

**Mattagami
First Nation**

DRUM



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Fire Forces Evacuation
- Mattagami Walleye Tournament
- Governance Requires Input
- Beaverfest Draws Many
- Pow Wow Highlighted

**Volume One
Issue One**

WORDS FROM THE CHIEF



**Chief
Walter
Naveau
Mattagami
First Nation**

Welcome to the first issue of the Mattagami First Nation Drum. We are happy to be able to present to you a way for us to keep in touch with community members. In The Drum you will find stories about development, events and issues having to do with our First Nation.

You will probably recognize many people featured in our new magazine as we cover stories about Elders, our leadership, entrepreneurs and youth. That is what we as a community are all about ... we are all connected here and trying to make the best life possible for each other in Mattagami First Nation.

The Drum gives us a stronger voice in terms of telling our own stories and letting everyone know about our successes and ongoing developments. It will also reach out to our community members in a positive and informative way while also promoting Mattagami First Nation to other levels of First Nation government, non native government, First Nation and non native organizations and private sector interests.

I am happy that we decided to call our magazine The Drum because it represents in a way what is happening in our community and in First Nations right across this country in terms of getting in

touch with our traditions and culture. As you may know the drum is the very heartbeat of our people and this summer when we had our Pow Wow I was so moved to see our people pausing to reflect on our ancestors as the drum group performed and sang. It was so awe inspiring to see everyone from all ages, all beliefs and different cultures dancing to the beat of the drum.

As we see governments cutting back funding and doing their best to silence or at the very least diminish our voice we must remember that when we get together as First Nation people we have much strength to rise to any challenge. As members of the Wabun Tribal Council we have a strong bond with our brothers and sisters in the First Nations of Chapeau Ojibwe, Brunswick House, Beaverhouse, Flying Post and Matachewan. We work together and help each other out when we can and most importantly we have a strong voice when we stand together on any issue.

***"More than ever this
is a time for we as
First Nations people
to stand together"***

Our First Nation has been developing at a very fast pace for the past decade with projects moving ahead in resource development, business and infrastructure. We are realizing more and more that we have to be strong, have sufficient education and skills and a will and means to make things better for our people in

dealing with governments and resource developers. I am so proud that we are making a lot of progress in developing relationships and projects that are leading to greater self sufficiency and self reliance for our people. The Drum is one more step along that road of self sufficiency as more and more we become masters of our own fate.

Things are getting better and I can tell you that as a long time member of this community. However, we still need to lobby government and negotiate good agreements with resource developers to make sure that our First Nation people are getting at least what all other Canadians receive when it comes to education, health care, housing and the opportunity to make a decent living.

Right now our First Nation organizations, tribal councils and leaderships are under attack as the government cuts back funding that allows us to work on projects leading to self sufficiency. They continually point to us asking for accountability and transparency when in fact if you stop for a minute and think about it the Federal and Provincial governments are so far in debt it is mind boggling. On top of that much that goes on in government at these levels is hidden from the public. More than ever this is a time for we as First Nation people right across this country to stand together and refuse to be intimidated or bullied by those that are certainly not leading by example.

So, enjoy reading these pages that we hope reflects some of the work and efforts our members are participating in. There is a lot to feel good about and I am so proud to be able to serve as your Chief.

FIRST NATION COUNCIL



**Jennifer Constant
First Nation Councillor**



**Delores McKay
First Nation Councillor**



**James Naveau
First Nation Councillor**



**Leonard Naveau
First Nation Councillor**

Elder Morris Naveau Encourages Native Traditions And Culture

Elder Morris Naveau is the featured Elder of the Issue for this edition of the Mattagami Drum.

He was born in Sudbury and he was raised on Lake Mattagami on the old reserve lands of the old Mattagami First Nation until he was ten years of age. He was raised by his parents Walter and Mary Jane Naveau in a traditional lifestyle of hunting, trapping and fishing on the land. When the new reserve was built on the western shore of Lake Mattagami, Elder Naveau and his family moved to the new community.



**Elder
Morris
Naveau**
Mattagami FN

His father lived mainly as a traditional hunter and gatherer but he also worked in forestry and as a maintenance worker for the community. His mother, Mary Jane Naveau became the first Community Health Representative for the First Nation and due to the lack of services at the time, she took on additional medical duties such as a midwife during childbirth. She also took on the duties of a mortician and assisted families in preparing the deceased for burial.

Elder Morris Naveau started work at the age of 15 as a traditional guide for hunting and fishing outfitters in the Mattagami Lake area. As a young man he also worked in forestry and in other jobs for the community.

“Watching my mother taking on roles to help our people in the medical field was what led me to work in medical services and specifically into the mental health sector,” said Elder Morris Naveau.

In the early 1990s he went back to school and attended post secondary

education in Timmins and Sudbury to train as an Alcohol and Drug Abuse Worker. He graduated from the three year program at Cambrian College in Sudbury in 1994. After completing his education, he went on to work for his community as a National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention (NNADAP) Worker for several years.

Elder Naveau has also been elected as Chief for his community and he held the position for one term.

He is a strong supporter of access to education for young people. As a residential school survivor, Elder Naveau explained that his experiences with the education system as a young boy had a very negative affect on his life.

“I attended residential school for one year in 1961 and it was a traumatic experience for me. I had a strong personality as a young boy and it made my experiences that much worse when I stood up for myself and for others when I saw something that was not right. It changed my life and I had a hard time accepting authority figures for many years after. When I see our young people now, I want to encourage them to get as much education as possible because my generation had such a hard time with it in the past. Education can help our young people now to lead healthier fuller lives,” said Elder Naveau.

He explained that one of the greatest challenges that his community and his people have had to face since the 1950s has been the increase of alcohol and drug abuse.

“As a drug and alcohol abuse counsellor, I can say that in recent years, it has become more difficult for everyone to deal with addictions as so many new types of addictive substances have been created that are both illegal and legal. Addictions have a devastating effect on a person’s life because from a holistic perspective, it affects an individual’s body, mind and soul. It would be beneficial for our community to host more education on addictions to our members and especially to our

youth,” said Elder Naveau.

In recent years, Mattagami First Nation administration, health services and local members have worked hard at bringing back cultural and traditional activities in part to deal with social issues and support young people. Elder Naveau said that he is happy to see the renewed interest and resurgence of Aboriginal culture and traditions in his community.

“I would like to see our community becoming more independent”

“It makes me feel good to see our community hosting cultural events like our Pow Wow this summer. I was happy to visit with our First Nation neighbours from other Wabun communities. We need these events as they are a way for us to celebrate our Aboriginal culture and be proud of our heritage,” said Elder Naveau.

He is hopeful for the future of his community. At 66 years of age, having witnessed so many changes during his life time, Elder Naveau explained that as long as the youth of their community work towards an education and maintain a healthy connection to their traditional roots, then the outlook of their First Nation is positive. He looks forward to a future where more trained and educated community members can bring their First Nation towards more self sufficiency.

“I would like to see our community becoming more independent and self sufficient in the future. Then we would be better able to develop our First Nation by following our own direction and creating our own solutions. We are going in that direction and if we take care of our youth now, then we will have a better chance of ensuring a brighter future for them,” said Elder Naveau.

Robinson & Bernath Take Top Prize At Mattagami Walleye Tournament 2012

by Jennifer Constant

Mattagami First Nation hosted its 13 Annual Walleye Tournament in September on Mattagami Lake. The weekend began with a reading of the Rules & Regulations at the Mattagami Community Complex on Friday September 7, where at least one member of each of the 125 teams registered for the 2-day tournament congregated.

Members of the Mattagami Recreation Committee, which organizes and runs this annual Tournament were set up to provide registration packages to each team, which included boundary maps and promotional swag. The groups' tournament officials were also available to answer any questions anglers had about the rules, the tournament, or of the lake.

This tournament, which gives out over \$20,000 in cash prizes, is typically held during the first full weekend of June but was postponed and rescheduled to September 8 & 9 due to the Timmins Forest Fire #9. The Fire, which came within a few kilometers of the community, resulted in a week long evacuation of its residents. Highway access restrictions, lake access restrictions and a limited time to get organized forced the committee to change the dates. The change of dates resulted in a different type of fishing weekend for returning anglers who have been regulars to the Tournament and to the Northern Ontario Walleye Trail (NOWT.) Typically Mattagami kicks off the circuit for the NOWT, being the first of seven tournaments associated with it.

The weekend began with two early bird draws of \$1000 each. Prizes were awarded for total combined weight caught for both days. The prize board consisted of 8 spots, all provided by sponsors. The first prize of \$10,000 sponsored by Trelawney went to the team of Jamie Robinson and Terry Bernath who pulled out a 23.23 pounder; Second prize of \$3,000 sponsored by Lakeshore Gold went to the team of Hein and Germain who reeled in a 22.65 pounder; Third prize of \$1,000 sponsored by IAMGOLD went to Perrier and Guacci who landed a 21.86 pounder; Fourth prize of \$800 went to Boyd and Boyd sponsored by Debastos who

snagged a 20.84 pounder; Fifth prize of \$700 sponsored by Wabun Tribal Council went to Smedley and Rosso who coaxed in a 20.69 pounder; Sixth prize of \$600 sponsored by Krazy Krazy went to Labine and Vipond who took in a 20.68 pounder; Seventh prize went of \$500 sponsored by the Cache Campground went to Rainville and Picard who pinned a 19.88 pounder and Eighth prize of \$400 sponsored by Compass Carriers went to McKay and Corbiere who brought in a 19.50 pounder.

A Big Fish Competition also takes place during each tournament, anglers can choose to participate in the competition which has a winner-takes-all set prize for the biggest fish caught each day. This year the prize amount was \$1050 for each day. Big Fish winners for Day 1 were Jacob Boyd & Glen Boyd who brought in a 6.07 lbs walleye. Day 2 winners were Zack Corbiere and Bruce McKay having brought in a 5.41 lbs walleye.

The Young Anglers awards are also presented each year and were awarded to Ben Chorney and Noah Basaraba.

Other draws and raffles included a Boat #1 Raffle (which consists of full registration of a team and a 5 minute lead-start) Matt Guacci won this draw. A 50/50 draw also took place, as well as other prizes for lowest weight (IAMGOLD sponsored a mystery prize worth approximately \$1300) which was awarded to Mary Esquid and Richard Naveau.

Mattagami Recreation looks

forward to next years' tournament being held during its original dates in June.

"The weekend proved to be a challenging one for our returning anglers, who are used to fishing this lake in the early summer." said tournament official Cindy McKay.

Fellow official Jo-Anne Naveau added, "Next year the tournament will be held during the regular dates, which is not that far away."

The next walleye tournament will be held in June 2013. The committee also hosts a Pike Ice Derby which boasts large prizes for heaviest pike of the one day tournament. The committee and community look forward to seeing familiar faces and welcome new participants. The community is known for being a great host and an accommodating community to event participants. Free camping is available for participants of community events, at the beautiful beach within the community.

Registration forms, when available can be picked up at Dumoulin's and Pro Tackle in Timmins. For more information contact the Mattagami First Nation administration office. Tournament information can also be found on Facebook. The committee is made up of community volunteers to raise funds to sponsor youth in extra-curricular activities and to deliver programming for the community youth who don't have access to extra-curricular programs in urban areas.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY JENNIFER CONSTANT
TOP PRIZE WINNERS OF THE WALLEYE TOURNAMENT WERE JAMIE ROBINSON (FAR LEFT) AND TERRY BERNATH (FAR RIGHT). IN CENTER L-R ARE MATTAGAMI TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS: CINDY MCKAY, JESSICA ECHUM AND JO-ANNE NAVEAU.

Second Annual Pow Wow Celebrates Community Spirit

Mattagami First Nation successfully hosted its second annual Pow Wow in the community on August 24 to 26. The annual cultural event drew over 500 participants together with six invited drum groups and a host of traditional dancers.

"The Pow Wow was a success this year and it was big improvement from our first year. We had a great turn out of participants and visiting guests which included many traditional singers and dancers," said Dana McKenzie, Pow Wow Coordinator.

The second annual Pow Wow included many opportunities for visitors to take part in traditional activities. Eleven vendor booths were also set up.

Many visiting traditional dancers attended the Pow Wow from as far as Saskatchewan. A special guest visitor was Chief Isador Day of Serpent River First Nation. McKenzie is also responsible for cultural activities during the year to support and encourage traditional teachings such as dancing and singing. The second annual Pow Wow included the introduction of several new traditional dancers from the community performing for the first time.

"We are so proud to see our new traditional dancers from the community. During our first year we had four new dancers but this year we had 18 new performers from the community who took part in the Pow Wow. We had their coming out ceremony and it was a very positive and emotional event for all of us. It was a very rewarding experience for all of us," said McKenzie.

The new performers danced with their own specially made regalia which they displayed for the first time.

Special thanks are given to sponsors



of the Mattagami Pow Wow including: Lake Shore Gold Corp, Trelawney Mining and Exploration Inc., Ontario Power Generation, Wabun Tribal Council, RBC Royal Bank, Ontario Northland, Goldcorp Inc. and Casino Rama. A hand drum competition was also sponsored by the Mattagami Administration, Big O Smokeshop in Mattagami First Nation and Mattagami Convenience.

McKenzie also wanted to express her thanks to Jennifer Constant, First Nation Councillor and Juanita Luke, Band Manager for their direct support in her work as Pow Wow Coordinator.

"This event would not have taken place without the support of so many people. I want to thank all volunteers and supporters who helped before, during and after the event. Thanks also to the performers and singers for taking part and to all the participants who came out. I am also grateful to our Chief and

Council for their ongoing support of our annual Pow Wow," said McKenzie.

As Pow Wow Coordinator, she has years of experience as a traditional dancer and singer. McKenzie gained her knowledge of traditional Pow Wow at an early age from her parents Dawn Recollet and Darren Boissoneau and her two grandmothers Agnes Naveau and Linda Boissoneau.

She is hopeful that community members will continue to develop and foster an interest in traditional values and teachings.

"I want to encourage our youth to take advantage of the traditional teachings we can provide. We have never had as much opportunity to learn about our culture as we do now. It is important for our people, especially our youth, to learn about their identity and be proud of our heritage," said McKenzie.

Pow Wow photos submitted by Cindy McKay



Keeping In Touch by Juanita Luke, Band Manager

Mattagami First Nation has headed down a trail that is going to assist us to be more independent, in control of our own destiny and self sufficient. The very best thing about our participation in this First Nation driven initiative is that it is, in a large part, based on the input of our members. Through the Harmony Project we are developing a Governance Code and Community Plan that is grass roots based with the input of our own members deciding on the outcome of this effort. This Harmony Project framework is aimed at developing a unified, socially, politically and financially responsible community.

Historically, we have always been controlled by the procedures and process driven and decided on by the government, bureaucrats and consultants. I am excited that at this point in time history is being made through research, development and a process having to do with governance that will result in our First Nations designing our own systems, of governing our community, electing our leaders and in general the operation and development of our First Nation.

Just think, here is your opportunity as a First Nation person and a community member to make your mark in an historical way to develop how we will run things for our people. Our biggest challenge will be to make sure we provide all community members the opportunity to have their say and voice their input and suggestions. To do this I have put together with staff various ways to reach out to the membership including of course my column here in the first issue of the Mattagami Drum.

In developing a vision for local governance we are counting on members to provide their input at every

opportunity. To make sure that we hear from as many of our local residents as possible I am personally supervising several youth from the community who will be conducting a door to door visiting campaign to talk with our members in their own homes.

I don't want this opportunity to slip away from you. So our youth survey team will be doing their best to touch base with you right in the comfort of your own homes. We will also be reaching out to off reserve community members through surveys and other means of contact.

We need to hear from you and one of our most important questions has to do with what it means for you as a community member to be part of Mattagami First Nation. We want to find ways to bring our members into the process of governance by engaging them in local administration and involving

them in some way in the decision making process. We need to know from you how you want your First Nation administration to be run and we want your input in developing a code or policy of pro-cedures for administration activities. As well we want to make sure that as part of this we will make First Nation administration finances more open and transparent to community members.

So there you have it, for the first time in history we are being given the opportunity at our membership level to design how things will work on our First Nation and I am counting on your active participation in responding to any surveys, questionnaires and visits we do in the community. I am also asking you to note the following community meeting dates where we will be looking for your advice, guidance and input. We are doing our very best to give you a voice.

Scheduled Community Meetings

December 19, 2012 – Community Meeting #2

* Section 1 & 3 of the draft Governance Code (distributed in advance)

January 16, 2013 – Community Meeting #3

* Section 4 & 5 of the draft Governance Code (distributed in advance)

* Update of a list of programs and projects for Community Planning

February 6, 2013 – Community Meeting #4

* Section 6 & 7 of the draft Governance Code (distributed in advance)

* Update of a list of programs and projects for Community Planning

February 20, 2013 – Community Meeting #5

* Development of Vision Statement, Mission and Values for Mattagami First Nation (section 2 of draft Governance Code)

* Opportunity for any further feedback on draft Governance Code

* Update of list of programs and projects for Community Planning

March 27, 2013 – Community Meeting #6

* Community Planning Meeting

* Dotmocracy Exercise

April 10, 2013 – Community Meeting #7

* Celebration Feast for the adoption of new Governance Code & Community Plan

Beaverfest Celebrates Nine Years



ELDER LEONARD NAVEAU, ONE OF THE FOUNDERS OF BEAVERFEST, PROVIDES A DEMONSTRATIVE LESSON FOR PARTICIPANTS.

On April 28, 2012 Mattagami First Nation celebrated the ninth annual Beaverfest. The event which has grown every year provides the community with the opportunity to honour the beaver and the cultural and traditional value which it represents to First Nations.

Beaverfest is an event that was started by Elder Leonard Naveau in partnership with the Gogama Fur Council. Elder Naveau believes in making sure that the young people of Mattagami First Nation have knowledge of how important the beaver has been and continues to be to First Nation people. Over the years he has seen the event grow to welcome in First Nation

people from many communities as well as non Natives.

Chief Walter Naveau, commented that he is very grateful for all the work Elder Naveau and his fellow organizers put in to provide the community with a first class event that keeps growing every year.

"The beaver has always been a big part of our culture and tradition as it has provided us with food and in particular in difficult days long ago on the land. With the coming of the European the beaver provided us with one of the few ways we could make money and survive as life was changing for us in so many ways," said Chief Naveau.

MATTAGAMI FN STAFF



Juanita Luke
Band
Manager



Jessica Echum
Finance



Gary Naveau
Economic
Development
Officer



Tracy Harnack
Executive
Assistant



Eileen Boissoneau
Community
Health
Representative



Gerald Luke
Housing &
Maintenance
Manager



Dorothy Naveau
Reception



Pamela Gaudreau
Ontario
Works /
Finance



Melissa Ethier
Membership
Administrator



Pauline McKay
Healthy
Babies &
Children
Worker



Dayna McKenzie
Mattagami
Pow Wow
Coordinator



Therese Mannila
Community
Health Nurse



Carol McKay
Janitorial
Services



Rodney McKay
Bus Driver

Allison George,
Homecare Worker

Grayson Luke,
IT Coordinator

Forest Fire Forces Evacuation - Community Spirit Prevails

Mattagami First Nation members will not forget the forest fire evacuation of their community in May 2012. The event was the most significant natural emergency that the First Nation has had to face in recent history. On May 23, the community was evacuated as the threat of a 23,000 hectare forest fire approached the First Nation. The forest fire started southwest of the Highway 101 and 144 junction near Timmins and by May 23 the fire grew to a width of more than 40 kilometres and came to within four kilometers of the community before being brought under control.

Community members were evacuated to Kapuskasing while some also took shelter with relatives and friends in Timmins and throughout northern Ontario.

Ivan McKay, Fire Chief and Maintenance Worker for Mattagami First Nation for the past 20 years, said that this was the biggest fire he had ever witnessed near the community. He was closely involved in planning and organization concerning emergency situations and the evacuation of the community.

"Even though it was a difficult

situation we were prepared to handle the emergency. Our community crisis team was well organized and we were able to safely lead everyone out of the community ahead of any direct emergency situation," said McKay.

After the initial evacuation of the majority of the community, McKay along with Chief Walter Naveau, First Nation Councillors, administrative staff and emergency workers stayed in the First Nation to monitor the situation and secure local property and administrative services. However, a day later, due to the unpredictable nature and magnitude of the forest fire, the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ontario Provincial Police requested the full evacuation of the community.

McKay noted that as a side benefit to this emergency, their community crisis team and health care workers were able to activate a well planned emergency response plan. He added that because this was the first time they had followed the plan in an actual event, there were unforeseen circumstances and situations that had to be dealt with.

"As difficult as this was for our people, we were able to act out our

plan and keep everyone safe. The lessons we learned will make for better planning in the future and ensure the safety of our community members and our emergency response personnel," said McKay.

Once the forest fire was brought under control, Chief Naveau and Elder Mike Naveau, conducted a fly over by helicopter with the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) to assess the forest fire situation and determine that in fact it was time for the safe return of community members.

"The threat of fire and the destruction of our community was a very traumatic experience for our First Nation. So many people did so much for our members and we are thankful for all the help they provided. We are grateful to the town of Kapuskasing for taking care of our people, for Nishnawbe-Aski Police Services, for the police services in Timmins, the Ontario Provincial Police, the fire fighters and to our community Health people and Wabun Health for implementing a safe and efficient evacuation," said Chief Naveau.

Walleye Tournament



TOURNAMENT PARTICIPANTS LINE UP ON LAKE MATTAGAMI TO TAKE PART IN THE 13TH ANNUAL WALLEYE TOURNAMENT HOSTED BY MATTAGAMI FIRST NATION ON SEPTEMBER 8 & 9, 2012



Mattagami FN Drum

Publisher:

Mattagami First Nation

**Editors: Xavier Kataquapit /
Mike McGrath**

Mattagami First Nation

a member of Wabun Tribal Council

P.O. Box 99

Mattagami, Ontario P0M 1W0

Ph. 705-894-2072

Fx. 705-894-2887

www.mattagami.com