR PRIZE FROM ORGANIZERS L-R: CRYSTEL VALLEE, JESSICA NAVEAU AND DOMINIQUE MORIN.**



that everyone enjoys,” said Jessica Naveau.

The MFN Fishing organizers are grateful to their supporters, sponsors and especially to their dedicated group of anglers who attend their events every year.

“We are very so thankful to Mattagami First Nation and a special thanks to people like Larry Naveau, Paul Ethier, David Reed, all the young people who come to volunteer and to our family and friends. Most importantly we would not be able to host these events without our sponsors and we are grateful for their support,” said Vallee.

### **Pike Fishing Tournament**

The Seventh Annual Pike Fishing Tournament was hosted in Mattagami FN, on February 25 on the frozen Mattagami Lake.

#### **First prize to**

Gilles Paradis of \$10,000  
for a catch of 19lbs 15oz,

#### **Second prize to**

Keith McLeod of \$5,000  
for a catch of 10lbs 11oz,

#### **Third prize to**

Richard Comeau of \$3,000  
for a catch of 7lbs 5oz

#### **and Fourth prize to**

Clarke Bradley of \$2,000  
for a catch of 6lbs 6oz

*A Can-Am side-by-side ATV was also won by Lee Roy in a raffle.*

### **Spring Walleye Tournament**

The 18th Annual Spring Walleye Tournament brought in 242 anglers for the two day event on June 3 and 4, 2017 on Mattagami Lake, with shore events held in Mattagami FN.

#### **First prize to**

Jason Doyon and Nick Huckson  
of \$9,680,

#### **Second prize to**

Jamie Robinson and Terry Bernath  
of \$7,260

#### **Third prize to**

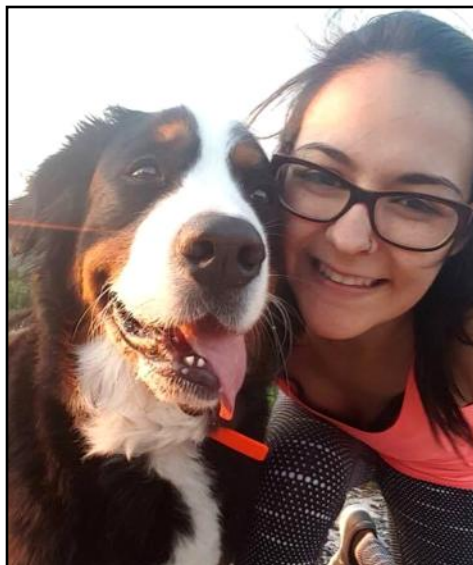
Darcy Guenette and Mathieu Guenette  
of \$4,840.

*Additional cash prizes were presented to top placing teams.*

### **Fall Classic Tournament**

The Fifth Annual Fall Walleye Classic will be held September 9-10, 2017 in Mattagami FN. Total prize amounts are expected to reach \$25,200 with first prize for \$8,000, second for \$4,000, third for \$2,500 and additional cash prizes for the top 15 anglers.

# **McKay-Golinowski Joins Administration**



**TIANNA MCKAY-GOLINOWSKI  
AND FERGUS**

Tianna McKay-Golinowski joined the Mattagami First Nation administration staff as the new Executive Assistant in March 2017. Her new role involves providing direct assistance to day to day activities for the Executive Director and working closely with Chief and Council in administrative duties.

“I have a multi role task for several people. I work mainly with Juanita Luke our Executive Director and our Chief and Council but I also help office staff and community members with just about anything they need to keep things moving and organized at our office,” said McKay-Golinowski.

She is involved in the Harmony Project, a program being managed by Mattagami FN to create a policy framework aimed at developing a unified, socially, politically and financially responsible community. The project is being developed specifically with the goal of collecting input from members and creating the framework through their support and direction.

“One of the big tasks with this project is to connect to the members and gather their input and thoughts through surveys, meetings and direct contact. We want everyone to feel that they are involved in an active way in the development of our community,” said McKay-Golinowski.

She is also working closely with

Sam Kloetstra, a Mattagami FN member, who is currently developing a project to connect to Mattagami FN off reserve members. This is becoming a significant project as sixty percent of the community members currently reside off reserve in other areas provincially, nationally and even internationally.

She previously worked as the Wabun Training and Employment Coordinator for Wabun Tribal Council, Health Clerk for Wabun Health and as a Health Support Worker for Mattagami First Nation. She had originally planned on a career in the health field and had started her education in a Sudbury at Laurentian University. Recently she changed her focus and transferred her previous education credits towards a Public Administration and Governance program provided by the First Nations Technical Institute. The program is designed to provide training and education to First Nation administrative staff to effectively manage and gain control over their economic future.

She has also made the move back to her home community with her pet Bernese Mountain dog, Fergus, after having spent several years working and attending school in Timmins.

“I grew up here as a child and I am so happy to be home again with my family and friends. It feels good to be working for my home First Nation and to take part in so many positive developments. Although I’ve made changes in my career path, I am very grateful to Juanita and our Chief and Council for giving me the opportunity to pursue a new direction and help my community at the same time,” said McKay-Golinowski.

She enjoys traveling and in 2012 travelled to Nairobi, Kenya in Africa where she spent three weeks providing humanitarian support along with 30 other young Canadian travelers. She continues to take every opportunity to see the world and hopes to travel overseas again in the future.

A member of Mattagami First Nation, her parents are Patsy McKay and Dana Golinowski and she has a younger brother Ethan McKay and younger sister Janelle Golinowski.

# Arthur Constant: A Celebration Of His Life



Arthur Constant Sr., an important part of Mattagami First Nation for many years, passed away Monday May 29, 2017 in Timmins surrounded by the support of a large family and many friends. A celebration of his life was held at the Mattagami FN community complex June 1.

"My dad was a very humble and modest man and wanted a simple memorial service. As he requested we put his ashes on the Little Island where he spent a lot of time fishing for so many years. Dad was very close to his children and grandchildren and passed on his knowledge about fishing, hunting and gardening to them. We hope to have an annual family fishing derby along the shoreline in his memory," commented Jennifer Constant, Council Member for Mattagami First Nation.

Often Arthur Sr could be found fishing on the Little Island near where the old Hudson Bay Post was housed long ago so it is fitting that his ashes return to that area. His wish for his memorial and any family gatherings in his name was with the intent that everyone get together and spend quality time with each other. A solar light and monument stands as a memorial to Arthur Sr on the land and near the waters where he took great comfort.

"My dad was always there for me with good feedback and advice. Often he would encourage me and put things into perspective for me with his witty advice and humour," explained Arthur Jr.

Arthur Sr was born and raised in Gogama near Mattagami First Nation with six brothers and seven sisters. With the idea of an annual family fishing derby his wife, children, grandchildren, great grandchild and many

siblings and cousins will have the opportunity to stay in touch and keep his memory alive. He was well loved and respected by Mattagami First Nation members and he was also a strong support to Joyce with her commitments to a political life, working responsibilities and volunteerism. Everyone who knew him benefited by his kindness, wisdom and good humour. In more recent years his gardening was very important to him and he introduced his grandchildren to his love of nurturing in this way. After his passing some family members made a point to put in his garden as an honour to his memory.

Arthur Sr was also always eager to cook for people and liked to experiment with new dishes and even different types of bannock including garlic and cheese flavours. He was an avid trapper, hunter and fishing enthusiast and did his best to pass his knowledge of these traditional pursuits along to his children and grand children. He once caught a legendary catch in Lake Mattagami with a fish that weighed over 30 pounds.

He had much wisdom garnered through many life experiences and a strong work ethic that featured positions with E.B. Eddy, CN Rail, IAMGOLD and Camp Arowhon located in Algonquin Park. He enjoyed his time at the camp as he loved to see the children enjoy the opportunity to be in the wilderness and experience nature.

Arthur Sr also was involved in working on the construction of the legendary Montreal Expo in 1967 and spent some time in chocolate sales, which delighted family members who benefited for his good taste in employment.

"Dad had the best care as he was leaving us and that made it easier on him and the entire family. Our family is very grateful to the doctors, nurses and hospice wing staff at the Timmins and District Hospital for their wonderful efforts and skill in caring for dad. We are also very thankful for all the family members, friends and Mattagami First Nation for assisting with the memorial and being there when we needed them," said Jennifer Constant.

Arthur Sr is survived by his spouse of almost 50 years, Joyce (Luke) Constant. She was once Chief

of the First Nation and has been a member of council as well as an integral person in leading the community through her positions in employment and volunteerism. Many will remember Arthur Sr as part of a gifted and dedicated family partnership with Joyce that gave life, guidance and development to their surviving children, Ronald Constant (Pauline) of Sault Ste. Marie, Christopher Constant (Joanne) of Mattagami First Nation, Jennifer Constant (Keboy) of Mattagami First Nation and Arthur Constant Jr. of Timmins. His surviving grandchildren include: Sydney, Garren, Kiara, Braedan, Ziibee, Gabrielle and great-grand daughter Delilah. He is also survived by his siblings Marcel (Linda) of Quebec, Fernand of Gogama, Irene Lamontagne (Henry) of Gogama, Paulette Gignac (late Raymond) of Gogama, Yvon of Gogama, Claude of Gogama, Gisele Evanush (Robert) of Bonfield, Nicole Constant (Rick) of Gogama, Estelle Constantin (Marc) of Gogama and Françoise Constant of Gogama. He was predeceased by his parents Armand and Georgette (nee Gravelle), his brother Ronald and sister Claudette Free.



**ARTHUR CONSTANT AND HIS  
MONSTER CATCH**



# Land Management Process Started

Funding was approved this April and a process has been started to begin the First Nations Land Management (FNLN) Regime that could lead to Mattagami First Nation opting out of 32 sections of the Indian Act relating to land management. This would mean that the First Nation could then develop its own laws about land use, the environment and natural resources and to take advantage of economic development opportunities through new land management powers.

This process started as the result of an application for funding through the First Nations Land Management Program by the Mattagami FN, Chief, Council and the Lands and Economic Development Department. Initial meetings took place in October of 2016 with Chief & Council to review options for the First Nation. Mattagami FN Chief & Council, Executive Director Juanita Luke, and Lands & Economic Development Coordinator, Jennifer Constant met with Indigenous Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) and the First Nations Land Management Resource Centre to look into opportunities for Mattagami FN.

Odonaterra Inc. assisted with the self-assessment questionnaire portion of the application, which was used to determine

Mattagami FN's readiness for FNLN. Odonaterra Inc. will also help to establish a future Land Code Committee, as well as assisting with hiring of a Land Code Coordinator for the process, along with hosting community engagement activities & events. With everyone's efforts the funding application for the process was approved and things are moving ahead.

"We hosted our initial meeting to carry out a presentation to our members and to solicit feedback. The First Nation carried out the signing of the Implementation Document on August 2. The process is expected to begin in the fall of 2017 and will include a Land Code Committee being formed, as well as the hiring of a Land Code Coordinator for the duration of the process. Members will be extensively involved in shaping the outcome of the process, and ultimately the members will be the ones to decide on whether the process moves ahead or not as the process will require a ratification process in which the members vote for or against what is developed," explained Constant.

The original interest in considering this process was driven by a desire for the First Nation to have more authority in terms of control over their lands and to

more efficiently and timely be in a position to move ahead with economic development projects and other initiatives that would lead to more self sufficiency.

"I very much support this initiative as it should result in the opportunity to opt out of parts of the Indian Act that will give us more control over our lands and accelerate any type of economic development or other initiatives we want to move ahead with. There are so many things that we can proceed with more easily in terms of all kinds of projects involving mining, forestry, hydro and business opportunities without having to turn to INAC for their approval and deal with delays waiting for that approval," explained Chief Chad Boissoneau.

He added that to his knowledge this process will not lead to any affect on the First Nation's land base and should provide the First Nation with more control over their lands leading to a future of self sufficiency. He also noted that the process will only move ahead if the First Nation members want it to and that Chief and Council as well as the administration will be keeping in touch with members to ensure they understand what is happening and that they know their ratification for this initiative is mandatory.

## Anti-Bullying Workshop Developed

Neebin Prince, a member of Mattagami First Nation is doing her part to support other young Aboriginal people in the north. Prince, who is a 17 year old senior student at O'Gorman High School in Timmins, has been working with fellow student 14 year old Kara Knapaysweet, of Fort Albany First Nation in developing an Anti-Bullying Presentation for their schools and their communities.

"This was all Kara's idea because she was passionate about doing something about bullying because we had both dealt with it in high school and at home. She asked me for help and I was more that willing to lend a hand. The work she has led us on has made me feel good about myself and made me realize what is possible when you put your mind to a task," said Prince.

On the weekend of July 29 and 30, Prince flew north to Fort Albany First Nation to visit her friend and take part in their Anti-Bullying presentation for the community.

"This was an experience that changed

my life. I've never felt more welcome in a place I've never been before. To all the people I met over the course of the weekend and to all that attended our Anti-Bullying event, I want to give a big thank you," said Prince.

The two students met through a school support program that pairs senior students with grade nine juniors in their first year of high school. They developed the project together and made a presentation to their school which included a slide show, public speaking, audience participation and interacting with the audience.

"Kara is a great confidence booster and this has been a great learning experience for me. It felt good to speak about this with everyone and to bring this out in the open because it affects us all. One of the biggest messages we want to pass on is to everyone know that we have to be ourselves no matter what people say and to never listen to what a bully may say to you," said Prince.

They are now preparing to make their presentation in Mattagami FN in August.



**ANTI-BULLYING CAMPAIGNERS ARE NEEBIN PRINCE (LEFT), MATTAGAMI FN AND KARA KNAPAYSWEET, FORT ALBANY FN.**

# Keeping In Touch



**Juanita  
Luke**  
Executive  
Director

So much has happened in the past months in Mattagami First Nation. Much of what we do now as a community has to do with input from the Harmony Movement that we have been developing for the past few years. The biggest change I have seen through this initiative has had to do with opening up better lines of communication between Chief, Council, administration, staff and our members. I believe with the introduction of regular open houses and information sessions we are more in touch and treating each other better.

I want to congratulate our new Chief Chad Boissoneau as our new leader and all council members elected for this two year term. Of course we also gave thanks to outgoing Chief Walter Naveau for all his hard work and efforts for Mattagami First Nation for the past 10 years and five consecutive elections which he won. Leadership positions are always very challenging and stressful and here in our community we are aware of that and through the Harmony Movement and some resulting initiatives we are doing our best to as-

sist our Chief and Council in providing input, feedback and encouragement from the grass roots level. We provided a swearing in ceremony for Chief and Council and presented Chief Walter with a gift as a token of our appreciation. That event was broadcast on Facebook.

Over the past months we have seen some innovative and creative things happen in Mattagami First Nation. We developed a private Facebook Community Engagement Group involving over 300 Mattagami First Nation members so that our lines of communication are very open with the bottom line being that we can exchange ideas, comments and input in a positive and respectful manner.

We are doing our best to change a past reality of negative gossip and harmful complaints in exchange for a more healthy approach for interaction and it seems to be working. I also must remind people that anything they post on Facebook is subject to the same laws in terms of libel and slander so it is important to be careful with your comments or you could end up in court and being sued.

I want to thank our leadership and staff for their dedication to our members and for their efforts to adapting to the many changes that are all about accountability and transparency through a more open and member driven process. I also want to thank Peggy Claveau of Sky Spirit (Giizhig-Manidoo) Healing for visiting our community and assist-

ing us through her expertise in clearing negative energy and making our environment a more positive one.

We have also been on a path of discovery and education through workshops and information sessions for our leadership, staff and members on many topics and we will continue to do so. Our efforts are resulting in a more positive and energized community. With that in mind I also want to congratulate Neebin Prince, from our community and Kara Knapaysweet, of Fort Albany First Nation for taking the initiative to develop a bullying workshop. They have assisted the youth in Fort Albany recently with a workshop and I am sure they will continue to help many of our young people with this initiative in the future.

When a community is caring, respectful and in touch then we see results like this arising and that makes me very hopeful for the future.



## **Mattagami FN Drum**

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## ***Seventh Annual Mattagami First Nation Annual Pow Wow***

***To be held August 19 & 20, 2017***

***For more info visit our dedicated facebook page at:  
Mattagami First Nation Annual Traditional Pow wow -  
Public Page***

***Event coverage will be featured in the next issue of the Mattagami Drum***