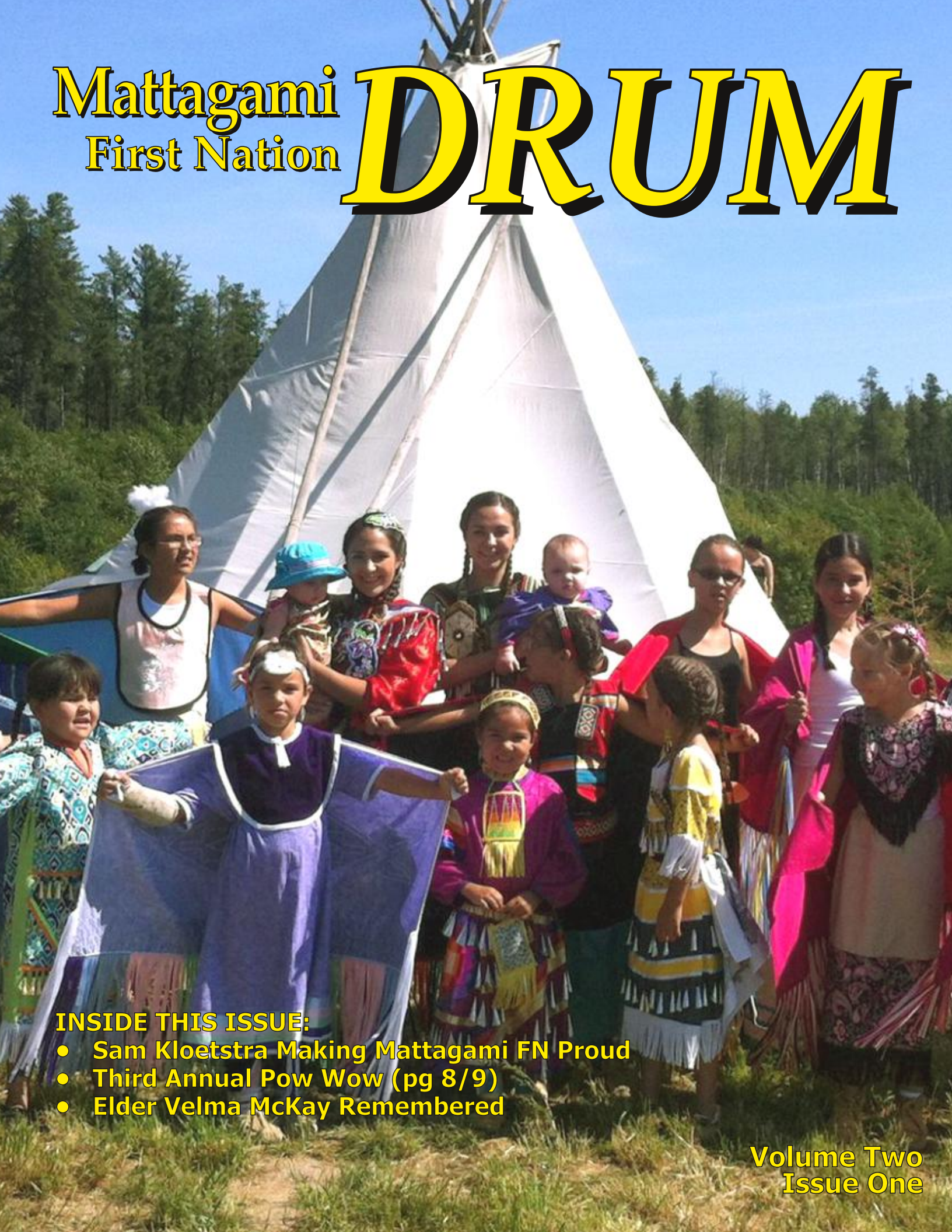


**Mattagami
First Nation**

DRUM



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**Volume Two
Issue One**

WORDS FROM THE CHIEF



**Chief
Walter
Naveau
Mattagami
First Nation**

As always I am grateful for having the opportunity to communicate with our Mattagami First Nation members and I am dedicating this column in this issue of The Drum to our young people. I was young once too you know but I find it so strange that my children and young people in general think it difficult to realize that we were very much like them many years ago. We have more in common with our young people than we as Elders and they as youth realize.

All of us who are fathers, mothers, grandfathers and grandmothers, uncles and aunts understand the challenges our youth are facing. Although it was in another time we had to deal with many of the same things our youth of today are struggling with. Many of us have survived and sadly many are now gone and in too many cases at too early an age. I know that we appear as wrinkled, greying seniors to our feisty, energetic and adventurous youth. Sometimes they don't really understand that we know very well what they are dealing with in their lives and that once we were like them.

We older folk have had to struggle with alcohol and drug addictions, the lack of substantial opportunities to get an education or a job and the feeling of living as though we were second class citizens in this country we call Canada. Many of us as children had to endure the residential school system and the 60s scoop which were designed to assimilate us and more or less destroy our language, culture and traditions. Thanks to our Creator and all our leaders and Elders from the past, many of us have managed to survive to grow older and become Chiefs, council members, community administration staff people, education experts and security and health professionals. We have not forgotten our days as youngsters and that helps us to understand how important our Mattagami First Nation youth are to us.

We have lost our language, our culture and traditions to a great degree over

many years but I am happy to see there is a renewal happening all across this country and right here in Mattagami First Nation. I see our youth moving ahead in education and taking advantage of the many new opportunities our community has developed in areas of employment. Things are so much better in our community today than when I was a child and that makes life a little easier. Our youth can get a start in education right here in Mattagami First Nation and they can find training programs to prepare them for the jobs that are coming along due to our negotiations with resource development companies. Young people here have most of the modern conveniences that youth have in non-Native communities and they are encouraged and supported by their Elders, leaders and parents in struggling with challenges that arise.

***Our young people
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ahead for all of us***

I see our language, traditions and culture coming back to our First Nation and I believe that more and more we should be making these teachings a greater part of our education curriculum. This will enhance the lives of our youth in terms of knowing who they are and where they came from. It gives them a sense of pride and confidence to go out into this larger world and be able to stand straight and tall with their heads held high as Native people. I see a day in the future where our young people will be able to talk to each other in our language and have a deep understanding of our culture and traditions so that they can find balance in this world and feel connected to our Mother Earth.

It might sound like a cliché because we hear so many of our Chiefs say that our youth are precious in that they are the leaders of tomorrow. This is not a cliché but the honest truth and it is obvious when you look around our community and see some of our role models that were youth just a few fleeting years before and now are in trusted leadership

positions. I am talking about people like Jennifer Constant, Juanita Luke, Chris McKay, Dayna Cosgrove, Andrea Naveau and Dereck Naveau just to name a few. I see so many younger ones moving ahead quickly and participating in our Pow Wows, learning their traditions and cultures and getting a good education. Youngsters like Sam Kloetstra, Tianna Golinowski, Brent Boissoneau, Sydney Constant and Emily Ludebeck to name a few. You may have seen the story on Sydney Constant in the last issue of The Drum and in this issue we are highlighting Sam Kloetstra.

When I think of my own children I find the strength to do the best I can to serve Mattagami First Nation as Chief. I know their future depends on us leaders to put in place a safe, modern and fully serviced community and to make sure we can provide them with the tools they will need to meet future challenges and rise to their potential. I was thinking of my children when I was asked not long ago while attending our NAN Annual General Meeting in Thunder Bay to join a protest group of young people in their march of solidarity. I was proud to stand with these young Anishinabe in Thunder Bay during the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN) Chief's meeting and walk with these youth in their fight concerning their future and our people's wish to take back our inherent and treaty right to manage our people's education.

I was sad that our youth were supported by only a few Chiefs on the march that day but I also felt very privileged to be surrounded by all of these bright, fearless young warriors that were taking up the fight for all Native people in protesting cutbacks and inequality. Their willingness and courage to stand and march on our behalf must be supported by all of our Chiefs right across this land. We have come too far to have to settle for second best and to have our rights, budgets and achievements cut back in any way. Our young people understand this and they have the intelligence, skills, energy and drive to keep moving things ahead for all of us to enjoy a better future. The proverbial genie is out of the bottle and there is no way we are going back to a life where we accept being treated as second class citizens in our own land. We have the benefit of the wisdom and strength of dedicated leadership in our Chiefs and Councils and the wind at our back in a breath of fresh air that comes from our young people on the move.

Sam Kloetstra Making Mattagami FN Proud

Sam Kloetstra is the featured youth of the issue for this edition of the Mattagami Drum. At 17 years of age, Kloetstra is in his final year of high school at Timmins High and Vocational School in Timmins, Ontario.

He is an active participant and contributor to forums, groups and organizations that advocate for services and assistance to Aboriginal students and youth in general. Kloetstra was recognized for his dedication and perseverance to Aboriginal youth issues when he was appointed to the Ontario Ministry of Education Student Advisory Committee, an advisory group that works directly with the Ontario Minister of Education.



Sam Kloetstra
Mattagami
First Nation

He is also a member of the Aboriginal Student Youth Advisory Council at Timmins High and Vocational School. While attending secondary school, Kloetstra became a vocal youth representative for Aboriginal students. He has been actively involved in representing his home community of Mattagami First Nation and Aboriginal students in general with attendance and participation in events and meetings held at the regional level by Nishnawabe-Aski Nation (NAN), at provincial levels and also locally.

While in grade ten, he was one of three Aboriginal students at Timmins High and Vocational School, who were asked to become involved in a research training project. The three member student group developed a project to look into ways to make school life more inviting and supportive for new Aboriginal students.

"This was a very special topic for us as it was a project that we identified with. We had just made the transition into a new school as Aboriginal students from our First Nation. There were many issues and difficulties we had to deal with and we wanted to see what could be done for other Native students who had the same issues. It was a busy project but one that we all enjoyed taking part in," said Kloetstra.

The results of the project identified that there was a lack of support for students from their home First Nations as well as from the school. Their efforts also saw the creation of a mentorship program for new incoming Aboriginal students that would help them better integrate with the new school environment. A school lounge was also created for Aboriginal students with the idea of keeping it as an open area for any one in the school but with the focus of helping new Native students. The project was later expanded to create Aboriginal youth councils at various other schools within the school district and to incorporate the mentorship program as well.

"It feels good to have taken part in something that will help other students in my school and beyond. I gives me a sense of pride that we did something positive. It was great to receive recognition for our work but it also felt good to meet with other students and to see that they were getting more help instead of having to struggle so much through their first years of high school," said Kloetstra.

As a result of his advocacy and hard work in representing First Nation youth at Timmins High, Kloetstra was selected as a member of the Ontario Ministry of Education Student Advisory Committee. As part of this committee, Kloetstra continued his research into the issues that Aboriginal students deal with during their education away from home. His input, along with that of other Aboriginal student representatives is helping to create positive changes to the education curriculum that will allow for more support for Aboriginal students and address the issues that Native students face as they continue their education away from their home communities.

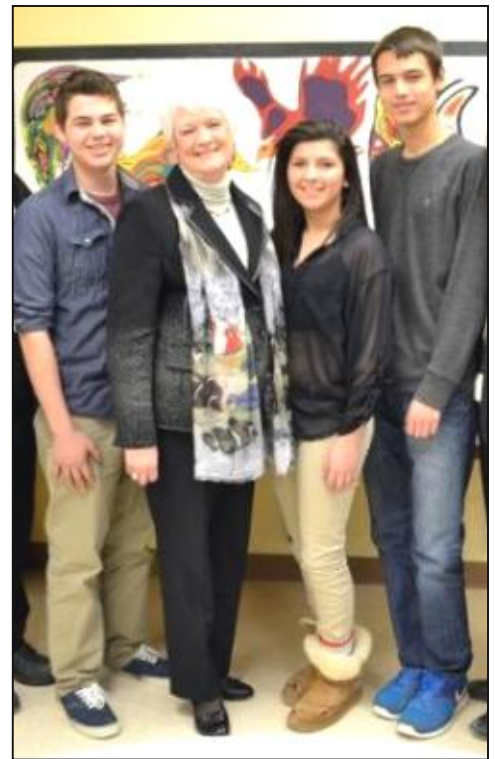
Kloetstra has been an active participant in the annual Wabun Youth Gathering over the years and has served as a chaperon for the event.

"It really makes me feel good to see our youth making their way through life and getting a good education while also learning about their culture and traditions. Sam is a great example of what our young First Nation people can achieve through hard work and a

great attitude. Our youth are our future and more and more I see the young people of Mattagami First Nation rise to all the challenges that exist and succeed with their education. That makes me very proud," commented Chief Walter Naveau.

During the school year, Kloetstra lives with family in Timmins but when it comes to holidays and summer breaks he enjoys being able to return to his roots and family and friends in Mattagami First Nation. His parents are Deanna Hyde and Charles Kloetstra and he has three brothers: Isaac, Michael and Kyle as well as a sister Emily. Sam Kloetstra is also the grandson of Mattagami First Nation Elders Morris Naveau and Delores McKay.

"We sure are proud of that Sam as we are of all our grandchildren. Sam is full of energy and a great help to his fellow students. I see him getting a great education and moving along in terms of leadership development. He is a great asset to our community," said Elder Morris Naveau.



PICTURED IS MATTAGAMI FN YOUTH SAM KLOETSTRA (LEFT) WITH ONTARIO EDUCATION MINISTER LIZ SANDALS AND ABORIGINAL YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES KAYLAN INNES AND CURTIS DOBSON.

Mattagami First Nation Remembers Elder Velma McKay

Mattagami First Nation was saddened by the recent loss of a cherished local Elder in the community, Elder Velma McKay.

“Mom was a great lady and we will all miss her great sense of humour and sarcasm. She knew how to laugh and to have fun and how to make us happy, that is what we will always remember most about her.

She loved her grandchildren and it was great to watch as she showered her grand kids with wonderful gifts and went out of her way to make them happy with every holiday or special event. I know she knew her time was precious and she wanted to fill their lives with happy moments as much as possible. When she was around the little ones we could see how joyful and satisfied she was even with the pain of her sickness. The grandchildren gave her strength,” said Kathy Perreault, McKay's daughter.

Her grandchildren who brought her so much joy include: Meaghann, Brittany, Chelsea, Brandy, Breanne, Lisa, Alexis and Logan.

McKay passed on at the Timmins and District Hospital in Timmins surrounded by her family on January 25, 2014. McKay suffered from a chronic illness for several years and during the past year, had to be hospitalized to receive regular treatment.

McKay grew up in Mattagami First Nation surrounded by a culture and traditional lifestyle that was firmly rooted in her people's past. She was born in Mattagami First

Nation and was raised in a traditional lifestyle surrounded by her family and community Elders. She learned all the traditional pursuits and practices of her people including hunting, fishing and trapping as well as how to live and survive on the land. From a young age, she also learned from her Elders the history and spirituality of her people that had been

ing these years it was difficult to maintain a connection to her Aboriginal heritage in a setting that was devoted to assimilating Native people. However, when she returned to her home community, McKay realized that she had managed to remember enough of her past to be able to rediscover many of the culture and traditions and then to pass

on much of that heritage to her family and the community. Over the years, she also continued to communicate with her family and Elders in her Native language, however in a much more limited capacity as the years in residential school had taken much away from her.

As a young woman, during one of her many travels by train she met her life partner Edward Perreault, who was from Gogama, Ontario. She and her partner Edward lived

in Gogama and raised their four children Kevin Perreault, Kathy Perreault, Wendy Debastos and Wayne Perreault. Edward Perreault passed away on January 25, 2012.

Even though the family lived in Gogama, they continued to visit their extended relations in Mattagami First Nation on a regular basis and kept up their quest for knowledge in regards to Native culture and traditions. Kathy Perreault recalled how their family visited relations such as their grandparents Emily and Raymond McKay and their uncles and aunts in the community. McKay's and her sister Daisy Naveau's birth mother was Jane Naveau but she passed on when they were very young. Their



ELDER VELMA MCKAY AND HER DAUGHTER WENDY DEBASTOS.

passed on for generations through her people's oral tradition of story telling. McKay continued this tradition of story telling through her communication skills and wonderful sense of humour. She shared her positive outlook on life and stories of culture and tradition with family, friends and community members. At an early age, she also learned to understand and speak the Ojibway language.

As a child, she attended the Shingwauk Residential School in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. This experience provided her with a modern education but it meant a loss of much of her heritage and in particular her language. She was separated from her family and Elders and dur-

late father Raymond McKay continued on and married the late Emily (Ketchebra) McKay and their family grew to include brothers and sisters Delores McKay (Bill), Rodney McKay (Carole), Bruce McKay (Betty), Ivan McKay (Cindy) and Brenda McKay (Mike).

“Everyone in our family knew how much she loved her bingo. If there was no bingo game in town, the family would host small bingo nights with each other just to provide her with one of her joyful events. We had so much fun with mom over the years while playing bingo,” said Kathy Perreault.

McKay enjoyed taking part in activities in her home community including Elder Socials and the annual Pow Wow gathering. In her later years, she enjoyed traveling and she had the opportunity to visit St. John, Newfoundland in 2011 and as well she participated in an Elders tour to Quebec which was organized by the Ojibway and Cree Cultural Centre. She also took time to care for her own Elders and looked after her uncle Gilbert in his old age. Kathy Perreault who is the Resource Centre Co-ordinator for the Ojibway and Cree Cultural Centre in Tim-

mins, has always been a source of pride for her mother in particular because she has assisted Elders over the years in many ways.

A memorial took place January 30, 2014 in Mattagami First Nation to honour and celebrate the life of Elder Velma McKay

“One of our favourite family memories are the times we spent together on her houseboat in Gogama on Lake Minisinakwa. It was fun for all of us to get together on the lake to go fishing on the weekend where mom was able to see the land where she was born and to be with her family,” said Kathy Perreault.

Every fall, the family came together for an annual fall moose hunt in the Mattagami and Gogama areas and McKay was on hand to assist with this important traditional pursuit. They kept up the tradition for

many years even as McKay began to grow weaker with illness in later years.

Kathy Perreault pointed out that McKay's family is very grateful for all the support and assistance McKay received as she was living the last year of her disease. The family expressed its thanks to the Misiway Health Centre, the London Health Science Centre, Timmins and District Hospital, Mattagami First Nation and all the people that helped on an individual basis from Mattagami First Nation and far and wide.

A memorial took place January 30, 2014 in Mattagami First Nation to honour and celebrate the life of McKay. This event was attended by the community and extended family and friends from northern Ontario. The family wish to thank the organizers and Mattagami First Nation for hosting the event. The family is also grateful to their Aunt Delores McKay for delivering the eulogy and for her drumming, to Trevor McKay for playing the flute, Deanna Heyde for her traditional singing, all the cooks for the wonderful feast and for those who attended from near and far.

Mattagami FN Memorial Project Moves Ahead

Mattagami First Nation is working towards creating a memorial to honour the memory of local Aboriginal war veterans as well as survivors of the residential school era.

“Our community has considered a memorial to our veterans for a long time. However, we also wanted a way to remember the survivors of the residential school system. Both periods are important events in our history that have greatly affected our people and our community,” said Jennifer Constant, First Nation Councillor and Business Development Coordinator for Mattagami First Nation.

She explained that the community wanted to create a way to honour the memory of the people who made sacrifices willingly and unwillingly during these events in time.

“The people who went off to war

or attended residential school suffered for their experiences and the loss of part of their lives. One group took part in a dangerous conflict as knowing adults and the other group were children who were forced into a system that deeply affected them. The experiences of these two groups of people who endured such hardship and terror also affected their children and grandchildren. Still over time with the help of healing through a return to our traditional and cultural teachings we have survived and continue to be proud Anishinabe. We can not forget this history because that is how we will keep it from happening again while at the same time we need a way we can be constantly reminded of the sacrifices made by our people,” said Constant.

First Nation supporters of the proposed memorial are now in the

process of collecting names and information regarding war veterans and survivors of the residential school era. The information gathered will be used to create the memorial as well as to support any application for funding.

Constant explained that this is an ongoing process and that organizers of this project will seek feedback from the community on the details of the memorial. They will also work closely with local Elders to get their input and support.

“Most memorials commemorate a location, a time or an event. We want this memorial to honour specifically the people who had to live through these tragic events. They are survivors who lived through hardship and their perseverance is what made our community what it is today. We owe so much to their sacrifice and their loss,” said Constant.

Councillor Bruce McKay Featured

Bruce McKay is the featured Councillor for this issue of the Mattagami Drum. McKay was elected to his first full term as First Nation Councillor on April 11, 2013.

"I am proud to be serving my community in this capacity and I am grateful to the people that elected me to this position. I want to help our First Nation become stronger and provide more opportunities for our youth and future generations. As we move forward, I am also hopeful that our young people can maintain a connection to their traditional past and their heritage by preserving our way of life and our language," said Councillor McKay.



**Bruce
McKay**
Mattagami
First Nation
Councillor

He is supportive of the ongoing negotiations involving resource development with the hope that his people and especially local youth can acquire meaningful long term employment through these initiatives. He is interested in encouraging youth to seek post secondary education. He believes Mattagami First Nation should be working hard to provide the opportunities to youth for education and funding.

"An education for the future is fundamental these days in order to enter into most lines of employment. We need to encourage our youth to get their grade twelve and make it easier for them to achieve this goal. A higher education standard for our people will mean that they will have better opportunities and an easier time in getting those high paying, long term jobs that will create a healthier First Nation for our members," said McKay.

He is also appreciative of the support network and organization that manages the First Nation administration.

"I have to commend our administrative staff for their hard work and dedication to our community.

Our Band Manager Juanita Luke leads the organization and along with her staff their support makes our work as Chief and Council so much easier so that we make informed decisions on community matters. Juanita is a great asset to our community and her dedication to her work is just what our community needs," said McKay.

He is the owner and operator of the Mattagami Convenience store, a business that will mark its 10th anniversary this April 2014.

"As a new councillor, I have to consider balancing my duties to my business and my responsibilities as a councillor. In everything I do, serving my community and helping my people has always comes first and I still manage to maintain my family and business interests," said McKay.

The Mattagami Convenience Store has served as meeting place for many local people over the years. It is a ritual for many local members to have their morning coffee at McKay's store, where he serves fresh hot drinks and light snacks.

McKay spent his childhood in Mattagami First Nation surrounded by Elders and a community that was rooted in a traditional past. He recalls many of the modern changes that happened to his home community. He was 12 when Mattagami FN first received hydro services and as a young boy, he also saw the introduction of modern water and waste services for local homes. He was raised by his parents Raymond and Emily McKay along with his brothers and sisters Daisy Naveau, Velma McKay, Delores McKay, Brenda McKay, Rodney McKay and Ivan McKay. Sadly, he has lost several family members over the years with the first being his brother Marcel McKay when he was a child, his brother Raymond McKay passed on in 1988, his mother Emily McKay's passing was in 2012 and his sister Velma McKay passed on January 25, 2014. His father Raymond had passed on earlier.

"Life was very different back in the old days when I was a child. Our community members were closer to each other because of our way of life and the fact we had to survive on the land. It was hard in some ways but it was easier in others. More people spent time on the land and food was often shared and the workload made easier by the fact that we all helped each other in one way or another. It has been amazing for me to see all the changes that have happened and continue to take place in our community," said McKay.

***A connection to
our heritage and
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their past***

As youth take part in a more modern world of communications and technology, McKay is hopeful that they will maintain a connection to their traditional past, their heritage and their language.

"I grew up hearing my language but I lost it as I grew older over time. I want our youth to have the opportunity to speak and understand our people's traditional language. A connection to our heritage and especially our language will root our youth to their past and give them a sense of pride in who they are and hope for the future," said McKay.

He has a long history in working for First Nation policing and education at different levels. He started out his career with the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) in a constable training program. Although he enjoyed his role with the OPP he moved later to bigger challenges with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Tribal Police in British Columbia where he was based in Kelowna for two years. McKay stayed in the west coast of Canada in British Columbia for 15

years where he also became involved in First Nation education as a Student Councillor for seven years with the Niska people at the Kitwanga Nation. Later on he also worked for Mattagami First Nation as a Student Councillor. He then moved on to Niagara Falls, New York where he was employed with the Seneca Niagara Casino & Hotel which is owned and operated by the Seneca Nation Of Indians. McKay was employed as an Investigative Officer for the casino. This

was a very intense and challenging line of work.

In 2004, McKay moved permanently back to Mattagami First Nation and purchased the Mattagami Convenience Store, a business that was actually established by his late mother Emily McKay in 1972. Although it had changed owners several times over the years, he was happy to renew the family business in the community.

At 54 years of age, McKay enjoys spending time with his family

and operating the Convenience Store. He and his store have become landmarks in the community and he is happy to provide local people with a place they can turn to for gas, groceries and food services. McKay and his wife Betty have a family with sons Greg and Kurtis. Bruce McKay is also father to Cameron and twins Dustin and Dakota. As a grandfather, he enjoys spending as much time as possible with his five year old grandson Taydem.

Education Program Helps Students

The Focus On Education feature for this issue of The Mattagami Drum is Dereck McKay. He is the new First Nation Student Success Program Coordinator for the Mary Jane Naveau Memorial School in Mattagami First Nation. He started his employment on December 2, 2013. The position was previously held by Chuck Bourgeois.

McKay is working directly with students in the community to offer support and encouragement through cultural and educational activities. One of his goals is also to help new high school students make the transition from elementary school in a Native community to high school in city locations away from home. The community does not have a secondary school.

“I enjoy working with our youth and helping them achieve their education goals. I understand what it is like to move from a small community school like ours to a big high school in the city away from home. On one hand this can be a very exciting experience for a young First Nation student but on the other it can be very challenging and sometimes upsetting. When we help ease our students into this transition period then it will help take such a heavy burden of coping off their shoulders and allow them to concentrate on their studies. Our assistance is designed to help these developing students for the long run,” explained McKay.

He is not new to working with the Mary Jane Naveau Memorial School as he held the position of Tutor Escort for ten years from 2001 to 2011. He then took a break away from education services to work in the resource development industry as a Geo-Technician /

Assistant Geologist for two years with Iamgold Corp in the Mattagami area. Although he enjoyed working in a different sector of employment he was happy to return to an education position that is more like a calling to him.

As the First Nation Student Success Program Coordinator, McKay is working with educators to assist them in finding resources to ultimately help students achieve a higher standard of education as well as assistance with any difficulties at school. At 32 years age, McKay is grateful to be back in a position where he is helping local students.



Dereck McKay
First Nation Student Success Program Coordinator

“It feels good to be working for my school again. Working with youth in the education field is an area that I really enjoy being part of. It allows me to assist young people in dealing with situations that were not much different to what I experienced as a student in the community and then leaving for studies way from home. I know and understand these students simply because I am a First Nation person and this is my home,” said McKay

In addition to supporting, encouraging and assisting students at school, McKay added that he would like to see more development in the community regarding the Aboriginal

language, traditions and culture.

“One of our main concerns for our youth is maintaining our heritage and culture, especially our language. It would be a great idea to give opportunities for our youth to be able to learn their Native language. This is something all of our leaders and educators want to see,” said McKay.

In his spare time, he enjoys volunteering for his school and for youth oriented projects and events in the community. His parents are Rodney and Carol McKay and his younger brother is Roderick McKay and his older brother is Darryl McKay. Dereck McKay is currently engaged to Leah Corston and he has two children three year old Brody and six year old Mariah.

The First Nation Student Success Program (FNSSP) is an initiative that supports First Nation on-reserve schools from kindergarten to grade 12 in their ongoing efforts to respond to students' needs and improve student and school results. The FNSSP provides funding to develop and implement programs that follow three interconnected components: School Success Plans, Student Learning Assessments and Performance Measurement. The program also includes two additional components, entitled Early Literacy and Structural Readiness, to provide additional support in early literacy and capacity development of regional First Nation organizations. The program is administered by several partner Aboriginal organizations in the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN) area including Aboriginal education councils and First Nation education organizations. Mattagami First Nation delivers the program in its own community.

Third Annual Mattagami FN

The Third Annual Mattagami First Nation Pow Wow was bigger and better than ever. The event was held over two days on August 24 and 25, 2013 and it brought together over 400 participants and performers, from the community, other First Nations and across the province.

“We were happy to see the turnout of people who came to our third annual Pow Wow. The event is growing every year and more dancers and singers attend every time,” said Dana McKenzie, Event Coordinator for Mattagami First Nation.

She added that the event was a source of pride for the community.

“There is a sense of hope when our community members and especially our Elders see their local youth taking part in this cultural event. It is a time when our whole community can get involved and celebrate our heritage. The Pow Wow is special to us now as it is a time when we can share our culture and traditions with our community and with everyone that visits our First Nation,” said McKenzie.

The 2013 event drew 73 traditional dancers and 25 traditional drummers and singers. The host drum was the High Ridge Singers of Moose Factory; Co-host drum was the Iron Stone Singers; Invited drum was White Stone Creek; Head male dancer was Fancy Dance Champion Adrian Harjo, of Kansas State in the



A COMING OUT DANCE WAS HELD FOR MATTAGAMI FIRST NATION YOUTH (FROM L-R) EMILY LUDEBECK, TAMARA MATHIEU AND JANELLE MCKAY-GOLINOWSKI.

United States; Head female dancer was Women's Traditional Dance Champion, Kristol Abel of M'Chigeeng First Nation; Head male youth was Tyler Paul of Bear Island First Nation; Head female youth was Janelle Golinowski of Mattagami First Nation; MC was Marc Hunter; Grandfather Elder was Alec Jacobs; Grandmother Elder was Claira Prince and the Arena Director was Dawn Recollet.

Traditional performers also included a Smoke Dancing Group known as Tribal Vision Dance from Six Nations, Ontario and Chicken Dancer, Geronimo Tootoosis, of

Saskatchewan. The third annual event also saw the rare participation of an Aboriginal war veteran, Paul Moore, a member of Mattagami First Nation who participated in the Korean War. Ten vendors also registered and participated in the event to sell their crafts and products.

A hand drum competition was also organized with three community members as judges for the event. Mattagami First Nation provided funding for this competition.

The Pow Wow also featured an honour song for the late Willis McKay, a well known First Nation leader and former Chief, who passed away on January 19, 2013.

A feast was also featured by the organizers for participants of the Pow Wow. The feast was managed and coordinated by organizers and volunteers. Organizers wish to specifically thank Deidra Boissoneau, Dawn Recollet and Michelle Polaniec for their hard work in putting together the Pow Wow feast.

Every year, McKenzie and other local organizers of traditional activities encourage local youth to take a more active part in the annual event. Previous years have seen several young people introduced as traditional dancers and performers in a 'Coming Out Ceremony', a custom that presents a young dancer or performer with their new regalia to the public for the first time at a Pow



Pow Wow Showcases Community

Wow. Three local First Nation youth who took part in this ceremony were Emily Ludebeck, Tamara Mathieu, and Janelle McKay-Golinowski.

“It makes us proud to see our youth in the Coming Out ceremony and to see them perform for the first time in their own regalia that they and their families have made. We are returning to our culture and traditions in Mattagami First Nation and that gives us all hope for a better future,” said McKenzie.

She and other supporters of local heritage and culture continually encourage youth throughout the year to develop and design their regalia as well as to learn the methods and types of traditional dances. McKenzie regularly teaches traditional dance at events such as the Wabun Youth Gathering where she has passed on her knowledge and skills to Mattagami First Nation youth as well as other young people from the Wabun Tribal Council area. She has also organized classes that teach the craft work skills needed in the production of traditional regalia bead work. She will also be working closely with the Right To Play program, an Aboriginal youth program that encourages leadership, in the community to develop programs that will promote and highlight First Nation culture and heritage.

McKenzie and the Pow Wow organizers wish to thank the sponsors of the annual event including Iam

Gold, Ontario Power Generation (OPG), Gold Corp, Mattagami Trust and the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC). They are also grateful for the support provided by Bruce McKay and his store, Mattagami Convenience and Larry Naveau and his store, the Big Old Smoke Shop.

For more photos and videos of the 2013 Pow Wow visit our facebook site at:

Mattagami First Nation Annual Traditional Pow wow - Public Page

McKenzie works throughout the year to prepare for the annual Pow Wow and she also organizes and coordinates other local events with the focus of encouraging and promoting Aboriginal culture and heritage. The 2013 Pow Wow marks the third event she has produced as Pow Wow organizer for Mattagami FN. She has spent many years acquiring and gaining knowledge of traditional ceremonies and craftwork, teachings, dancing and singing. McKenzie grew up in a family that encouraged her to attend Pow Wows and cultural events from a young age.

“Dana and her assistants put a lot of time and effort into making our

Pow Wow happen every year. Because of the dedication of these organizers we are returning to our traditional and cultural ways and in a way that showcases our First Nation. I look forward to another great Pow Wow this coming summer,” commented Chief Walter Naveau.

McKenzie has a five year old son Blaine and she and her partner Travis Linklater enjoy volunteering, participating and promoting Aboriginal events, Pow Wows and other gatherings.

“We want to thank everyone for assisting and participating to make our annual Pow Wow a success. Without the support of many, none of this would be possible. We are also grateful to all of the performers and dancers that came to our event. We also want to thank our Chief and Council for their ongoing support for the Pow Wow and all our traditional activities that serve to promote and encourage our heritage. We look forward to the coming year and to establishing our next Pow Wow this summer,” said McKenzie.

Community members, visitors and individuals who wish to see or participate in the 2014 Mattagami First Nation Annual Pow Wow are encouraged to contact the First Nation office for more information or to visit the community website at www.mattagami.com for updates on the planning and dates for the event.

photos by Jennifer Constant



Health Focus On Eileen Boissoneau

Eileen Boissoneau is the featured staff person for this edition of the Mattagami Drum. She has been with the Mattagami First Nation Health Department since 1989, and involved in an Aboriginal health services career that spans some 25 years.



EILEEN BOISSONEAU, COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSE WITH HER HUSBAND CHAD BOISSONEAU, FIRST NATION ENTREPRENEUR AND FORMER CHIEF OF MATTAGAMI FN, TOGETHER WITH THEIR GRANDCHILDREN TWO YEAR OLD VINCENT AND FIVE MONTH OLD DION.

As a testament to her dedication she has held the position of Community Health Representative (CHR) for most of that time. In addition to her role as CHR, she also has moved into the dual role of managing the health care department for the community.

Boissoneau works closely with Wabun's Community Health Nurse (CHN) Therese Mannila in delivering health care programs and services for the community. Boissoneau is also involved in coordinating the Community Crisis Team, a local front line care service that provides support in times of difficulty and emergency situations. She also takes care of the day to day operations of the First Nation health care department, managing office staff and working closely with Wabun Health Services.

Boissoneau believes in achieving as much education as possible. She has continually added to her knowledge and skills base by completing several education programs during her health care career. Currently, she is taking part in a two year First Nation Health Manager Program which is provided by the First Na-

tions Health Managers Association (FNHMA). This is a national Aboriginal organization with the goal of expanding health management capacity for First Nations. Boissoneau started the online education program in September 2013 and will finish in 2015.

"This program will greatly add to my work experience as it is geared towards an Aboriginal perspective with training that is designed with First Nations in mind. Since I am still at work, it has caused me to become more organized and disciplined with my studies, my responsibilities at the health office, as well as being able to spend time with my family at home," said Boissoneau.

In May 2013, she completed a two year nursing program from Northern College in Timmins and received her Nursing Diploma. She completed the program on a part time basis over several years while taking care of her family and working for the community health department.

"This was a very demanding program that required a lot of dedication and hard work. It was even

more difficult for me as I had many important family matters to attend to during this time. However, I was grateful to my husband Chad and my sons for their support with my education and I am also thankful to the Chief and Council and to the Band Manager for their encouragement and supporting me with my education goals. I am also very fortunate to have a hard working and supportive staff," said Boissoneau.

Earlier she had completed a condensed one year Community Diabetes Prevention Worker program with Yellowquill College. This expertise is deemed a priority these days as First Nation people are at high risk for getting this debilitating disease. Expertise is needed in First Nation communities to deal with what has become more or less an epidemic.

Boissoneau and her husband Chad Boissoneau are also certified First Aid Instructors. They have provided their expertise and assistance in Mattagami First Nation as First Aid Instructors for almost 20 years. In addition to annually maintaining their certification in First Aid training with the Canadian Red Cross, they provide the training and certification for the Community Crisis team in Mattagami First Nation.

"The Community Crisis Team is an important service for our community's health and well being. We have to be ready to take care of our First Nation in an emergency, whether it involves an individual, a few people or the entire community," said Eileen Boissoneau.

In May 2012, the Community Crisis Team conducted a well organized and safe evacuation of the community when the First Nation was threatened with an oncoming forest fire in the area. Regional agencies and local leadership commended the team for their planning and organization in moving community members to safety in tem-

porary shelters in Timmins and Kapuskasing.

Her role with the community health department also includes working with outside agencies and organizations. For the past nine years, she and her staff have helped to coordinate an annual four week program with the Northern Ontario School Of Medicine which hosts two of their students in the community to gain work experience and hands on training in a Native community.

“Medical students that have come to our community have said how much they enjoyed their time here. It is a valuable experience for everyone involved. The program allows us to access the knowledge and education of new medical professionals and they in turn gain valuable insight on the issues and situations Native people face when they deal with medical services,” said Boissoneau.

Throughout her career, she has believed in continuing education to add to one's self improvement, experience and training. With her balance in adding to her skills and knowledge while heading up the First Nation's health department and also raising a family, Boissoneau is seen as a role model for younger people in the community.

***"Her thirst for knowledge and new skills has assisted our community and she will continue as a shining example of what a person can do when they put their mind to it,"
- Juanita Luke,
Band Manager***

“Education is power and the more knowledge you can gain, the better able you are to pass on the benefits of your work to others you serve. I encourage all youth to get as much education as possible. We also have to remember that education is for everyone and no matter what age you may be, we are never too old to learn. Education does not stop when we finish school, we never stop learning throughout our lives,” said Eileen Boissoneau.

Juanita Luke, Band Manager for Mattagami First Nation is appreciative of the successes Boissoneau has

had in terms of education and health management for Mattagami First Nation.

“Eileen is such a great role model. She has always served her community with dedication and with great effort. Her thirst for knowledge and new skills has assisted our community and she will continue as a shining example of what a person can do when they put their mind to it,” commented Luke.

Boissoneau and her husband Chad have two sons, 15 year old Brent and 20 year old Dylan. Chad is a valued leader and former Chief of the First Nation and he has been involved in many successful initiatives in the resource sector. Their son Dylan and his partner Fallon have two children: two year old Vincent and four month old Dion.

“I am very fortunate to be a grandmother. I can't imagine what life would be like without them. These two little ones have made us very happy and brought our family closer together,” said Eileen Boissoneau.

Her young son Brent has been a key participant in the Wabun Tribal Council's Wabun Youth Gathering for many years and has progressed to the position of Junior Chaperon for the event.

Traditional Feast Heralds In 2014

Mattagami First Nation hosted its annual New Years Feast on January 18, 2014. The annual gathering grew out of a tradition in the community that saw local families and friends coming together every year after the holidays to share in a feast.

“The annual New Years feast has always been part of our community for as long as most of us can remember. Many of our Elders remember it taking place when they were young. It's a great event for our people as it is a time when we can all get together and catch up on old friendships and spend time with our family and friends,” said Jennifer Constant, First Nation Councillor and Business Development Coordinator.

The event was held two weeks after the new year to allow for

everyone to take part in and travel to their own personal gatherings and get-togethers with families in the community and throughout Northern Ontario and beyond.

A comedy show was presented as part of the gathering which featured a stand up comedy act by Craig Lauzon. He is a veteran comedian cast member of the Royal Canadian Air Farce, a regular television comedy series broadcast nationally by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC).

“Laughter is the best medicine and it was great to have a high profile act like Craig to entertain at our feast. Everyone enjoyed the show and it was good fun all around. We wanted to start off the year with a positive note and when the event was done, we were all so satisfied to

have spent an evening full of fun and laughter,” said Constant.

More than 50 people came together for the event from the community and from the surrounding area. A bus service was provided for First Nation members residing in Timmins. Chief and Council were also present to meet with community members as well socialize with family and friends.

“I thank everyone who helped to organize this feast as it was such a positive way for all of us to get together and prepare for a brand new year. First Nation communities in isolated areas have many hardships to deal with and here in Mattagami First Nation we all understand that if we pull together and support each other good things happen,” said Juanita Luke, Band Manager.

Jennifer Constant A Perfect Fit For Business Development Coordinator

Jennifer Constant is the new Business Development Coordinator for Mattagami First Nation. She started her new position in October 2013.

“It feels good to be taking on a new position as it is a continuation of some of the work that I have been involved in for a some time now. This position is designated to helping our people to build on community capacity and to take on new and upcoming opportunities in employment and business development,” explained Constant.



Jennifer Constant
First Nation Councillor / Business Development Coordinator

Her new role is to help local members prepare for future employment opportunities and to assist local businesses in connecting to current and potential new initiatives. Her responsibilities are to encourage and help community members attain higher education or training, as well as to identify current levels of education and work experience and skills in the First Nation. She will also work with First Nation businesses or startups and assist the community to be better prepared and ready to participate in existing and upcoming business opportunities on or near the community. Recently, Constant conducted a survey for on and off reserve members to try to identify the current level of skills and capacity for the First Nation. This survey involved input on education levels, training and business skills and experience relating to skills and knowledge.

“The main goal of my work will be to increase the level of the skilled workforce in our community. We have a large population of youth in our community and we need to prepare them for the workforce if they

are to attain meaningful employment in the future. Our youth can move on to higher and greater levels of education, training and employment if we provide them with the right guidance and direction. We need to afford them every opportunity in order to help them achieve their full potential,” said Constant.

Her work also involves supporting and expanding on previous economic development projects and initiatives as well as working closely with the Economic Development Officer, Gary Naveau. In addition she will be working to support the Harmony Project, an initiative started by the First Nation to move forward with a group of policies and codes to further develop a socially, politically and financially responsible community. The Harmony project which was introduced by Juanita Luke, Band Manager is dedicated to developing the First Nation to the very best it can be.

In keeping with a strong work ethic and dedication to her First Nation Constant also sits as a First Nation Councillor for her community. She has served in this position for six consecutive terms since 2003. From an early age, Constant has continuously been involved in local projects and programs that support youth and Aboriginal issues. Her involvement has included representation on several groups and committees in the areas of training, education, mental health and promotion of culture and heritage. As a youth representative, a board member or as an organizer her dedication to community development at just about every level has helped to provide opportunities for First Nation members.

“Jennifer is one of our biggest assets in Mattagami First Nation. She has much knowledge and many skills which she tirelessly dedicates to improving life for all of us here in Mattagami First Nation. She is a

great role model for our younger members and also reassuring for our leadership and Elders,” said Juanita Luke, Band Manager.

Previous to her new position as Business Development Coordinator, Constant worked for the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN) Regional Governance process as a Regional Governance Coordinator for 12 years. The Governance Process was established by NAN with the goal of giving its First Nations more control over the matters that affect their communities.

We need to create a vibrant and active community to keep our youth engaged and to help in some of the healing that is ongoing in our First Nation

Constant has always been active in local and regional initiatives to represent her community and Aboriginal people in general. She represented Aboriginal people in the Timmins area as a board member of the Venture Centre in Timmins for several years. In 2012, she was recognized for her efforts by being awarded the Young Professionals Award (Aboriginal) which was hosted by the Timmins Chamber of Commerce.

In her home community, she is the Mattagami Community Development Trust Chairperson, and presides over a committee that oversees a community trust fund that was established in 2004. The Community Trust was established by a community referendum in 2004 to manage funds from a settlement with the federal government con-

cerning a Specific Land Claim for flooded First Nation lands and mismanaged timber rights on traditional territory. The Community Trust has developed a process to manage the funds through the key areas of Community, Health, Economic Development, Education and Culture. She is actively involved in the ongoing development of this initiative and she keeps the First Nation informed through community meetings and information sessions regarding the Community Trust.

In light of her interest and commitment to youth Constant also supervises the 'Right To Play' program in the community. 'Right To Play' is sponsored in Canada by an international organization, the provincial government and First Nations to help Aboriginal youth develop self confidence and leadership skills while supporting their culture and identity.

She is a promoter of community involvement and volunteerism as she is active in taking part in many of the events that take place in Mattagami First Nation. She was involved in the Mattagami Recreation Committee for several years, which oversaw the development and coordination of many of the events

that took place in the community. She continues to be an active organizer and promoter of local events.

***"Jennifer is a perfect example of our young people getting an education and acquiring the skills and knowledge that we need to move ahead to a more self sufficient future,"
- Chief Walter Naveau***

"We need to create a vibrant and active community to keep our youth engaged and to help in some of the healing that is ongoing in our community. Many of the events we put on have an emphasis on sharing our culture and in promoting our heritage which is important to our people. Volunteerism is extremely important for small communities because people are what makes things happen. As volunteers our energy produces more opportunities for all members of Mattagami First Nation," said Constant.

Her new position as Business De-

velopment Coordinator was created with funding from Ontario's New Relationship Fund, a program to support First Nations, Métis communities and Aboriginal organizations to build capacity, create jobs, develop business partnerships and improve economic opportunities.

Constant gained much of her leadership abilities from her mother Joyce Constant who served as Chief of Mattagami First Nation during the 1990s. Her father is Arthur Constant Sr and she has three brothers who are Ronald Constant, Christopher Constant and Arthur Constant. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling and spending time with her family and friends in the community.

"We are all so proud of Jennifer. She is a perfect example of our young people getting an education and acquiring the skills and knowledge that we need here in Mattagami First Nation to move ahead to a more self sufficient future. Everything she experiences and learns she brings back to our community. Our youth see her example and understand that they too can improve their lives and reach for the top," commented Chief Walter Naveau.

Students Run Halloween Party

The Mattagami Right To Play program is continuing to provide opportunities for local youth to build on their self esteem and leadership abilities. In October, the young people who took part in the program, organized a Halloween party on their own.

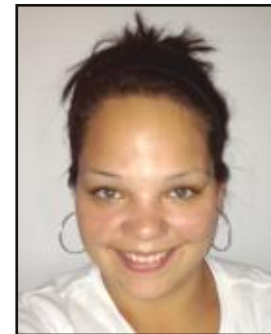
"This was a great event for our community and for our young people. It was a nice change for everyone and it gave these youth another opportunity to learn more about taking a leadership role and becoming more self confident in themselves," said Jennifer Constant, First Nation Councillor and Supervisor of the Right To Play Program in Mattagami First Nation.

The youth led Halloween party included creating, maintaining and organizing a haunted house complete with games, pumpkin carving and snacks for visitors.

"Our youth are our future leaders and we need to give them every opportunity to become self confident individuals through programs such as this," said Constant.

The Right To Play program was started in Mattagami in April 2013 and it is led by Andrea Naveau, a member of Mattagami FN, who acts as Community Mentor. She works closely with local youth between the ages of four to 17 through physical activities and play to provide hands on education and training in life and leadership skills while also encouraging Aboriginal culture and heritage.

Founded in 2000, Right To Play is an international organization that uses sport and play programs to improve health, develop life skills and foster peace in children and communities in many countries around the world.



Andrea Naveau
Community Mentor,
Right To Play

In 2010, Right To Play, with funding from the Ontario Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs and other funding partners, initiated the Promoting Life-skills in Aboriginal Youth (PLAY) program in partnership with Moose Cree First Nation and Sandy Lake First Nation. The PLAY program was developed to build on the strengths of Aboriginal youth and their communities, while supporting the value of culture and identity.

Keeping In Touch by Juanita Luke, Band Manager



**Juanita
Luke
Band
Manager**

This is a great time to be living and working in Mattagami First Nation. We are so fortunate to be situated here in the wilderness more or less but still having the convenience of a modern community. We are surrounded by all the beautiful things that nature has to offer and located on a fantastic large lake that provides us with traditional pursuits such as fishing and year round recreation.

Things have never been better as far as educational, training and employment opportunities in the community due to negotiated agreements with resource development companies and business development. Our Chief and Council continue to work on providing more opportunities for our members and a safe and well organized First Nation. As we all know a community is only as good as its membership. I believe Mattagami First Nation is as healthy and progressive as it is because we have so many dedicated community members that work well with one another. For the most part we get along very well and that is fantastic. This is proven by the number of people that volunteer their time in our First Nation.

I look to our leadership, Elders and staff for the vision, direction and energy that our community needs to move forward. Over time I have had input that we need to do more in terms of making sure our First Nation administration staff is developing to their full potential. As staff we are all committed to serving our community and its membership to the very best of our ability. With that in mind, we decided that this year we will be focusing on team

building for our employees and providing them with the process, environment and tools to do the best possible job. We will be utilizing key strategies such as performance evaluation and goal setting with the idea that this will result in overall improved service to our membership.

To increase our efficiency we are going to have input from all of our staff in terms of what they want to see developing with their individual positions and that will include goal setting and self evaluation. We want to know what our employees think will assist them in doing a better job and that includes what we as administrators can do to assist them and provide all the tools needed to increase efficiency and the quality of their employment. We want to make sure that our employees are excited and happy about coming to work and that they really feel they are contributing to making life better for our community members.

We want a system in place that will run smoothly and address all of the Human Resource needs required to maintain and develop our staff

To make this process of staff development and evaluation work we are combining the use of technology in a web based system with an advisory program. We want a system in place that will run smoothly and address all of the Human Resource needs required to maintain and develop our staff. We want to empower our staff and give them some clear guidance and parameters that are fair and just with a result that better serves our members. It is im-

portant to me and our leadership and managers that we are able to be accountable to our membership and provide top quality service.

The Harmony Project is dedicated to allowing community members to take an active part in governance and the future development of the First Nation

Our Harmony Project which is still underway and developing has received an exciting infusion of energy and knowledge with the establishment of a volunteer based committee we are referring to as the Harmonites. I put a call out to the community for assistance in keeping this important community development process moving forward and I was delighted at the incredible response I received. I want to personally thank all of the nine members of the Harmonites for coming forward and dedicating their energy and skills to assist our First Nation. Our committee members include: Candice Andress, Dorothy Naveau, Jennifer Constant, Cindy Mathieu, Tracy Harnack, Dana McKenzie, Grayson Luke and Josh Luke. It is a very good and strong group. It warms my heart to realize that we have such strong volunteerism in Mattagami First Nation. Our committee is on Facebook to help in terms of communication and I am counting on our members to become ambassadors for the Harmony Project which is dedicated to allowing community members to take an active part in First Nation governance and the future development of the First Nation.

Bursary Awarded By Mattagami FN

The Mattagami First Nation Trust has created an education initiative program aimed at encouraging local First Nation members to attain their Grade 12 diploma. The Mattagami Trust Grade 12 Bursary is an incentive program that provides a \$500 bursary for any Mattagami First Nation member over the age of 21 who has recently completed their Grade 12 education. This is designed with those members in mind who are interested in returning to their studies to complete Grade 12.

“This program is a way to encourage our members to go and complete their Grade 12 education if they haven't already. Education is an important part of career development and more and more, it is becoming a necessary part of acquiring most types of meaningful long term employment positions, especially in the resource industry,” said Jennifer Constant, First Nation Councilor and Chairperson for the Mattagami Trust Board.

There has been one recipient of the bursary to date. Robert Hooysma Jr., received the bursary at the Mattagami First Nation Administration office.

“We are very proud of the achievement that Robert made in completing his secondary school education. We hope to see more members taking advantage of this offer in the future,” said Constant.

She explained that a growing number of educated and skilled individuals will create a workforce that will be better prepared for future growth.

“There are many positive social, economic and health related effects that come with having a community that has more people with a higher level of education and training,” said Constant.



THE FIRST RECIPIENT OF THE MATTAGAMI FN TRUST GRADE 12 BURSARY WAS AWARDED TO ROBERT HOOYSMA JR.

For more information regarding the Mattagami Trust Grade 12 Bursary, members are asked to contact:

**Mattagami First Nation
Administration Office
by phone at
705-894-2072 OR
1-888-269-7729**

Naveau Family A Big Part Of Beaverfest

The 13th Annual Mattagami First Nation Beaverfest will take place on this coming May 5. The popular event will start at 10am and run until 5pm at the Mattagami First Nation community complex.

The event will feature teachings in terms of the skills to skin and stretch a beaver hide. There will also be a feast at the end of the day that will feature beaver roasted over an outside open fire and in addition various other traditional foods will be served.

The Beaverfest was originally created by Elders Leonard Naveau, Evelyn Boissoneau, Willard Harnack and Linda Penasse. Currently it is run by Elder Leonard Naveau, his son Larry Naveau and his grand daughter Jessica Echum.

Elder Leonard Naveau experienced a health issue in 2013 but has since recovered and is continuing with the event. Both Elder Leonard Naveau and Larry sit on the Mattagami First Nation council.

“I guess you could say that my dad Leonard is passing the event down for me to run but he is still very much involved. I am so thankful for the memories I have with my dad and my family trapping on our traditional lands at Grassy Lake. I also fondly remember spending time with my grandparents George Sr. and Irene Naveau. They taught me that there was much more involved than simply trapping when we were out

on the land. They passed on their knowledge and skills and we enjoyed their story telling and learning about how to survive on the land,” explained Larry Naveau.

He is very proud of the fact that this knowledge is now being passed down to the younger generation in his family and also to the community in general.

“It makes me feel so good to be able to pass down my traditional knowledge to my family members like my daughter Jessica Echum, my son Michael Gregoire and my nephew Devin Naveau. When we are out on our ancestral lands, I know that we all feel humble and proud to be walking in the footsteps of our ancestors,” said Larry Naveau.

The event will also feature participation from the Gogama Fur Council, North Bay Fur Harvesters and the Timmins Fur Council. The sponsors for the event include: Ontario Power Generation (OPG), Caron Equipment, Desbastos and Son, EACOM Timber Corporation, Dr. Raymond of Timmins; Iamgold Corporation, Lakeshore Gold, Goldcorp, Wabun Tribal Council and Mattagami First Nation.

For more information you can reach Larry Naveau at:

**Mattagami First Nation
Administration Office
705-894-2072 or
1-888-269-7729**

Fishing Tournaments Scheduled For 2014

Mattagami First Nation's First Annual Pike Fishing Derby was run February 22. By the time The Drum went to press the event had not yet run and as a result the winners and photos and content from the event will appear in the next issue. This derby comes in the wake of years of successful such events in the summer and autumn put on by Mattagami First Nation. This first winter event featured a \$7,000. first prize, \$3,000 for the second, \$1,000 for the third, \$500 for the fourth and \$400 for the fifth. Registration was at 7 a.m. and the event ran until 5 p.m. Cost per entry fee per person was \$100.

The event is organized by Larry Naveau, Cindy McKay, Joanne Naveau and Jessica Echum.

"My dad Larry had early on years ago started a fishing derby and then it lapsed for years until he, Cindy, Joanne and myself decided it would be a good idea to have an event like this again. We attract people from all over Ontario for these events and it gives us a great opportunity to share one of our important traditional pursuits and showcase our First Nation as well," said Echum who is the Finance Clerk for Mattagami First Nation.

Walleye 2014 Tournament June 7 & 8, 2014

If you enjoyed this winter derby and past such fishing events at Mattagami First Nation then you should be making plans for the summer Walleye 2014 15th Annual Live Release Tournament set for June 7 and 8. The entry fee is \$250. per team with two people per team. The event is based on a full field of 80 teams and all entries must be paid in full by Friday, June 6, 2014.

This is a major payout event with prizes totalling \$26,000. Prizes include: first place, \$8,000; second place \$4,000; third place \$3,000, fourth place \$2,000; fifth place \$1,000; sixth place \$900, seventh place \$800, eighth place \$700, ninth place \$600, tenth place \$500. The big fish each day is first place for \$1,000 and second place for \$500 and third for \$250. Enter before May 16 to qualify for a \$1,000 early bird draw to be drawn Friday June 6. There will be beer gardens all weekend (age of majority).

Fall Classic Walleye September 6 & 7, 2014

Make sure to mark your calendar for the 2nd Annual Live Release Fall Classic Walleye Tournament set for September 6 and 7. Once again there will be a \$26,000 cash payout for the event based on the full field of 80 teams. The entry fee is \$250. per team with two people per team. All entries must be paid in full by Friday, September 5, 2014. Payout prizes are the same as the Summer June event and as well there will be an early bird draw but to qualify for it you must enter before August 15, 2014. The draw will happen on September 5, 2014. There will also be a beer garden for the two day event.

For More Information

For more information on any of these events please call:

Larry Naveau - 705-363-0165
Cindy McKay - 705-262-5396
Joanne Naveau - 705-894-9984
Jessica Echum - 705-221-4248

Car Raffle Fundraiser

Mattagami First Nation and Timmins Garage have come together in support of a charity raffle to help a local family. The raffle will award a 2014 Chevrolet Cruze 1LT Turbo for the winning draw which will be announced on March 28, 2014.

Tickets went on sale starting on September 27, 2013 with a limited number of 1,000 printed. Proceeds of the raffle will be forwarded to the Heyde Family – Home Relief Fund. The fund will help the family cover housing costs for the home and possessions they lost to fire.

On March 23, 2013, the Heyde family lost their home to a night time fire in the community. No one was injured in the blaze but the family lost all their possessions as well as their dwelling.

"We have not forgotten all those who came to our aid and time of need, as they hold a special place in our

hearts for all that they have done. Our family is grateful to Mattagami First Nation, Timmins Garage, all the businesses and organizations that have helped us in Timmins and Gogama and all the people from our family, our friends and kind strangers that have been there for our family since the fire. We appreciate all the help and we are truly grateful for everyone's support and assistance," said Deanna Heyde, the Mattagami First Nation homeowner who lost her residence to the fire.

For more information:
contact the Mattagami FN Office
Or visit our website at
www.mattagami.com
Or visit the dedicated Facebook
page by searching for
**'Heyde Family – Home Relief
Fund'**



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