

**Mattagami  
First Nation**

# **DRUM**



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**Volume Two  
Issue Two**

# WORDS FROM THE CHIEF



**Chief  
Walter  
Naveau  
Mattagami  
First Nation**

I have just come back from attending a Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN) meeting in Thunder Bay and I must tell you that I feel so privileged to be associated with such a remarkable group of Chiefs. In meeting with and listening to so many of our Chiefs and Elders who attended this event I have shared their pain when they talk about how many young people we are losing to suicide.

I share in the frustration of our Chiefs in that we are all trying to do our best to move our First Nations along to healthy development and self sufficiency. Certainly things are getting better on so many of our First Nations but at the same time our youth are taking their own lives in alarming numbers. We see good things happening in terms of positive changes with better opportunities in education, employment and health care yet many of our people are living hard lives in our communities.

The fact is that we as Chiefs and council members still have to work hard and fight to provide even better opportunities for our people. Our youth need hope and it is up to us to provide the environment where they

can find a reason to live and have a good life. More than ever we have to stand together as a people and it does not matter what First Nation we are from because we all share the same challenges and problems.

It makes me feel good too when I talk to so many of our Chiefs and Elders and I see them living healthy lives and sharing their knowledge with the youth in their communities. People like to put the Chiefs on a pedestal but you know the fact is that we are vulnerable, imperfect and striving for a good life like everyone else. We have seen hard times and made mistakes before reaching a point where we made changes and moved into healthy lifestyles.

***I am very proud  
of so many people  
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First Nation that  
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youth***

I know the trials and tribulations our youth face on our First Nations because I was there once too. There is no way I can judge people for the lives they are living and choices they make because I know in many cases they are not well in so many ways.

It is up to us as leaders to make sure we improve the quality of life in our First Nations so that our youth have hope but it also is our responsibility to provide the people, systems and knowledge to be able to rise above hopelessness, depression and addictions that too many of our youth are experiencing. We as Chiefs, Elders, grandparents and parents need to reach out and provide our youth the necessary cultural and traditional teachings that will help them lead more healthy lives and make better choices.

I am very proud of so many people in Mattagami First Nation that are there for our youth and I am so happy to be able to point to the successes of our Wabun Tribal Council Annual Youth Gathering as a commitment to caring for and connecting our Wabun youth. Still, I know we can do more. I know what it means for grandparents, parents and the greater family to lose a child to suicide. I have felt that pain too often in my life. We need to make sure we are there for our youth and that means we must be accessible and ready to provide the help and guidance our young people need. One thing for sure the more we encourage the sharing of knowledge from our Elders about our traditions and culture the more healthy our First Nations become.

So I give thanks to all those Chiefs and Elders I meet and talk to at NAN. I thank them for giving me a place to share my frustrations, concerns and dreams. I thank them for their encouragement and support. I am grateful for the knowledge and strength they share and that makes a difficult job a little easier.



**VINCENT, SON OF FALLON WORME AND DYLAN BOISSONEAU IS PICTURED HERE ON A HUNTING TRIP. HE IS ALSO THE GRANDCHILD OF CHIEF WALTER NAVEAU.**

## Front Cover Photo

***Pictured on the front cover are Mattagami First Nation children and Megan Moore, staff member of the Mary Jane Naveau Memorial School.***

*photo provided courtesy of: Fallon Worme, Mary Jane Naveau Memorial School*

# Fallon Worme A Role Model For Youth

*Fallon Worme is the featured youth of the issue for this edition of the Mattagami Drum. She is currently the IT Design and Maintenance / Communications Coordinator for Mattagami First Nation.*

She works alongside Grayson Luke, IT & Network Coordinator for Mattagami First Nation. Her office is located at the school where her main role is to manage, maintain and assist in technology related issues with the Mary Jane Naveau Memorial School administration office. She started her current role in March 2014.



**Fallon  
Worme**  
Mattagami  
First Nation

“This position really gets me involved with the First Nation as I am regularly communicating with everyone. I like being part of the community and contributing in a positive way,” said Worme.

She works with education staff to manage and maintain computer systems, network equipment and digital devices, as well as to assist in dealing with network and software issues. She is assisted in her duties by her colleague, Grayson Luke, who is primarily responsible for and works for the First Nation administration office.

She is also involved in communications and has developed a monthly newsletter that she provides for the community to keep members up to date on local programs, projects and events. Worme also created the Mary Jane Naveau Memorial School website which she now manages and maintains on a regular basis. To keep the community informed on local events, she also manages social media sites including a Facebook page. She also assists in the management of the Mattagami First Nation website.

“I like keeping everyone informed on what is happening in our First Nation. It's also great to be at the school and to be able to work with our students on a daily basis,” said Worme.

Worme has a strong interest in the technology field as she enjoys working with computers, electronics and information technology. Before her current position, she worked with K-Net, as an Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Worker for Mattagami First Nation at the Mary Jane Naveau Memorial School. K-Net is a First Nations owned & operated information and communications service provider based out of Sioux Lookout Ontario. Essentially, Worme held the same responsibilities under this title as per her current position.

“I have always enjoyed working with computers and technology and I was very happy that K-Net gave me an opportunity to work in my community. The best part now is that I am passing on what I have learned to other people,” said Worme.

She is now training Brooke Minarik, a member of Mattagami FN, who has taken on the position of ICT Worker. Minarik works with Worme at the Mary Jane Naveau Memorial School to assist staff and teachers in maintaining and managing computer equipment and digital devices.

Worme is originally a member of the Kawacatoose First Nation in Saskatchewan and as a child, she grew up in nearby Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. At the age of 14, she moved to Ontario to be with her aunt Cathy Naveau and uncle Chief Walter Naveau, in Mattagami First Nation.

“In our traditional family, I became adopted by my aunt and uncle and I grew up in Mattagami First Nation. I couldn't have asked for better role models in my life as I

look up to both of them as my mother and father now. I am also grateful to everyone who has helped me over the years and to the community in general for giving me this opportunity to give back to a new generation of young people,” said Worme.

In June 2014, she officially transferred her First Nation membership and became a full fledged member of Mattagami First Nation.

“I have lived here for just over ten years now but I have always felt like it was home. I find it awesome that I am now working for my community and giving back a little after having received so much from everyone over the years,” said Worme.

She and her partner Dylan Boissoneau have two children three year old Vincent and one year old Dion.

“We are so grateful for our children's wonderful grandparents, Cathy and Chief Walter Naveau and Eileen and Chad Boissoneau. They are always there for us and are such helpful and attentive grandparents,” commented Worme.



**PICTURED IS DYLAN BOISSONEAU  
WITH HIS SON DION.**

# Elder Joyce Constant Continues Her Ancestral Legacy Of Leadership

*Elder Joyce Luke is the featured Elder for this edition of the Mattagami Drum. She is a past Chief of the community. Her family comes from a long line of First Nation leaders that have helped to lead the community over many years.*

Her grandfather Andrew Luke, was given the first recognized title of Chief of Mattagami First Nation during the signing of Treaty 9 in 1906. Her brother Gerald Luke and their father Alec Luke also held the title of Chief of the community. Currently, her daughter Jennifer Constant is a long serving First Nation Councillor for the First Nation.

Elder Luke was raised in Mattagami First Nation at the new reserve lands the community now occupies. She remembers her childhood in the community fondly in being surrounded by an extended family group of people who still followed a mainly traditional lifestyle.

“Back then, we didn't have much in the community when I was growing up. We didn't even have hydro but we were happy. It was a new community as everyone had just moved from the old reserve lands. For us younger children at the time, everything was fresh and exciting,” commented Elder Joyce Luke.

She recalled that most families hunted moose during the year to supplement their diet and feed their families. However, since there was no refrigeration, everyone shared their food in a timely fashion to make sure the meat did not spoil.

“In the community, at the corner of Hemlock street, there was once a well there. Back then, everyone used it as a cooler to store their moose meat. The food was hung in bags and drawn with a string into the well. There were several lines and everyone knew which was theirs. I remember going down to that well many times with my friends whenever

our parents asked us to fetch more food,” said Elder Joyce Luke.

She remembers a community filled with traditional hunters, trappers and fishermen. Everyone lived mostly on wild food gathered from the land including rabbit, beaver, moose, fish, partridge and ducks.



PICTURED ARE JENNIFER CONSTANT (LEFT), FIRST NATION COUNCILLOR / BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR AND HER MOTHER ELDER JOYCE LUKE, PAST CHIEF OF MATTAGAMI FIRST NATION.

“Life was a lot simpler back then. Often after suppertime, people would gather at the old church in the community for a fun get together. They would play fiddle music and community members would square dance and have fun. It felt so wonderful to be around all those kind Elders and to be among so many familiar faces from my community,”said Elder Joyce Luke.

At a young age, her own family left Mattagami First Nation, led by their father Alec Luke who went to work for the Canadian National Railway and the Ministry of Natural Resources in the surrounding area. Their family relocated several times to remote locations and then as a teenager, Elder Joyce Luke had the opportunity to attend high school in Kirkland Lake.

Most of her immediate family is from the Mattagami area. Her mother Hannah (McKay) Luke arrived in the Mattagami Lake area as a child when her family moved down the river system from James Bay from the Moosonee territory. Elder Joyce Luke recalls stories from her mother Hannah who remembered that when she was a child the family made the trip to Mattagami First Nation by canoe. They travelled south from Moosonee along the rivers and there were many portages around rough water and rapids. The group was led by Hannah's parents Mary and William McKay. William McKay became an entrepreneur and was well known for years as the owner of a general store in the community. Elder Joyce Luke pointed out that when her family arrived they spoke fluent

Cree but as the years marched on they came to adopt the Ojibway language as their own.

As an adult, Elder Joyce Luke returned to her home community to raise a family of her own. She and her partner Arthur Constant raised Ron, Chris, Jennifer and Arthur Jr in the community. In the 1990s, she took a more active part in the community and ran for Councillor. She was elected in 1995 and later went on to become Chief of the community.

“I was very honoured to be given the opportunity to lead Mattagami First Nation. I saw many positive changes in our community during my time on Council and it felt good to see the progress that we were starting to enjoy at the time. Things are getting better in our little com-

munity all the time and it is gratifying to see all the development being done through the efforts of our Chief and Council and the administration staff,” said Elder Joyce Luke.

She had to step back from local politics after she began to suffer from medical issues. In recent years she has regained her good health and is now once again taking part in First Nation activities and programs.

Her four children have done well in their own chosen fields. Elder Joyce Luke explained that she did her best to instill in them a sense of strength and courage in everything

they do. She is proud of her daughter Jennifer Constant who has taken on the family tradition of holding a place on First Nation Council.

“I give the same message to young people in our community that I gave to my children. The most important task for any young person is to gain a meaningful education. Education is important because it leads to so many opportunities for anyone's future,” said Elder Joyce Luke.

She is also happy to see the culture and traditional heritage of the community coming back in the form of the annual Pow Wow hosted by

the First Nation.

“Traditional events like our Pow Wow show our youth where we come from and why we should be proud of our heritage. It feels good for everyone to see our young people learning to sing, dance and take pride in who they are,” said Elder Joyce Luke.

In her own time, she enjoys taking part in creative crafts such as knitting. She also takes time to be with her family including her four grandchildren Garren, Kiara, Braeden and Sydney. The family is also looking forward to a fifth grandchild who will be born in December.

## Candice Andress Joins Finance Department

Candice Andress, Finance Clerk Trainee, is the featured staff person for this issue of the Mattagami Drum. She started her new position on October 28, 2014.

“I enjoy working with the staff here as we are all on the same page. I am learning so much as there is a lot of meticulous detail to everything that is done in this department. I enjoy the challenge and the fact that we are working together as a team to help our community,” said Andress.



**Candice Andress**  
Finance Clerk Trainee

She is working closely with Juanita Luke, Executive Director of Mattagami First Nation and Pamela Gaudreau, Ontario Works / Finance, Mattagami First Nation. Both Luke and Gaudreau are assisting Andress by helping with training in her new position at the First Nation administration. Andress is primarily responsible for organizing and maintaining the financial department.

“I am grateful to my First Nation to have this opportunity of giving back to my community. I am looking forward to learning more and to help in creating an efficient financial department,” said Andress.

She has taken on additional roles in the community to compliment her work in the finance department. She is a member of the Economic Development

Strategic Planning committee as well as the Harmony Movement Committee, which is involved in the Harmony Movement for Mattagami First Nation. Andress is also involved in her child's education and is active on several local committees in education and with the Mary Jane Naveau Memorial School.

Before taking on her role in the finance department, Andress was employed with the Mattagami First Nation Health Department as a Health Clerk. This was a position she worked in for a year. Prior to this, she worked for the Timmins Native Friendship Centre for three years as a Receptionist and as a Prenatal Assistant.

She is happy to see the many developments taking place in Mattagami First Nation as employment and business opportunities increase and ultimately this should lead to additional services and facilities for the community and in particular the youth. Andress added that she would like to see more projects developed for young people such as a youth centre where activities, events and gatherings could take place.

“We need to help our young people by giving them as many opportunities as possible so that they can learn to lead healthier lives. Everything we can do to make them feel more confident and sure of themselves will ensure that our youth will have a bright future,” said Andress.

Her eight year old son Lairid attends the local Mary Jane Naveau Memorial School in the community. Andress explained that in addition to an education, she believes that having a sense of pride and respect in Aboriginal heritage is also important.

“We need to remember our past because we have to carry on our stories

for future generations. We have to teach our young people that we are Anishinabe and to have an understanding of where we come from. If we don't actively teach this, than we risk losing our history,” said Andress.

As the First Nation becomes more involved in major partnerships, agreements and negotiations over resource development taking place on traditional lands, Andress is hopeful that these initiatives will create more opportunities for community members and the First Nation.

“I want our community to prosper so that we can become more independent and less reliant on the government. When I see young families benefiting from new jobs or opportunities, it makes me feel good because I know that these things will make for a better quality of life,” commented Andress.

In her spare time, she enjoys being at her home in the community with her son. She is a creative person who takes part in arts and crafts and she plans on bringing some creativity to her new position.

“I am grateful to have this opportunity to grow in this new position and for the chance to prove myself,” said Andress.

Juanita Luke, Executive Director of Mattagami First Nation explained that the First Nation is undergoing significant changes and revitalization to the administrative services.

“Candice is very confident in her new position and she is working hard at organizing the finance department as part of our new direction. This is all part of a new beginning to deal with changes in financial services and reporting. We are happy to have Candice on our team as we make this transition,” said Luke.

# Mary Jane Naveau Memorial School Serving Students For Many Years

*The Mary Jane Naveau Memorial School has been an important resource for local education in Mattagami First Nation since it was first constructed in 1980. The elementary school has provided primary education for several generations of school children since it first opened its doors.*

The current building is actually the second school that Mattagami First Nation has had since the new reserve lands were established. Originally, the First Nation was located on the opposite shore of Mattagami Lake and in the early 1950s the community was moved to its present location. A school house was built and it became the main education building for the community for many years.

A school system was established in the early 1970s that was run by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC). The school then was known as the Mattagami Indian Day School and it was run by local instructors including Marlene Naveau and Halina Naveau.

*The legacy that Mary Jane Naveau left behind is evident in the school that is named after her*

According to the Mary Jane Naveau Memorial School website, in 1980, the original school building was tragically destroyed in a fire. While the community recovered from this loss, students who had no school building to use, were first placed inside the community center and then later used a temporary trailer unit to allow them to complete their studies.

Mattagami First Nation leadership and community members were quick to recover from this devastation with the construction of a modern new school building in 1980. A ground breaking ceremony was ac-

tually held by then Chief Margaret Naveau, community leaders and Jacques Raymond (Ray) Chenier, then Member of Parliament for Timmins-Chapleau who was also the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

In the 1990s, the community re-named the school in a contest held by local members. At the end of the event, the name 'Mary Jane Naveau Memorial School' was chosen. The name was selected in honour of the late Mary Jane Naveau, who passed on in 1980. She was remembered as one of the first people in the community to achieve a post secondary education as well as added training and experience in health services.

"Everyone was so happy to see the new school when it was completed. It was a great relief for all the parents and it gave a real sense of pride to the students who used it," said Dorothy Naveau, Recep-

tionist at the Mattagami First Nation office.

Dorothy Naveau is the daughter of the late Chief Margaret Naveau and a grand daughter to the late Mary Jane Naveau. Dorothy Naveau lived with her grandmother for several years and remembers her as a very caring individual who worked hard for the community.



**Dorothy Naveau**  
Receptionist  
Mattagami  
FN

Mary Jane Naveau completed several health courses and she was part of the first graduating class held in Moosonee. She graduated to be-



GENERATIONS OF STUDENTS HAVE RECEIVED THEIR EDUCATION AT THE MARY JANE NAVEAU MEMORIAL SCHOOL IN MATTAGAMI FIRST NATION.



HERE WE SEE SOME OF THE STUDENTS OF THE MARY JANE MEMORIAL SCHOOL TAKING PART IN CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES.

come a Community Health Representative (CHR) and went to work for Mattagami First Nation. Throughout her career in the community, Mary Jane Naveau was involved in many aspects of health care.

“My favourite memories of my grandmother always revolve around her wanting to work for and help people in our community. She was a care giver and when she wasn't looking after everyone else, she worked hard for her family too. She was a strong woman who was always busy doing something,” said Dorothy Naveau.

During those early days of the community, she even delivered newborns in the First Nation. One of the most memorable births in the community was Chris McKay who was delivered by Mary Jane Naveau in 1978 on Christmas Day. McKay was one of the last to be born in the community. From then on, births in the community took place in newer hospitals in nearby city centres. McKay is now a respected consultant in mineral resource development and economic development issues

for First Nations in the Wabun Tribal Council area.

Mary Jane Naveau had many responsibilities as she was the main person that everyone looked up to for health concerns. She assisted and treated many people in a health career that spanned over 25 years. She is also remembered for taking on the duty of mortician and helping families in dealing with deaths in the community.

“One of the biggest lessons she left all of us was to learn to help one another and make our community stronger. She also valued education in a person's life. My best memories have to do with her taking us in her arms and just being so motherly. She spent her whole life wanting to care for everyone around her,” said Dorothy Naveau.

Mary Jane Naveau spent the majority of her life in Mattagami First Nation. She was born and raised as a member of the Mohawk Nation in Kahnawake, in Quebec. She moved to Mattagami First Nation when she married Walter Naveau Sr. They had sons Norman, Morris, James, Roy and Nelson and daughters Evelyn

(Boissoneau) and Marlene (Coulneur).

The legacy that Mary Jane Naveau left behind is evident in the school that is named after her where young children are getting a good start for a life long education.

The school which is operated by the First Nation currently has three class rooms with 35 students and 13 staff personnel. There is a fully equipped library and a gymnasium is made available for use at the community complex near the school.

## UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Annual Christmas Concert December 18 at 5:00 pm

*This is a time when youth showcase a concert for community members. A lighting of a Christmas tree also takes place where community members take part by placing an ornament for themselves, their family or friends. The tree is also lit by a community leader in a small ceremony. There is a countdown to the lighting and then everyone will join in a community gathering at the community complex.*

### Annual New Years Feast January 12, 2015

*New Year's Feast 2015 is set to take place on January 12, 2015. The event will be an open house that will be hosted at the community complex.*



THE MARY JANE NAVEAU MEMORIAL SCHOOL WAS CONSTRUCTED IN 1980.

# Strategic Plan Being Developed

*Mattagami First Nation is in the process of developing a strategic plan thanks to the vision of Chief and Council and as well to the efforts of Juanita Luke, Executive Director and Jennifer Constant, Councillor and Business Development Coordinator.*

The strategic plan, being developed by Clear Logic Consulting Professionals, based in Timmins, Ontario, is set to conclude in March 2015.

“This strategic plan is based on inclusion and will be drawing input from all sectors and our membership in keeping with the spirit of the Harmony Movement. In order for us to know what our members want and need, we must have their input into any planning that will affect their lives and the community's future,” explained Constant.

She also pointed out that the idea of a strategic plan came about as a means to make sure that Mattagami First Nation is moving in the right direction and taking advantage of economic and development opportunities.

“We have experienced a lot of growth in so many areas over the past decade but in some cases we did not achieve the success that we hoped for. With this in mind we are moving ahead with a strategic plan that will look back at how we have been doing things and use this information in lessons learned to help guide us with a new plan for the future,” said Constant.

She pointed out that this strategic planning process has a lot to do with the input and participation of Mattagami First Nation members in addition to the leadership and staff.

“We know that we need our members to take an active part in this process so we developed the Strategic Planning Committee and invited them to sit with staff and leadership to assist in putting this plan together. Currently, we are working towards identifying our strengths and weaknesses in the community. I have to give credit to the people who want to participate in this process and want to be heard, as their valuable input will lead to the success of a strong and creative

plan,” said Constant.

The committee which is coordinated by Constant also includes: Juanita Luke, Executive Director for Mattagami FN; Gary Naveau, Economic Development Officer; Dorothy Naveau, Community member; Candice Andress, Community member and Elder Joyce Constant, Community member and past Chief.

Clear Logic Managing Director Ron Leduc is well qualified to consult on this project as he is a Certified Management Consultant, a Project Management Professional and a Certified Human Resources Professional. Andrea Griener, Director of Consultation and Research for Clear Logic will also be part of the strategic planning team. She is a certified facilitator who specializes in public policy development, needs assessments and project implementation and she recently completed a Master's Degree in Public Administration.

“The purpose of the strategic planning project is to develop a corporation that manages band owned business entities. The need for such a project comes out of recent economic activity in the region which is providing Mattagami First Nation with business opportunities that can benefit the entire community,” ex-

plained Leduc.

A vision and mission statement was recently developed, and will be shared with the community during a public information session in January / February 2015 and interviews with key individuals in Mattagami First Nation will also take place in this time frame.

“The interviews and public consultations will help us develop an action plan which we expect to outline the steps that will be necessary to assist in starting up and maintaining the corporation. Board governance training is also included in the project and the aim of this component is to help the Board develop the skills necessary to effectively oversee the corporation,” commented Leduc.

Chief and Council has high hopes for the strategic plan and has supported the project.

“It is good to see that we are moving ahead with some strategic planning that will help us to have a better understanding of what opportunities we can take advantage of and also this process will lead to our people learning some important skills. I congratulate Juanita and Jennifer for putting this together for our community,” said Chief Walter Naveau.



PICTURED ARE RON LEDUC AND ANDREA GRENIER OF CLEAR LOGIC ARE INVOLVED IN PRODUCING A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR MATTAGAMI FN.



# Mattagami First Nation Partners In Solar Power Project

*Mattagami First Nation could very well be looking on the sunny side of life, as the old song says. The First Nation has partnered on a 250 kilowatt solar power project based in Southern Ontario with a 51 percent ownership.*

The solar power project which is set to be up and running in the spring of 2015 is a partnership that involves Jazz Solar and Mattagami First Nation.

It was set up by a First Nations consulting firm, Ishkonigan, which is owned and operated by Phil Fontaine, former National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations. One area of expertise for this company involves economic development and creating partnerships with First Nations, business and government.



**Jennifer Constant**  
Councillor /  
Business  
Development  
Coordinator  
Mattagami  
First Nation

“Ishkonigan's Sara Loft, Senior Manager, Community & Client Relations is a friend of mine who I met when I was at Ryerson University. We also kept in touch when she was at the Assembly Of First Nations and I was working in political areas. I was very pleased when she suggested a partnership in green energy that would cost us nothing and end up producing income for Mattagami First Nation,” said Jennifer Constant, First Nation Councillor and Business Development Coordinator for Mattagami First Nation.

Loft put the First Nation together with one of Ishkonigan's clients Jazz Solar Solutions and they applied and were accepted to move ahead with a 250 kilowatt solar power project. They were contracted by the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) to participate in what is known as a Feed-In Tariff (FIT) Program for the Province of Ontario. Under this program Mattagami First Nation in

a partnership with Jazz Solar Solution will supply the electricity generated from the renewable energy project to the electricity distribution system or grid. The contract runs for 20 years.

“This was such a good opportunity for us. We signed on as a partner with Jazz Solar to qualify for the project and we did not have to make any cash contribution to build the solar project which is located in Southern Ontario in Hamilton. We own 51 percent of this project and our financial contribution is derived from the power generated and sold to OPA. Over the 20 year contract this project will reward us with an income for our First Nation,” explained Constant.

Loft pointed out that green energy projects such as this partnership between Mattagami First Nation and Jazz Solar are a good fit for First Nations.



**Sara Loft**  
Senior  
Manager,  
Community &  
Client  
Relations  
Ishkonigan

“This type of green project is such a natural for First Nations participation because we as Aboriginal people have a strong tradition and culture having to do with the land. These types of green projects also provide income for a First Nation at a time when governments are cutting back on funding so this allows a community to diversify and develop alternate areas of funds,” commented Loft.

Mattagami First Nation Chief, Walter Naveau believes that this type of income generating project

fits well with the vision of Chief and Council in terms of developing more ways for the First Nation to become self sufficient.

***"We will benefit economically for many years into the future because of their ingenuity,"  
Juanita Luke***

“I give thanks for all the hard work our staff has put into making this solar energy project a reality for Mattagami First Nation,” said Chief Naveau.

Juanita Luke, Executive Director for Mattagami First Nation pointed out that this green energy solar project is just the type of development the First Nation should be looking at for the future.

“This is exciting and we are very grateful to Jennifer Constant and Sara Loft for their efforts and knowledge involved in moving this project ahead. We will benefit economically for many years into the future because of their ingenuity,” said Luke.

Loft suggested that Ishkonigan is also interested in developing an energy plan for Mattagami First Nation. She pointed out that many communities in Ontario are taking advantage of the Aboriginal Community Energy Plan (ACEP), which is part of the Ontario Power Authority (OPA).

“Once an energy plan is done, Mattagami First Nation would be able to develop projects that could generate income, save money in energy costs and make the First Nation a front runner in terms of energy production and use,” said Loft.

# Right To Play Features Basketball And Lacrosse Training

Mattagami First Nation youth are enjoying opportunities to learn life skills, develop sports skills, improve social interactions and become more physically active with help from Andrea Naveau, Right To Play Community Youth Mentor.



**Andrea Naveau,**  
Community Youth Mentor,  
Right To Play Mattagami First Nation

Currently, Naveau along with some assistance from Derek McKay is putting together a program for local youth to pass on what both she and McKay learned at a Basketball For Development program recently in Toronto. McKay is the First Nation Student Success Coordinator for Mattagami First Nation. The basketball program will run three times a week Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The program is set for two age groups with those from age four to eight running from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and those aged nine to seventeen from 7 to 9 p.m.

"I am very excited to be

providing this basketball program for our young people here in Mattagami First Nation. It was fantastic to be able to travel to Toronto with Derek and be part of a group of people from other communities eager to learn about basketball from the best. The training sessions were actually held on the Toronto Raptors practice court at the Air Canada Centre and we were taught by Raptor clinicians," explained Naveau.

She had applied for the program with the assistance of Mattagami First Nation administration and was selected out of numerous applications to participate.

"I want to thank Mattagami First Nation Chief and Council and our administration for assisting with the application and travel. I also want to express my gratitude to the Right To Play program and Maple Leaf Sport Entertainment for providing us with this great opportunity in their basketball development program. We learned so much and it will be exciting to pass some skills on to our youth," explained Naveau.

She and McKay attended the week long training program October 13 to 17. Maple Leaf Foundation and Right To Play are charitable status partners who work together to provide opportunities for youth.



ANDREA NAVEAU AND DEREK MCKAY ATTENDED BASKETBALL TRAINING IN TORONTO AS PART OF THE RIGHT TO PLAY / MAPLE LEAF ENTERTAINMENT 'BASKETBALL FOR DEVELOPMENT' PROGRAM.



PICTURED ARE THE TRAINEES INCLUDING ANDREA NAVEAU AND DEREK MCKAY, DURING THE 'BASKETBALL FOR DEVELOPMENT' HELD IN TORONTO RECENTLY.

## SUMMER LACROSSE WORKSHOP

This past August Mattagami First Nation hosted a Lacrosse For Development workshop staged by Right To Play. Naveau, Mattagami First Nation's Community Youth Mentor was joined by Emily Gibson and Neisha Cole program officers for Right To Play from Toronto.

The workshop was run on a weekend and instruction provided by two lacrosse players that instructed youth in fundamentals, drills and practicals.

Youth also attended from Wahgoshig First Nation and were accompanied by their Right To Play Community Youth Mentor, Cara Tremblay.

"It was great to see all the youth from the two First Nations getting along so well and participating in learning skills in Lacrosse. Of

course Lacrosse is well known as an Aboriginal sport so that made it all the more exciting and interesting for the youth. To top it all off Right To Play donated 25 lacrosse sticks to our community and as well provided 25 for Wahgoshig," commented Naveau.



A 'LACROSSE FOR DEVELOPMENT' WORKSHOP WAS HELD IN MATTAGAMI FIRST NATION FOR YOUTH THIS PAST SUMMER.

## Keeping In Touch by Juanita Luke, Executive Director



**Juanita Luke**  
Executive Director  
Mattagami First Nation

We are becoming very organized and proactive when it comes to putting forth our best efforts in our First Nation's administration. To satisfy requests from our members and governments we are ensuring that our finances are following guidelines for transparency and accountability.

We have been making changes recently to make sure that our development in improving efficiency and organization in our finances is taking place. We have put in place, with the direction of our Chief and Council, a restructuring of our finance department and a revised financial policy. It is so important that our managers keep up their efforts

in implementing strong and timely financial reporting to our leadership, government and funding sources.

We are now reviewing on a monthly basis and ensuring that we are providing up to date training for our finance staff. There is a revitalization of sorts happening with our finance department and that is a timely development as there are accountability requirements coming into place and we need to make sure we can meet them.

As always our membership can request to view our audited statements. All they have to do is call and make an appointment with one of our finance staff members or myself. As Mattagami First Nation enters a new era where we are developing partnerships, creating our own businesses and negotiating with resource developers we need to have sound financial reporting in place. As part of our moving ahead with self sufficiency we must provide a solid financial backbone for our community.

I am so happy with our particip-

ation in the Harmony Project and I can point to many things that are coming out of this process. We are also currently developing a strategic plan which will put in place a guideline for the future in terms of economic opportunities that will benefit our community. We have a strong leadership, a dedicated staff, many helpful Elders and an enthusiastic membership. It is easy to be excited about our future.

In my own efforts as your Executive Director I have to give thanks to so many of you for being supportive. I also give thanks to my mentor Lorraine George, First Nation Manager for Kettle Point First Nation near Sarnia. Darlene Lafontaine, Financial Advisor for Wabun Tribal Council has also been a big help in terms of the development taking place in our financial department. Good things are happening in Mattagami First Nation and in the end we can all claim some responsibility for that. When we work hard, play by the rules and be kind to one another good things happen.

# Green Energy A Good Fit For Community

Mattagami First Nation Business Development department is excited about the recent news that the community has been approved to submit a formal application for funding of a green energy project. Jennifer Constant, Business Development Coordinator and First Nation Councillor, in collaboration with Iskonigan and Jazz Solar Solutions both of Ottawa had submitted an Expression Of Interest to the Small Communities Fund (SCF) through the Ministry of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure and it was accepted. Their submission also passed a pre-screening stage and now a formal application is being allowed for delivery on December 19.

“This is good news for us as we can now move ahead with a formal application. We are indeed fortunate to be in this position as out of many applications we have managed so far to be considered for funding through the Small Communities Fund. I want to thank Sarah Loft at Iskonigan and Jazz Solar Solutions for their assistance in developing our submission and application,” said Constant.



SOLAR PROJECTS SIMILAR TO THE ONE PICTURED HERE COULD BE DEVELOPED IN MATTAGAMI FIRST NATION.

She is hopeful that Mattagami First Nation will qualify for funding of a green energy project in the community that would see the development of solar hardware on all public buildings and the option for individual member householders to participate in the initiative. The Ontario government will prioritize projects and send them on to the federal government for review in January. The successful applicants will be announced in January or February and then the funding announcements will be provided in February.

“This project is supported by Chief and Council and is a natural development for Mattagami First Nation. Green energy initiatives like the one we are proposing will not only reduce our energy costs but it also relates to our people's traditional way of looking at environmental friendly development as stewards of the land,” explained Constant.

The Small Communities Fund, which was announced in the summer of 2014, provides a total of nearly \$300 million dollars in funding for projects related to communities under 100,000 population. Individual projects could qualify for as much as \$4 million dollars. This fund is a combined initiative of both the federal and provincial government.

Mattagami First Nation is going to be moving ahead with green energy projects into the future and will also be making a submission to the Aboriginal Community Energy Plan (ACEP), which is part of the Ontario Power Authority (OPA). This proposal-based program assists First Nations and Métis communities in developing a community energy plan or to up-

date an existing community energy plan. A community energy plan is a comprehensive long-term plan to improve energy efficiency, reduce electricity consumption and assess opportunities for green energy solutions. The ACEP Program supports First Nations and Métis Communities in determining local interests, prioritizing unique needs and opportunities in electricity conservation and clean small-scale generation.

“No matter what, we will be doing our very best to develop green energy projects that will cost us nothing or very little by partnering with business and government. There are opportunities out there that require First Nation participation as a priority and there are businesses that are willing to partner with us to develop a green energy project,” explained Constant.



## **Mattagami FN Drum**

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Mike McGrath

**Mattagami First Nation**  
*a member of Wabun Tribal Council*  
P.O. Box 99

Mattagami, Ontario P0M 1W0  
Ph. 705-894-2072  
1-888-269-7729  
Fx. 705-894-2887  
[www.mattagami.com](http://www.mattagami.com)