

Mattagami First Nation **DRUM**



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**Volume Four
Issue One**

WORDS FROM THE CHIEF



**Chief
Walter
Naveau
Mattagami
First Nation**

All the best to everyone in this new year 2017. What an eventful year we have all had in Mattagami First Nation in looking back on 2016. I am so proud of our council, Elders and members who worked together this past year in making things better for our community. We have had huge challenges and we have all had to combine our efforts to find solutions to them this past year. Thanks to the Creator, our Mother Earth and the strength we get in honouring our traditions and culture this year has put us on the map as one of the more progressive and capable First Nations in the country.

Over the year we have had visits from some of the most important leaders and advocates in Canada. I am happy to report to you that through the hard work of our council, Elders, staff and in conjunction with the nearby town of Gogama we managed to convince Canadian National (CN) Railways and the Ontario government to move ahead with the clean up of the tragic oil spill that occurred almost two years ago at the Makami River bridge.

The turning point in our fight to make sure the clean up was moving ahead came when France G  linas, New Democratic Party (NDP),

Member of Provincial Parliament for Nickel Belt invited myself and Fire Chief Mike Benson of Gogama to attend Queen's Park to lobby the Ontario government to move ahead with cleaning up the mess that more than one million litres of oil spill created in our waterways and on our lands. Although we did not get immediate satisfaction from the government while we were in Toronto France set up a meeting with Dr. David Suzuki who we all know as a world known environmentalist and media personality.

In that first meeting with Dr. Suzuki, I made an offering of tobacco to him and asked him for assistance in our fight to clean up the CN oil spill. Mike and I briefed him in the situation with the spill and clean up operations and he let us know that even though he was booked solidly with other commitments he would try to figure out a way to help. When I returned to Mattagami First Nation one of the first things I did was reach out to him in honour of the tobacco offering in a letter. He responded soon after that he was coming to visit the spill site and meet with our First Nation leadership, the Town of Gogama, CN officials, local people and the media. We were all humbled and honoured at that fact that Dr. Suzuki had committed to lend his voice to our struggle.

We all think of Dr. Suzuki as an icon and a bigger than life advocate for the land, the water, the air and the creatures of the earth. We see him as colossal in many ways but the truth is that he is an Elder at this point at the ripe old age of 81. He is still travelling globally and doing his best to advocate for Mother Earth with an extremely busy schedule and that work is challenging even for a young person let alone someone who is 81. So, with that in mind we understood that Dr. Suzuki was making a sacrifice in terms of his energy and agenda to visit us and support our cause.

He brought all of his wisdom, expertise, knowledge and strength to that spot in the wilderness at the Makami River bridge where a million litres of oil spilled into the wa-

ter and onto the land in a spectacular explosion and fire. Dr. Suzuki stood on that site and spoke from his heart in condemning this tragic crime against nature. He made us all stand more tall and reinvigorated our dedication to making sure that this spill is cleaned up to the best of our abilities.

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I am happy that CN and the Ontario government did the right thing and committed to move ahead with the clean up to make sure our water and land is returned as much as humanly possible to it's original pristine state.

When Dr. Suzuki spoke to our children at a feast held to honour him in Mattagami First Nation he shared his energy and enthusiasm with them to grow and develop as keepers of the land and Mother Earth. Our leaders, Elders, staff, children and community members shared a meal of wild meat and fish with Dr. Suzuki and we presented him with a Star Blanket to keep him warm and safe. It was a day and a night that we all will remember for the rest of our lives. I am very grateful to Gary and Darlene Naveau and everyone who worked on providing the feast as well as our council members for assisting with hosting Dr. Suzuki.

Meegwetich also to Jennifer Constant for doing such a great job as our MC for the feast and for assisting Dr. Suzuki and his assistant

Front Cover Photo

Dr David Suzuki is shown here in the cover photo surrounded by the people of Mattagami First Nation. He appeared to lend his support in regards to the clean up for the CN derailment and oil spill near the First Nation.

Faisal in navigating the days proceedings. I also want to congratulate Chad Boissoneau and his team for all the work and expertise they have provided in assisting with the clean up operations at the CN spill site.

I am aware that our struggle is not over in making sure this clean up continues to our satisfaction however for the time being we are happy that CN and the Ontario government has committed to move along with the process. We of course will be monitoring along with Dr. Suzuki the success of this clean up operation. Although we all had to push very hard to make things happen we are happy that a current solution is in place and conflict has been avoided.

In this issue you will read a detailed story on Dr. Suzuki's visit to the spill site and Mattagami First Nation. You will also find a story on our annual Pow Wow with some wonderful photos of that special day of tradition and culture that we celebrate in our community. Many thanks to all the organizers, dancers, drummers and singers and those who attended the event. Mattagami also want to give special Meegwetch to Ontario Regional Chief Isadore Day, Chiefs of Ontario (COO) who visited our Pow Wow and participated as a traditional dancer with his son. As an added note Chief Day got the ball rolling for us with our struggle on the oil spill clean up by offering to put us in touch with the Ministry of the Environment and Ontario's Climate Change Action Plan. We thank him for his interest and energy in helping us on our road to moving ahead with some success in the oil spill clean up.

So, here we are ready for a new year with a wonderful spirit of working together in Mattagami First Nation. Over the past few years we have seen major First Nation and non Native leaders and advocates visit our community and provided us with assistance on many levels including our Assembly of First Nations (AFN) National Chief Perry Bellegarde when he spoke to our graduates last year.

I strongly believe that the good things we are doing together comes from our respect of and the return to our Native traditions and culture. We are on a good trail and Mother Earth is with us.

Devin Naveau Featured

Devin Naveau, 22 years of age is the featured youth of this issue of the Mattagami Drum. He currently is employed in Accounts Receivable for Mattagami First Nation. He previously worked at this job in between college for four months and then started again in the autumn of 2016.

In his position his duties include reconciling financial data, daily production of cheques and some duties in accounts payable. Although this position is a prominent one, Naveau is secure in performing his duties due to skills he has developed and an aptitude for detail and computer knowledge. He also credits staff for providing him the support and encouragement to develop and excel on the job.

"I want to thank Chief and Council and management as well as the staff here for all their assistance in providing me with meaningful employment and a great learning opportunity," commented Naveau.

On graduation of secondary school at Timmins High & Vocational School he studied in a Welding Engineering Technician program at Northern College in Timmins.

On completion of that program he moved back to Mattagami First Nation to take advantage of an opportunity to work in the Financial Department in Accounts Receivable.

"I really enjoy living here in Mattagami First Nation as much of my family and many of my friends are located here. I spend a lot of time fishing and hunting and I like to be on the land so this is the ideal

place for me. I am also happy to have education in welding as I am still in the process of developing my career interests," explained Naveau.

His parents are Leonard and Sue Naveau and his grandparents are Leonard Sr. and Daisy Naveau. He has learned much about his tradition and culture from both his parents and grandparents who have extensive knowledge of fishing, hunting and trapping. His grandparents on his mother's side are Diane and Jean Guy (both of whom have passed on).

Devin Naveau hopes he can serve as a role model to young people in his First Nation in demonstrating to them that if they get an education they can find employment.

"I see too many young people leaving school too early and not graduating and that hurts their chances of finding employment. I try to tell students to stay in school and carry on to graduate so that it is easier for them to find a job and make a living," explained Devin Naveau.

He is grateful that Mattagami First Nation has its own public school in the community as that makes it easier for the young students to attend school rather than have to spend hours being bused for their education to an outside town.

"We are very lucky to have a great public school here and good teachers as that makes life easier on our younger people. Later on students have to be bused to Timmins to attend secondary school but at least they are older and can deal with the pressures associated with that," commented Devin Naveau.



Dr David Suzuki Visits Mattagami FN To Address CN Oil Spill Cleanup

When Dr. David Suzuki, world renowned environmentalist, scientist and media personality showed up November 15, 2016 to tour a Canadian National (CN) railway oil spill near Mattagami First Nation and Gogama, Ontario things took a turn for the better.

His visit to the spill site at the Makami River Bridge drew national media attention. It also galvanized an ongoing push by Mattagami FN leadership, Elders and members as well as the town of Gogama in their fight to keep pressure on CN to continue to clean up at the spill. In addition to visiting the site he appeared at a town hall meeting in Gogama to discuss the ramifications of the spill and answer questions from local people and the media. He wound up his whirlwind tour by travelling on to Mattagami First Nation for a feast in his honour and to meet with the people of the First Nation.

In speaking to the Mattagami FN members at his honour feast he congratulated Chief Walter Naveau, his council members, community Elders and members for working with the town of Gogama in making sure that the tragedy of the CN oil spill was analyzed and monitored with involvement in the clean up of the site.

"I am here today on the invitation of Chief Walter Naveau, Fire Chief Mike Benson of Gogama and all of those of you here affected by this tragedy. It really is a tragedy and a crime against the earth. These types of spills cause damage to our environment for many years to come," commented Suzuki.

The fact that Suzuki decided to show his support for Mattagami First Nation and the people of Gogama had a lot to do with the efforts of Chief Naveau, Fire Chief Benson and New Democratic Party (NDP) Member of Provincial Parliament France Gelin as well as a commitment from Regional Chief Isadore Day, Chiefs of Ontario (COO). Regional Chief Day, while attending Mattagami FN summer Pow Wow, had offered to assist Chief Naveau and his councillors in lobbying the Ontario government



DR DAVID SUZUKI (RIGHT) ENJOYED A FEAST IN HIS HONOUR AT MATTAGAMI FN. FROM L-R: CATHY NAVEAU, EDUCATION DIRECTOR; CHIEF WALTER NAVEAU, COUNCILLOR JENNIFER CONSTANT AND DR. SUZUKI

regarding spill cleanup.

"France had invited Mike and I to Queens Park to talk to the government and lobby for continued clean up and restoration of the oil spill site. We did not during this time receive the response from the government that we needed to hear and while we were in Toronto, France asked if we would like to meet with David Suzuki who was nearby at an event. We agreed and had the opportunity to inform him about our situation with the spill on our land and water. He let us know that he would try to assist us in some way," explained Chief Naveau.

The Chief pointed out that as part of his tradition he offered tobacco to Dr. Suzuki and that it was accepted during their brief conversation. Later, on returning to Mattagami First Nation the Chief wrote a letter to Suzuki and reminded him of the meeting and acceptance of the tobacco which he explained represented the children and those not yet born. His plea was to Suzuki to visit the spill site and First Nation to lend support to the fight to ensure that a proper clean up would be done to Mother Earth so that future generations could enjoy clean water and a healthy environment. Soon after sending that letter Chief Naveau was contacted by Dr. Suzuki who made a commitment to visit the spill site and meet with the townspeople of Gogama and area as

well as attend a feast in Mattagami First Nation.

After Dr. Suzuki's involvement in addressing the oil spill, CN announced that it had obtained the various permissions needed from the Ministry of the Environment and Ontario's Climate Change Action Plan to proceed with further clean up of the spill. That was an about face from the original summer announcement by CN that most of the site cleanup met standards set by Ontario's Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Action Plan which angered Mattagami First Nation leadership and the Town of Gogama. Local people believed that more work was needed in terms of clean up.

"We were very appreciative of the fact Dr. Suzuki was coming to lend his voice to our cause and we were aware that he was visiting us as an Elder in his own right at the age of 81 years of age. We knew he would have a busy and tiring day travelling and meeting with our leadership, the leadership of Gogama, Ministry officials, CN executives and media, so we wanted to make sure that when he returned to our First Nation at the end of the day he could enjoy a feast with us and relax a little," explained Jennifer Constant, First Nation Councillor and Lands/Economic Development Coordinator.

Councillor Constant and Councillor Chad



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ELDER FRANK MCKAY (CENTER) WITH CHIEF WALTER MCKAY (LEFT) AND DR DAVID SUZUKI (RIGHT)



DR DAVID SUZUKI WANTED TO SPEND TIME WITH SOME OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF MATTAGAMI FIRST NATION.

Boissoneau were both on hand to assist Dr. Suzuki and his assistant Dr. Faisal Moola, Director General, Ontario and Northern Canada for the David Suzuki Foundation. Councillors Constant and Boissoneau assisted in providing background information on scheduling and meeting with various stakeholders, leaders, Elders and many of the First Nation's school children.

Students from the Mary Jane Naveau Memorial Elementary School in Mattagami FN had the opportunity to meet with Dr. Suzuki and presented him with their individual messages of concern for the land and the water which has impacted the community as a result of the oil spill.

"I thank all of these young people in the community for being here today and for making their voices heard. First Nation people have always been the keepers of the land and I have always tried my best to join with my Native friends right across this country in standing up for Mother Earth," commented Dr. Suzuki.

Fire Chief Benson thanked Mattagami First Nation for working together with Gogama to ensure that the oil spill was dealt with in the interest of all local people who live on or near the land and use the waterways.

"We have seen ourselves the signs that the spill has caused on our land and waterways. Although we are told that the science suggests that the clean up is in final stages we understand that more needs to be done. We are more than happy to work with CN and the Ontario government to do whatever it takes to make sure that this tragic spill is cleaned up to the best of our abilities and having a world renown environmentalist like Dr. Suzuki fighting with us certainly has helped our cause," explained Fire Chief Benson.

Chief Naveau explained that as recent clean up operations seemed to stall both the First Nation leadership and town of Gogama were growing more frustrated.

"It really is a good thing that Dr. Suzuki came to our aid because it was getting to the point that we would have had to consider drastic measures to urge CN and the government to continue with the cleanup. If we had not all managed to move ahead with this cleanup there could well have been a blockade in place," explained Chief Naveau.

Dr. Suzuki was presented with a hand made, quilted star blanket for his efforts in

advocating for the water.

"This star blanket is given to you with our love and respect for your work for the land and water. In our culture we honour the spirit water and of course it is used in our ceremonies. The land, the water and the creatures are all part of Mother Earth. Our survival and the future survival of all of us depends on how we care for Mother Earth. Meegwetch to you Dr. Suzuki from all of us here at Mattagami First Nation and we offer you this blanket to keep you warm and safe," commented Chief Naveau.

CN has indicated it planned to continue clean up of the oil spill site into December and that monitoring will run over the winter with more testing in the spring.

So far CN says they will be proceeding with the clean up until there is solid evidence that satisfies everyone. Dr. Suzuki has committed to staying in touch with developments and has extended his assistance so that this clean up is completed in the best possible way.

Mattagami First Nation Elder, Norman Naveau was happy to be introduced to Dr. Suzuki during the feast held in his community.

"You know this is a man that is known all over the world. He cares about the land and has always been a good friend to First Nations. I wanted to shake his hand and thank him personally for coming to our community and assisting us," said Elder Naveau.

First Nation Councillor Gary Naveau and his wife Darlene were excited about Dr. Suzuki's visit and they were mainly in charge of the huge amount of work in preparing and cooking all of the food for his feast.

"Of course this is a lot of work and we have been cooking for two days but we often do this as it seems to have developed into part of our role here in our community. It really is a pleasure to assist in putting on a feast for a man like Dr. Suzuki and we are thrilled our children here today had a chance to meet such a great Canadian," commented Councillor Gary Naveau.

The Mattagami First Nation leadership expressed regret that the community could not invite people from outside their First Nation to attend the feast as space was limited and Dr. Suzuki had requested a community based meeting where he could meet many of the students and young people as well as the Elders.



COUNCILLOR CHAD BOISSONEAU DETAILS THE CN OIL SPILL TO DR DAVID SUZUKI

"I had people calling that had heard that Dr. Suzuki was coming to our community for a feast and they were wanting to bring busloads here to see him but sadly we were limited by our space and we also wanted to respect the wishes of our guest to keep his visit for the feast community based. The public town hall meeting in Gogama was open to the public however," explained Chief Naveau.

Juanita Luke, Executive Director for Mattagami First Nation expressed her gratitude to everyone involved in hosting Dr. Suzuki at the community feast and in involving him as a strong voice for the First Nation's cause.

"I give thanks to our Chief and Council, our Elders and in particular to our education director Cathy Naveau, the teachers at our school and a special thanks to all the children who put their creative talents together in presentations on the environment to Dr. Suzuki," commented Luke.

The spill which occurred in March 2015 was the result of a major derailment of many railway tanker cars carrying crude oil. There was an explosion and over a million liters of oil went into the Makami River at a bridge crossing. CN, the Ontario Government, Mattagami First Nation and the town of Gogama have been working on cleaning up the contamination ever since the spill. The spill is potentially far flung in that the Makami River is part of a greater system of waterways that travel many kilometres affecting lakes and rivers.



DOREEN LUKE (LEFT) AND BETTY NAVEAU (RIGHT) PROUDLY STANDING STRONG TO SUPPORT THE CN OIL SPILL CLEANUP.



DR DAVID SUZUKI (RIGHT) ACCEPTED GIFTS AND INPUT FROM MATTAGAMI YOUTH AND PRINCIPAL MEGHAN MOORE.

Elders Complex Moving Ahead



**Jennifer
Constant**
Mattagami
First Nation

The development of an Elder/Multi-use Health Complex in Mattagami First Nation is a little closer, thanks to prefeasibility funding by the Canadian Housing and Mortgage Corporation (CMHC) Proposal Development Fund and the efforts of Mattagami First Nation Chief, Council and staff. Jennifer Constant, First Nation Councillor and Lands/Economic Development Coordinator explained that she and the First Nation has had meetings with key staff persons representing Federal Minister Carolyn Bennett, of Indigenous and Northern Affairs as well as other representatives in the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care and Health Canada to lobby for the development of the Elder Complex in Mattagami FN. Eileen Boissoneau, Mattagami FN Health Director has also been assisting Constant as part of the process in terms of her knowledge of Health Care and she has participated in many of the meetings.

"We have been working on this project for some time now and it is moving ahead. We are learning a lot about the process of developing such a facility for our community. Right now we are happy to report that funding for the prefeasibility has been granted and we are looking at proceeding in moving forward with this important project," explained Constant.

The First Nation had also done preliminary developing work with the assistance of Luke Nicholas, of Connect Consulting Solutions and Robert Berg of Assured Care Consulting. They assisted in setting up meetings with the various government agencies and developing a plan and strategy.

"We are still in the early stages of working towards our goal of the Elder Complex and interest is very

high and there is a lot of support in our community with Chief and Council, our Elders, staff and members. All of the government agencies we have met with have also been very encouraging and supportive and have given us direction in putting together our project for this much needed facility," commented Constant.

Berg has been involved in assisting First Nation communities in the past with the development of long term care facilities for the elderly.

"We're talking with the Local Health Integrated Networks (LHIN) on how to provide creative ways of addressing health care for the seniors in the community. Our feedback has been positive from the government and the LHINs. We are trying to find a creative solution that works within the mandates of government and LHINs and addresses the concerns of Mattagami First Nation so that their Elders can stay in their community as long as possible," explained Berg.

Through guidance and input from Nicholas and Berg as well as input from the various government representatives involved in the process, Constant learned that there is low probability of one source funding. This means that she along with Chief and Council will be developing the project in terms of a hub type model. This model will propose a facility that will be multi-use by establishing a main Elder Complex while also providing the community and the area at large with additional services.

"We realize now that a hub model will have more opportunity for success in terms of funding and allows for cost sharing from more than one source. We still have a lot of work to do in terms of establishing how this facility will look, what the costs are in terms of construction, maintenance and operation and how to produce a high quality residential environment which is safe and culturally appropriate and focused for our Elders," said Constant.

She pointed out that the First Nation will also be looking for funding through various reconciliation funds that may be available for the victims of the residential school system.

"One of the things we talked about in meeting the various government representatives was not wanting our Elders to have to leave their home First Nation. They have already been through the tragic residential school experience and we do not want to have to subject them on an ongoing basis to have to leave their homes and travel to facilities in other communities. We don't want to put them through another institutionalized experience and traumatize them again in their golden years with memories of what institutionalization did to them as children in the residential school system," explained Constant.

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language back'
- Jennifer
Constant***

The early plans and concept for the Elders Complex involves assisted living type apartments that provide a safe and culturally supportive space with access to services they require. They will also be closely involved in the community for visits with family and friends as well as participation in the social and cultural activities happening in Mattagami First Nation.

Chief Walter Naveau and Council have been very supported of the Elders Complex and they have been encouraging Constant and staff in their efforts to make the project a reality.

"Our Elders really are the keepers of our knowledge, culture and traditions. They are the ones who built this First Nation. Many of them had hard lives and went through the residential school system and still they managed to raise families, work to make a living and develop our com-

munity. Now in their golden years we owe it to them to do our very best to provide a place where they can feel comfortable and at home. We need their teachings and guidance right here in our community," commented Chief Naveau.

Constant hopes there is a time in the near future where the Elders can find comfort in an assisted living environment that is culturally devoted, with services they need on a regular basis and the opportunity to provide teachings and guidance to the First Nation.

"I hope that some day soon we will have a reality where our Elders are here to stay and can interact with our youth and members in providing teachings and helping us in bringing our language back. To a great degree many of our young people and members have lost much of our original language and we have an opportunity here to keep

our Elders in our First Nation and share their knowledge of the language," explained Constant.

Input from the Elders is being sought and the First Nation is developing the project with guidance and direction from them.

"This is a wonderful idea. Having been Chief here years ago I know how big a job it is to develop a project like this for our community. I am sad at seeing so many of our Elders having to leave in the past to go to other communities where they were not close to family and friends and that I believe hurt their life and made them depressed. My joy here is in interacting and socializing with everyone in our First Nation and I want to keep that good life. I pray to the Creator to provide the energy, skills and passion to make this Elders Complex come to be," said Elder Norman Naveau, Past Chief and Council member for

Mattagami FN.

"I truly believe if our government is serious about reconciliation then this type of community project for our First Nation is what reconciliation looks like in reality and on the ground, providing healing for our Elders locally and from the region. We plan on making this facility open to people from the region who want to live out their years in a culturally appropriate environment. We also anticipate that the various health and wellness services located in this facility will serve people in our community and throughout the area," noted Constant.

She pointed out that as part of Mattagami FN's efforts in reaching out to the broader community, meetings have been held with Misiway Milopemahtesewin Community Health Centre and the organization has provided positive and encouraging feedback and input.

Announcing Elder Symposium

Mattagami First Nation is taking the lead in organizing a Youth Of Yesterday Wabun Elders Symposium for Elders from the Wabun Tribal Council area to provide an event to celebrate and honour these members of the First Nation communities. The event is being spearheaded by the founder of Youth Of Yesterday, Jennifer Constant, Mattagami First Nation Councillor and Lands/Economic Development Coordinator. She is partnered in her efforts by several community volunteers including Eileen Bois-soneau, Mattagami FN Health Director; Juanita Luke, Mattagami FN Executive Director; Cheryl Naveau-Payette, Aboriginal and Community Relations for IAMGold and Tina Minarik, Impact and Benefit Agreement (IBA) Coordinator for Lake Shore Gold Corp. Mattagami First Nation is partnering with Wabun Tribal Council to produce the event.

The two day event is being planned to take place on April 26 and 27 in Sudbury where Elders will be brought together to take part in educational workshops and be entertained in fun activities.

"We want to create a fun event for our Elders that will provide them with an opportunity to socialize and take a break. This is an extension of the work we are doing in our own community to try to establish an

Elders Complex for our First Nation. We need to take care of our Elders as they are important connection to our past and our culture. We tend to forget our elderly in our modern fast paced culture so it is even more important in this day and age that we create events like this to remember them, support them and honour them," said Constant.

***'We are looking
forward to
meeting and
spending time
with our Wabun
Elders'
- Jennifer
Constant***

She explained that part of the gathering is to inform and educate Elders on several topics including: health and safety, health monitoring, support services, legal services and Aboriginal support services. Educational and sharing workshops will also provide an opportunity to discuss relevant subjects such as aging, residential school survivors and other current issues affecting Elders. The gathering is also an op-

portunity to provide a fun getaway for Elders so entertaining, interactive and social activities are being planned.

"Many of our Elders are not fully aware of all the support services we provide for them so this is a great chance to show them what is out there. It's also an opportunity to show them our support and let them know we are here to help them," said Constant.

The coordinators of the event hope to gather support and sponsorship from Aboriginal organizations, companies and businesses from the Wabun area and establish the event as an annual gathering.

"We are hopeful that this will be a memorable event for our Elders. We are all looking forward to meeting and spending time with our Wabun Elders. Of course we also realize that when we put together an event like this to honour and care for our Elders we also learn so much from them in terms of their teachings and knowledge of tradition and culture," said Constant.

She added that the organizers are actively seeking sponsorship for this important event and any company or organization that would like to participate as sponsors should contact Cheryl Naveau-Payette or Tina Minarik who are in charge of securing sponsorships.

Regional Chief Isadore Day



JANELLE GOLINOWSKI, MATTAGAMI FN & REGIONAL CHIEF ISADORE DAY, CHIEFS OF ONTARIO (COO)

The Mattagami First Nation 6th Annual Traditional Pow Wow was held August 20 and 21, 2016 in the community. This year the Pow Wow featured the theme, 'Reviving Our Warrior Spirit - Highlighting Healthy Male Role Models'. Organizing of the event began in December of 2015 by the Powwow Committee, headed by Dorothy Naveau, who coordinated the many tasks that were required to be completed leading up to the event. During the week preceding the Powwow, Dana Cosgrove took over the coordination assisted by a group of volunteers. Cosgrove was also a featured dancer.

"I want to thank Dana for doing a great job as usual for providing us with such a sensational traditional Pow Wow. We are also very fortunate to have had the assistance of Dorothy who worked above and beyond the call of her duties to provide a lot of the upfront

detail work in making the event a success," explained Chief Walter Naveau.

Janelle Golinowski coordinated the summer student team in their contribution which involved painting and creative design improvements to the Pow Wow grounds and venue. The Pow Wow is a good example of the First Nation working together as energy and efforts involved Elders, Chief and Council, administration staff and the Mattagami First Nation Public Works.

This year the event drew many dancers, singers and drummers with the Head Male Dancer Ontario Regional Chief Isadore Day, Chiefs of Ontario (COO) visiting for the first time. Janelle Golinowski of Mattagami FN was the Head Female Dancer, while Head Youth Male Dancer was Jeremy Worme from Saskatchewan and the Head Youth Female Dancer was Tessa Thomas of Mattagami FN.



Attends 2016 Pow Wow

Special Dancer was Angela Trudeau of Serpent River FN and the Host Drum Group was the High Ridge Singers from Moose Factory, Ontario while the Co-Host Drum Group was the Ghost River Singers of Moose River FN.

The Master Of Ceremonies was Greg 'Mista Wasis' Dreaver while Grandfather was Alex Jacobs and Grandmother was Clara Prince. The alcohol free, traditional event drew men, women and children from near and far. Jennifer Constant, Mattagami FN Councillor hosted a special recognition for Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls with featured dancers Angela Trudeau & Isadore Day.

The feast was enjoyed by many and prepared by Darlene Naveau, Bernice Naveau, Myra Luke, Melissa McKay, Brandy Polaniec and Laurie McKenzie.

Main Sponsors were Mattagami First Nation Community Development Trust, Canadian Heritage and Mattagami First Nation. Featured event sponsors included Eagle Level Sponsors: Kunuwanimano Child and Family Services and Goldcorp; Moose Level Sponsors: Ontario Power Generation. Wolf Level Sponsors: Northern College and Venture Centre. More featured sponsors included IAMGOLD, Wabun Tribal Council, Patrimoine Candien, Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN), Caron Equipment, Hydro One, Gowest, Lake Shore Gold Corp, Via Rail Canada, Lessard-Stephens Funeral Home, Caroline Burgess, Wyatt Image Solutions, Timmins Garage, First Nations Engineering, Benjamin Moore Paints and JR Corner Store.

Thanks also to Timmins Kia for the loan of their big tent for the event.

**Facebook page:
Mattagami First Nation Annual Traditional
Pow wow - Public Page**



CORRECTION

It was mistakenly reported in the last issue of the Mattagami Drum that Daisy Naveau had passed on. That is not the case and we apologize for getting the information mixed up and incorrectly reported.

MFN Fishing Highlights



ORGANIZERS FROM L-R: JESSICA NAVEAU, PRESIDENT; CRYSTEL VALLEE, VICE-PRESIDENT AND DOMINIQUE MORIN, SECRETARY
 PHOTO BY JONATHAN MORIN, KPIX PHOTOGRAPHY

Mattagami First Nation Fishing tournament organizers are continuing a long tradition of promoting fishing sports through three major annual events held in the community. Tournament organizers Jessica Naveau, President; Crystel Vallee, Vice-President and Dominique Morin, Secretary established Mattagami First Nation Fishing or MFN Fishing in February 2016 to host three major fishing tournaments centered in Mattagami First Nation. The three tournaments include the Pike Fishing Tournament held in February, MFN Walleye Tournament held in June and the Fall Classic Walleye Tournament held in September.

"I love doing this for our community. My family has been involved in these fishing events for years. It feels great to promote our community through several positive and popular events that brings visitors to our First Nation," said Naveau.

She is the daughter of Larry Naveau and grand daughter to Elder Leonard Naveau who have both been instrumental in organizing, promoting and developing the three fishing tournaments in Mattagami FN over the years. Larry Naveau has organized the Pike Fishing Tournament in February for several years and Elder Leonard Naveau is also one of the founding organizers for the annual Beaverfest event which is held in the community every year.

"My family has been involved in events and gatherings that promote our Aboriginal culture and traditions. These events are important because it celebrates our culture and it shows our youth that we are proud of our heritage," said Jessica Naveau.

ALL EVENT PHOTOS PROVIDED BY MFN FISHING



2016 MATTAGAMI FN FALL CLASSIC WALLEYE TOURNAMENT WINNERS FIRST PLACE WINNERS PERRY CAVERSON & DENIS MARTIN



2016 MATTAGAMI FN WALLEYE TOURNY WINNERS DAN HEIN & DJ GERMAIN. FROM L-R ARE: DOMINIQUE MORIN, GERMAIN, JESSICA NAVEAU, HEIN (WITH CHILD) AND CRYSTEL VALLEE



7th Annual Pike Fishing Tournament - February 2017

Currently the organizers are looking forward to its upcoming 7th Annual Pike Fishing Tournament which will be held February 25, 2017 in the community. Anglers will take part in ice fishing on frozen Lake Mattagami to compete for prize amounts of first place for \$10,000, second for \$5,000, third for \$3,000 and fourth for \$2,000.

17th Annual Mattagami FN Walleye Tournament - June

The 17th Annual Mattagami FN Walleye Tournament which was held June 4-5, 2016 was another successful event for organizers. The event was dedicated to the memory of Daniel Germain, the son of DJ Germain, a top prize winner at the tournament and a well known angler who has participated in numerous fishing events in Mattagami FN and in northern Ontario.

This is the biggest fishing tournament event held in Mattagami FN with total prizes amounting to \$47,000 in cash prizes.

The top three finishers, from a total of 125 teams, of the 2016 MFN Walleye Tournament were:

First place prize of \$10,000

Dan Hein / DJ Germain (26.35 lbs)

Second place prize of \$7,500

Matt Guacci / Denis Perrier (25.38 lbs)

Third place prize of \$5,000

Jeff Vipond / John Labine (24.54 lbs)

Mattagami FN Fall Classic Walleye Tournament - Sept 2016

The Mattagami FN Fall Classic Walleye Tournament which was held September 10 and 11, 2016 included over 70 teams who competed for several prizes awarded over the two days.

First place prize of \$7,000

Perry Caverson / Denis Martin (22.50 lbs)

Second place prize of \$3,000

Jody Villeneuve / Chad Vis (20.88 lbs)

Third place prize of \$2,000

Dan Hein / Didier Germain (19.99 lbs)

For more information:

www.mfnfishing.com

or contact the organizers directly at:

Jessica Naveau 705-221-4248

Crystel Vallee 705-363-7024

Dominique Morin 705-288-5949

Keeping In Touch



**Juanita
Luke
Executive
Director**

I want to wish everyone a Happy New Year and congratulate our Chief and Council as well as our Elders and staff for making 2016 a very successful year for Mattagami First Nation. When you think about it we have all been through so much together with the ongoing struggle to make sure the Canadian National (CN) Railway Makima River oil spill clean up moves ahead. That critical event almost two years ago has had a big impact on everyone in our First Nation. Just about everyone in the community has a close relationship to the land and water as we fish, hunt, gather and trap on the lands that are ultimately affected by the spill.

Thanks so much to the efforts of everyone including our distinguished visitor Dr. David Suzuki for pulling together and arriving at the current solution in terms of clean up operations by CN and the Ontario government.

Things are going very well for us and part of that has had to do with our efforts and interest in self development in regards to training and education. I am so proud that most of our staff currently is enrolled in some type of post secondary education. Our First Nation will be much better off as our staff and members achieve ongoing education. The knowledge and skills they gain are in fact passed on to us and benefit all of us as our staff becomes better at their tasks and end up providing an improved quality of service to our community members. It also pleases me so much that we are fortunate to have staff members that are excited about learning and achieving more education.

I know and understand from a personal level that taking post secondary education provides a whole new set of skills and knowledge. In my own case I have learned so much on how to manage, how to deal with difficult situations and to resolve areas and issues of conflict. Also, in following the process of the Harmony Movement which has been going on now for a couple of years, we are learning about and developing new and more effective ways to run our community.

It makes me feel so good to realize that we have such a dedicated and open Chief and Council that has encouraged myself and my staff to introduce better management, administrative and political strategies to ensure we are all working together in the most efficient and responsible manner possible.

To make our system of government more open and inclusive we have been holding periodic Community Engagement Meetings where Chief and Council provide updates to our attending First Nation members. Our membership is also encouraged to provide input. We have been working hard to make sure these meetings are done with the exchange of information and in an environment of respect for one another. Often in the past, band politics were done without a lot of contact with the membership and too many times Chief and Council had to put up with disrespectful and disparaging comments but in our new way of doing things we are making a big effort to develop a new and better way to govern.

It is off to a good start and we will be building on this process. As part of this new approach we are also doing some training with Chief and Council and introducing them to new ways of operating. At the same time we are providing our membership with the opportunity to connect with our Chief and Council in an open and reflective venue. Those in attendance even get to share a meal for just showing up and participating.

In addition and along the same theme we are also holding periodic Community Open Houses which provide our membership access to our staff. These meetings are excellent opportunities for our staff to inform our membership on any important programs or issues and community members have time to engage with our staff. These open meetings are also held in an environment of openness and respect. We have some fun too because there are always refreshments and snacks available for those in attendance and door prizes to be won.

As you can see we are making huge strides in doing our best to make Mattagami First Nation better on so many levels and in particular the political and administrative or management levels and it is all being done in a way that really harkens back to our original traditions and culture. Our ancestors governed and ran our communities in this way and it really put the onus on everyone of us to be part of the process.

You will see a story in this issue of the Mattagami Drum on the Pow Wow held this summer. It was a great success and I want to extend my appreciation to Dana Cosgrove for her skills and talent in making the event such a success. In addition I want to congratulate Dorothy Naveau for going over and above her duties and putting so much time into working on the preparations needed in running a huge event such as our Pow Wow. Thanks to everyone who volunteered time and who participated to make the event a showcase for Mattagami First Nation.

Imagine, just imagine how wonderful our First Nation future is going to be with all of the learning, working together and growing we are doing. The future is ours to make of it what we will.

Gaudreau Moves To Finance



**Pamela
Gaudreau**
Finance
Manager

Pamela Gaudreau has accepted the position of Finance Manager for Mattagami First Nation. She has an extensive work history with the First Nation as she was employed as Ontario Works Administrator for 16 years.

"I am so happy to have moved into the position of Finance Manager and I am also grateful to Chief and Council and as well Juanita Luke, Executive Director for believing in me and providing me the opportunity to take on this position. My background over so many years of being in charge of Ontario Works here for the community has given me a lot of office and management experience," explained Gaudreau.

She is not entirely new to this position as in the past while being in charge of Ontario Works she also assisted with the Financial Department's accounts payable operations and helped out when needed by that department.

"You know I was very comfortable in my position at Ontario Works and felt very secure and experienced so when this opportunity in finance became available I did a lot of thinking about it. I decided in the end that change and moving onward to a new challenge was a very good thing to do and it also demonstrated to my own children that it is necessary to get out of your comfort zone and shoot for the stars," explained Gaudreau.

As part of her work experience she also was employed with the public

school in Gogama for several years. In addition she graduated from Cambrian College in the Executive Administration program. She considers herself a people person who happens to also have an interest in working with accounting and finances.

"I really have learned so much with the help of the staff here and of course Juanita who has made the transition to my new position very smooth. She is very good at passing on her knowledge and skills and has a kind and patient personality which has constantly encouraged me to do the very best I can for our membership," explained Gaudreau.

As Finance Manager she is responsible for all aspects having to do with Mattagami First Nation finances and accounting. She handles accounts payable, reconciles financial data and assists in preparing for the audit. She works closely with the Executive Director and Devin Naveau who also works in Accounts Receivable.

Gaudreau was raised mainly in Levac, Ontario and also spent a lot of time at Mattagami First Nation.

"Myself and my family were always in our First Nation and I recall as a child having so much fun playing with all my relatives and friends here. I grew up surrounded by family here in Mattagami First Nation and we were always on the land as my dad was big on fishing. So we fished in the summer on the lakes and rivers and also in the winter with ice fishing," recalled Gaudreau.

Her parents, Gerard Gaudreau and Marilyn Gaudreau (McKay) made sure she was close to her family in Mattagami First Nation and she spent a lot of time with her grandparents Simeon and Dorothy McKay as well as her aunt Pauline and many other relatives.

"It has been so satisfying to watch Mattagami First Nation grow and prosper over the years. I have seen housing, infrastructure and service de-

velopment that has made this a great place to work and live. My mom actually moved back to the community and lives in the old family homestead so I am always surrounded by good memories here. It also makes me feel good to know that she is with her family and friends and is being taken care of. This is a community where everyone knows each other and our members, Elders and children all get together often," remarked Gaudreau.

She and her partner Claude Mathieu live in Gogama and they have two children Tamara 19 and Thomas 16. She pointed out that as a member of the First Nation she makes a great effort to involve her children in the community so that they can learn more about the traditions and culture of her people and share in get togethers with family and friends. In her spare time she enjoys interior design work on her own home and in working on landscaping in her yard so that her home is a cozy and welcoming place.



Mattagami FN Drum

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