

# Mattagami First Nation **DRUM**



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**Volume Five  
Issue One**

# WORDS FROM THE CHIEF



**Chief Chad  
Boissoneau  
Mattagami  
First Nation**

Welcome once again to our Mattagami First Nation Drum magazine. These are busy and very intense days for our leadership as we are in the midst of negotiating a major Impact Benefit Agreement with IAMGold, concerning the Cote Lake Project. It is hoped that a mine will result and if and when that happens we want to be ready for any and all opportunities that will arise for our members. Striking a balance between ensuring that we benefit from employment, training and business opportunities while ensuring that the environment is respected is demanding to say the least. However, with the good will of the key negotiators for IAMGold and a focused, skilled and dedicated Mattagami First Nation team, realistic and beneficial results are unfolding.

Things are moving quickly for us in terms of providing employment for our members with many people working at Tahoe Resources Inc, Goldcorp Inc and Niiwin GP Inc, which is a joint venture with Matachewan FN, Wahgoshig FN and Flying Post FN. We are entering a time that we could consider a boom for Mattagami First Nation and you can see and feel the positive signs of this in the community. Our housing staff has been hard at work developing new homes for our members and many of our young people are returning to the community to take on roles in management, administration, health and education.

Fourteen years ago when I was last Chief I recall that myself and council were faced with a smaller workload. These days with all of

the recent initiatives in resource development we are continually engaged in negotiations and the process of making sure our members benefit on any projects involving mining, forestry and hydro. Thanks to a very dedicated and capable administration staff headed by our Executive Director Juanita Luke a lot of the daily operations and community organizational duties have been taken off of our plates so that we can focus more on the political leadership concerns.

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***Mattagami  
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So much has changed over the years in terms of communication with all sorts of social media now being used. Myself and council want to remind our members that anyone wanting any information on any projects or issues simply have to pick up the phone and call us. We will not respond to social media questions or input due to the fact that there is a concern about privacy. We also want to remind everyone that what you post on social media you are responsible for and legally can be held to account for what you write.

I am hopeful that an Elders Complex will be developed and we are working on that. We are tired and saddened every time one of our Elders has to leave the community to reside in a facility in Timmins and other nearby cities. These are the people who built our First Nation and in their golden years we owe it to them to provide a proper Elders housing complex where

they can still feel part of their community and stay in touch with their family and friends on a daily basis. Their continued presence in our community is also necessary so that they can participate in our development and hand down their knowledge of tradition and culture. In addition we are also looking at the development of projects aimed at assisting our youth in the community. We understand well that these young people are our leaders of tomorrow and we need to provide them with all of the tools they need to live healthy and purposeful lives.

We have so many talented organizers and volunteers in Mattagami First Nation and that is evident in our popular and very successful Fishing Derbies, Beaverfest and the annual Pow Wow. I am very grateful to everyone who puts their time and energy into making these events work. Of course I am also very proud of the fact that our Fish Hatchery project is in its sixth year now. This spring we will be conducting the hatchery again and I am so happy to see the community rally around this important project that serves as a teaching for our young people and as an initiative that gives back to the land.

In this issue of our magazine you will notice a feature story on Dorothy Naveau, who has been working in administration with us for many years. Myself and council are grateful for the efforts of Dorothy and all of our staff members. Sadly in this issue of Mattagami First Nation Drum you will note a memorial on the passing of James Naveau and Kaneesha Naveau. They both left us before their time and we feel their loss. On behalf of the community I offer my condolences to their family and friends.

With the guidance of our Elders and the energy and skills of our upcoming generation Mattagami First Nation is moving ahead with confidence and hope.

# KEEPING IN TOUCH

Dreams are coming true in Mattagami First Nation. For all of our Elders, past and present who always had a vision of a safe, self-sufficient community based to a great degree on tradition and culture I am happy to report that this reality is coming closer and closer every year.

At the root of this new renaissance for Mattagami First Nation is the development of all types of initiatives having to do with mining, forestry and business. A new reality built on employment, training and revenue streaming opportunities are making life better for our members. This is all happening at a point in time when many of our Elders are still here with us as a connection to our ancestors and working in concert with a new generation of our members who have come back to our community to assist in moving us forward.

Young people like Sam Kloetstra, Brent Boissoneau, Devin Naveau, Tianna Golinowski, Jannelle Golinowski, Sydney Constant and Michael Gregoire are igniting a spark in Mattagami First Nation with their exciting energy, fresh and innovative ideas, education and a huge interest and respect for our Indigenous traditions and culture. They are the role models for our children in the community and fresh hearts and minds that will work with our Elders to provide us with an environment and programing that benefits every one of us.

There are many exciting projects on the horizon involving culture and traditional initiatives for our youth and the potential development of a

youth cultural centre. This would be a facility where all types of programming dedicated to youth would be featured and our young people would have a place to call there own.

A waterfront development is on its way to becoming a reality with a feasibility study. We are blessed with a community setting in a wilderness environment and on the banks of Mattagami Lake. Imagine a waterfront development that could include a boardwalk, docking, recreational facilities with accommodation units in a marina like environment with state of the art boating services.

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Through the hard work and volunteerism of people like Larry Naveau, Jessica Naveau and their volunteer group, our Fishing derbies are known far and wide. These popular events would be further enhanced by a waterfront development that would cater to visiting fishing enthusiasts and tourism. The result would be a source of income for our First Nation. Thanks to the efforts of our Chief Chad Boissoneau the stocking of the lake due to our fish hatchery would ensure our success as a fishing tourism destination.

Things are progressing so well in terms of new housing and future development is underway. Our infrastructure is developing and Jennifer Constant our Lands and Economic Development Coordinator is hard at work putting together a new waste



**Juanita  
Luke**  
Executive  
Director

management and landfill site development project. She is constantly pushing ahead with developments that are providing our members with employment, training and business opportunities while acquiring funding to move things ahead in Mattagami First Nation.

We are also looking at the establishment of a movie theatre so that the community members can enjoy the experience of watching first rate movies and documentaries. With the promise of a more robust economy for our community we are looking at investing in real initiatives that add to our quality of life, based on self sufficiency with the possibility of producing revenue income.

Developments in our health department are continuously making life safer, healthier and more comfortable for all of us. The fact that we have our own school here in our First Nation provides us with so many opportunities to educate our children with our traditions and culture in mind. The more I think about it the more I realize just how vibrant our community is and how wealthy we are in terms of the talent pool of Elders, leaders and staff people serving Mattagami First Nation. We have a broad range of services and the promise of better days ahead in terms of economic benefits. Things are evolving in a very positive way and we are all participating in living the dream. That is a far cry from what life was like for our grandfathers and grandmothers and we should pause more often to give them thanks for doing all the heavy lifting in making sure we survived to make it to this new day.

## Front Cover Photo

*The 8th Annual Ice Fishing Pike Derby brought out family, friends and visitors. Pictured are (L-R): Atalayah Naveau daughter of Andrea Naveau and Lola Naveau daughter of Alicia Naveau and granddaughter of Late James Naveau.*

*photo by Betty Naveau*

# Memorial To James Naveau

James Anthony Naveau, a well known local official in Mattagami First Nation passed away on August 30, 2017 at the age of 52. Naveau is a former First Nation Councillor and he had also held the position of

Lands and Resources Coordinator.

He was predeceased by his parents, James Jesse Naveau and Elizabeth Marie (Loley) Naveau.

He is survived by his wife Lisa and her children and family as well

as children, Matthew (Lee), Ashley (Dave) and Alicia. Also mourning his passing are his grandchildren Lola, America, Claire and Christian as well as many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, aunts, uncles, friends and co-workers.

James Anthony also leaves behind his siblings, Walter (Cathy), Allan (Anne), Ron (Mary Rose), Judy, Lorraine (Kirk) and Anita (Chad).

The family received friends at the Mattagami First Nation Complex September 4 to 6. His funeral was held on September 6 with interment at the local Mattagami First Nation Cemetery.

“James was someone from the community that we all knew as we grew up with him. He was a very bright and talented man who served in many positions for Mattagami First Nation and was part of our leadership over the years,” commented Chief Chad Boissoneau.



PHOTO BY DOROTHY NAVEAU

**JAMES NAVEAU (FAR RIGHT) IS REMEMBERED AS A COMMUNITY LEADER. HE IS PICTURED HERE IN 2010 WITH (FROM L-R) PAST CHIEF WALTER NAVEAU, BETTY NAVEAU AND JAMES' WIFE LISA NAVEAU.**

# Kaneesha Naveau Remembered

Kaneesha Faith Naveau of Mattagami First Nation passed on December 15, 2017 at the age of 25. She was the daughter of Beverly Naveau, Mattagami FN and step father Brad Picody of Chapleau. She is also survived by her biological father Jack Williams and his children of Moose Factory.

She also leaves behind her siblings Sage, Isaiah and Brittany. She was also survived by aunts Dorothy Naveau, Cathy Stoney, Kim Naveau and an uncle Michael Gauthier. Kaneesha was also very close and loved by her late grandparents Norman and Margaret Naveau.

The family lived in the First Nation and also Chapleau. About 10 years ago Brad needed a kidney transplant and the family had to move to Ottawa while dealing with this health issue.

“Kaneesha enjoyed life in the community and was a very kind and bubbly person. We all loved her. She would greet everyone with a

wide smile and was always so happy to be with her family and friends in her home here when she was a teen,” commented Dorothy Naveau.

The community members will miss her as a very kind spirit who always was happy to come back into her home First Nation to visit. She was a student at Timmins High and Vocational School in Timmins in her teens.

“She was part of a family that was involved in traditional and cultural pursuits such as hunting and fishing. She also went to many Pow Wows and did some dancing,” said Dorothy Naveau.

Kaneesha took every opportunity to spend time with her grandparents Norman and Margaret because she just loved them so much. She had a lot of friends in the community and was well liked.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY DOROTHY NAVEAU

**KANEESHA NAVEAU IS REMEMBERED AS A HAPPY FRIEND IN MATTAGAMI FN. SHE IS PICTURED HERE AT THE FAR RIGHT WITH HER SIBLINGS (FROM L-R): ISAIAH, SAGE AND BRITTANY.**

# Sam Kloetstra Heads Up Cultural Revitalization

Mattagami First Nation is experiencing a growth on many levels these days. A renaissance of sorts is taking place with the return of many of the community's youth who are taking up positions of management and leadership. Sam Kloetstra joined Mattagami First Nation administration as Cultural Revitalization Coordinator on February 1, 2018. His new role deals mainly with the revitalization of Native traditions and culture including language, ceremonies, skills and looking at decolonization.

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***“We are learning more about our culture and traditions”***  
***- Sam Kloetstra***

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“I am here to assist our young people to reach their potential and to do so with a focus giving them the opportunity to learn more about their culture and traditions and to talk about decolonization. We need to be working together as we are basically all in the same canoe and if we are all paddling in the same direction we will go far and with good speed. In fact the entire community benefits as everyone is involved including our leadership, Elders and parents in working with our youth,” explained Kloetstra.

A project that is dear to his heart has to do with the development of a Youth and Community Center where First Nation members can come together with the goal of bringing Native traditions and culture back into all aspects of the daily life of Mattagami First Nation. He pointed out that the youth in the community will spearhead this development to a great degree with their input. He believes that the time is right for the creation of a place that is special and

not just another square building but a monument in honour of tradition and culture where programming, events and gatherings will occur.

“We are learning more about our culture and traditions even though we live in a contemporary world. These two realities can coexist and I see our community through this initiative over time will lead to better decision making on the part of our leadership and perhaps one day we will assert our rights to be sovereign. Imagine a Mattagami First Nation where one day we can once again have conversations in our original languages. We have a duty to proceed in this direction to uphold our traditions in respect for the land and for each other. I may not see this with my generation but if we make a strong effort to head in this direction this could be our reality in two or three generations into the future,”

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***“I am excited at the prospect that I will be empowering our youth”***  
***- Sam Kloetstra***

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commented Kloetstra.

Over the past few years, he has been active in various Indigenous organizations, projects and programs in southern Ontario like the Native Canadian Center of Toronto, Toronto Indigenous Health Advisory Circle, Native Women's Resource Center of Toronto, Premier's Council on Youth Opportunities, Royal Ontario Museum Youth Cabinet and several other organizations at various regional and provincial levels.

“All of my experiences have been a great training ground and have helped me to prepare for the work that we are doing here now. I don't think it would be possible for me to have the skills, knowledge and vis-



PHOTO PROVIDED BY SAM KLOETSTRA

ion that I have today in working in this position for my First Nation. I always knew I would be returning to my home community to help make a difference. Yes, I do miss Starbucks and a lot of the things the city has to offer but I love the peace and quiet in the midst of our northern wilderness that I wake up to here every morning,” explained Kloetstra.

He believes that as a First Nation person he has a sense of pride in being able to look back on a history that spans thousands of years and that has a rich cultural and traditional background.

“I am excited at the prospect that I will be empowering our youth. It is great to be back here with family and friends and involved in working in this position. As part of decolonizing we learn to understand why things are the way they are today, what led to them, who was responsible and what we have to do to move ahead,” explained Kloetstra.

He also is considering participating in the economy of his community with an interest in the tourism sector. He enjoys socializing with community members and being on the land. Travelling appeals to him and he has visited Europe, many places in North America and has plans to continue his passion for discovering other indigenous peoples and world cultures.

# The Seventh Annual



**THE SEVENTH ANNUAL MATTAGAMI FN POW WOW WAS HELD ON AUGUST 19 AND 20. PICTURED ARE THE TRADITIONAL DANCERS WHO TOOK PART IN THE GATHERING.**

A trio of eagles in flight greeted the Seventh Annual Mattagami First Nation Pow Wow, which took place on August 19 and 20, 2017 in the community. Elder Mike Naveau, pointed out that the three eagles had been over the community leading up to the annual gathering. Local members took it as a sign of good fortune as the eagle symbolizes strength and vision. They visit every year. This year's Pow Wow was titled 'Honouring Our Elders' and it was led by host drum Eagle River Singers of Barriere Lake First Nation, Quebec; co-host drum Shining Water Singers of Georgina Island First Nation, Ontario and invited drum Thunder Creek of Timmins, Ontario.

"Our annual Pow Wow is an important way for us to connect our youth and our Elders together and remind all of us of our cultural past. I really enjoy our annual gathering and seeing my grandchildren and other youth dancing. It is important for us to acknowledge and recognize our past and to honour our Elders, who are our traditional knowledge keepers," explained Chief Chad Boissoneau.



**THE NEWEST EDITION TO MATTAGAMI FN WAS TWO DAY OLD SCARLETT KIMBERLY JUANITA LUKE WHO WAS BROUGHT TO HER FIRST POW WOW BY PARENTS JESSICA VAILLANCOURT AND SCOTT LUKE AND THEIR SON ROMAN.**

The community was honoured by having Regional Chief Isadore Day, Chiefs Of Ontario (COO) in full regalia as the head male dancer for the two day event. He was joined by his wife Angela Trudeau, who was the head female dancer. They are both of Serpent River FN and they attended the event with their children who also danced. Pow Wow Elders were Alex Jacobs and Agnes Naveau of Mattagami FN.

"It is a special honour for me and my family to be invited here to dance at this Pow Wow. As Regional Chief of Ontario and as a former Chief of my community, I understand the importance of remembering and honouring our Elders as they hold the knowledge and wisdom of our people. Our annual Pow Wows are also an important part of our communities as they bring together the ideas of culture, language, family and unity. It is a way for us to remember our heritage, honour our past and to celebrate who we are as a people," said Regional Chief Day.

The event was coordinated by Dana McKenzie, Mattagami FN along with local assistants Kiara Constant, Emily Ludebeck, Jason Therriault and Nolan Naveau. Councillor Jennifer Constant and Executive Director Juanita Luke also spearhead support for the event.

"This year's Pow Wow was a great success as it brought together our community for a fun event to honour our Elders. They are the ones who kept our culture alive and it was their guidance and their life long sacrifices that allowed us to be who we are today. We have so much to be thankful for because of them," said McKenzie.

The Seventh Annual Mattagami FN Pow Wow sponsors included: Mattagami First Nation, First Nation Engineering Services Ltd., Tisdale Plumbing, Lessard-Stephens Funeral Home, Chenier Motors, Caron Equipment, Olthuis Klear Townshend, Northern College, Gold Corp Inc., Timmins Garage, Sivas Family Restaurant, Expert Garage and IAMGOLD.

Lead youth dancers were local community members Max Worme and Janelle Golinowski. Worme was honoured with a surprise gift of male dancer's regalia presented to him by Regional Chief Day during the event.

"I was really surprised and honoured with this gift. My family and I are very grateful to Chief Isadore Day for

# Mattagami FN Pow Wow



**MALE DANCERS PERFORMED AT THE 7TH ANNUAL MATTAGAMI FN POW WOW. PICTURED LEFT IS CHARLIE KIOKE, OF ATTAWAPISKAT FIRST NATION AND ON THE RIGHT IS ONTARIO REGIONAL CHIEF ISADORE DAY, CHIEFS OF ONTARIO.**

providing me with such amazing regalia. It will definitely keep me dancing and hopefully encourage other young people to do the same,” commented Worme.

The two day event was guided by MC Greg ‘Mista Wasis’ Dreaver, Treaty 6 Territory, Saskatchewan and Arena Director Shady Hafez, Kitigan Zibi FN, Quebec.

The event started on Thursday with a tipi raising and teaching event on the Pow Wow grounds hosted by Misiway Community Health Centre and led by Misiway staff Gary Martin, Kristin Murray and Zack Farrell. The tipi was then used to house the Pow Wow fire which was watched over by Pow Wow Fire Keeper Morrison Solomon, of Neyaashiinigmiing (Chippewas of Nawash) First Nation.

Community members spent the day’s events visiting old and new friends while snacking from local vendors that sold traditional foods including moose and fish and modern treats such as funnel cake and ice cream. Vendors also included local artists and artisans who sold artwork and traditional crafts.

The first day of events also featured a morning breakfast and an afternoon feast which was organized by Tracy Harnack and her sister Winona Harnack, along with volunteer family members and friends.



**DANCERS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS TOOK PART IN DANCING AND CELEBRATING TRADITIONAL CULTURE AT THE ANNUAL MATTAGAMI FN POW WOW.**



**ELDER MIKE NAVEAU, A LIFELONG RESIDENT OF MATTAGAMI FIRST NATION, SIGHTED THREE EAGLES THAT FLEW OVER THE COMMUNITY DURING THE WEEKEND OF THE POW WOW.**



**THE 7TH ANNUAL MATTAGAMI FN POW WOW WAS HELD ON AUGUST 19 AND 20. FROM L-R ARE: DANA MCKENZIE, POW WOW COORDINATOR; CHIEF CHAD BOISSONEAU, REGIONAL CHIEF ISADORE DAY, CHIEFS OF ONTARIO; FORMER CHIEF WALTER NAVEAU AND YOUTH DANCER TESSA THOMAS. IN FRONT ARE MATTAGAMI FN MEMBER NATHAN NAVEAU, THUNDER CREEK DRUM GROUP AND MAX WORME, LEAD YOUTH MALE DANCER.**

**Mattagami FN  
Pow Wow 2018  
August 18 & 19, 2018**

for more information  
see our facebook page at  
**Mattagami First Nation Annual  
Traditional Pow wow - Public Page**



PHOTO PROVIDED BY MFN FISHING

FISHERMEN GATHER FOR THE FALL CLASSIC WALLEYE TOURNAMENT HELD ON SEPTEMBER 9 AND 10, 2017.

# MFN Fishing Promotes Community

Mattagami First Nation is becoming a well known fishing destination through three regular fishing tournaments held every year. Mattagami First Nation (MFN) Fishing successfully hosted another Fall Classic event on September 9 and 10, 2017 and a Pike Fishing Derby on February 24, 2018.

“We really enjoy running these events not just for our visiting anglers but for our First Nation members as well. It brings tourism into our community and it promotes our First Nation, our people and our culture through a positive, fun and exciting event,” said Jessica Naveau, Event Organizer a member of

Mattagami First Nation.

Tournament coordinators were thankful to the Timmins Porcupine Search And Rescue organization for their support and efforts at the February 2017 Pike Fishing Derby.

The Fall Classic Tournament in September 2017 included sponsors: Mattagami First Nation, Dr. Boissoneau, Wabun Tribal Council, Krazy, Krazy; Guiho Saw Sales and Marine, The Cache Campground, BNP Industries, Princecraft, J&B Cycle and Marine, Mikey's, Nasco Propane, Dummoulin Fishing & Tackle, Fresh Off The Block, Guy's Custom Cabinets, Northern Industrial Services Group, Custom Concrete

and Conseil Scholaire Public du Nord-Est de l'Ontario.

The driving force of these tournaments is MFN Fishing, a group of volunteer organizers who manage the three major fishing tournaments in Mattagami FN. The organizers are Naveau, Crystel Vallée and Dominique Morin. In the past year, Morin has taken a less prominent role in the events due to other responsibilities. The events are now mainly headed by Naveau and Vallée. The three annual tournaments are the Pike Ice Fishing Derby in February, the Walleye Tournament in June and the Fall Classic in September. The proceeds for these events go towards supporting First Nation recreation programs, equipment and youth initiatives.

“It feels good to work with everyone in the community to make these events happen. We want to encour-

**For more information go to:  
www.mfnfishing.com  
or facebook page at: MFN Fishing**



PHOTO PROVIDED BY MFN FISHING

CHIEF CHAD BOISSONEAU AND HIS GRANDSON VINCENT ENJOYED THE ACTIVITY OF THE FALL CLASSIC WALLEYE TOURNAMENT.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY MFN FISHING

FALL CLASSIC WALLEYE 1ST PLACE TOURNAMENT WINNERS WERE JAMIE ROBINSON AND TERRY BERNATH.





PHOTO PROVIDED BY BETTY NAVEAU

**YOUNG AND OLD ENJOYED THE EIGHTH ANNUAL ICE FISHING PIKE DERBY HELD ON FEBRUARY 24, 2018.**

age everyone to take part, especially the young people so that we can all ensure these tournaments continue for years to come,” said Vallée.

Two of these fishing events are recognized as being part of the Northern Ontario Walleye Trail (NOWT) fishing tournament circuit. The Mattagami Lake First Nation Walleye Tournament in June and the Mattagami Fall Classic Walleye Tournament in September are part of the NOWT. The Mattagami FN tournaments make up two of the six major NOWT events held throughout northern Ontario. The NOWT event series draws plenty of men and women for multi day events that bring competitors together to compete for multiple major prize rewards. The tournament circuit also tallies winners and competitors who take part in all six events through a point system that gives them a chance at becoming “Angler Of The Year”, which is awarded by the NOWT.

MFN Fishing was established in 2015 and came together through

Naveau who had led the coordination of these fishing tournaments with the help of her father Larry Naveau and grandfather Elder Leonard Naveau. They have also been supported by many community members and volunteers over the years.

The Naveau family has come to be known as strong supporters of hunting, fishing and trapping culture in Mattagami FN. Elder Leonard Naveau and his son Larry Naveau have run the fishing events at different times in the past and also established the popular annual Beaverfest in the community.

“We are thankful to all our supporters, sponsors and volunteers who come to assist in our events every year. Thanks also to our visiting anglers and their family and friends who come to make this such a fun and community oriented gathering. We are also grateful to our First Nation Chief, Council, administrative staff and our community members for their support and encouragement,” said Jessica Naveau.

**Fifth Annual Fall Walleye Classic Tournament - 2017**

**Final Top 3 Tournament Teams**

**1st place prize of \$8,000.00 to Jamie Robinson / Terry Bernath for a total catch of 25.85 lbs**

**2nd place prize of \$4,000.00 to Mark Lytham / Trevor Bernath for a total catch of 25.13 lbs**

**3rd place prize of \$2,500.00 Jody Villeneuve / Chad Vis for a total catch of 23.98 lbs**

**Eighth Annual Pike Ice Fishing Derby - 2017**

**Final Top 3 Winners**

**1st place prize of \$5,500 Trevor Bishop**

**2nd place prize of \$2,750 Marc Beland**

**3rd place prize of \$1,650 Carl Castongay**

**4th place prize of \$1,100 Wesley Abitong**

**Claude Roy won a 2017 Kawasaki side-by-side ATV provided by Guiho Saw Sales and Kawasaki Motors Inc.**



PHOTO PROVIDED BY BETTY NAVEAU

**TAMIKA NAVEAU ENJOYED HER DAY OF FISHING AT THE PIKE ICE FISHING DERBY.**



PHOTO PROVIDED BY RED ANDAL

**FIRST PLACE WINNER AT THE PIKE ICE FISHING DERBY WAS TREVOR BISHOP (CENTRE) WITH ORGANIZERS JESSICA NAVEAU (LEFT) AND CRYSTEL VALLÉE.**

**Mattagami Lake FN Walleye Tournament June 2018**

**will be held on June 2 and 3, 2018 in Mattagami First Nation.**

**For more information contact the organizers directly: Jessica Naveau 705-221-4248 Crystel Vallée 705-363-7024**

# Dorothy Naveau Featured

*Dorothy Naveau is the featured staff person for this edition of the Mattagami Drum. As Administrative Receptionist, Naveau's primary role is in providing a variety of support services and assistance to administrative staff.*



She started her position in 2006 and she has been the first point of contact for every visitor that comes to the Mattagami First Nation administration building for the past 12 years.

"I enjoy working for my community and in being able to work right here in the community at the office. I am responsible for a variety of things but my role is in providing assistance to all our departments and our leadership in fulfilling their duties. My responsibilities are not limited to just one part of the office as I provide help to everyone that is involved with our First Nation administration," explained Naveau.

She works with office staff associated to the four major departments that make up the First Nation office including: the Health department, the Education department, the Public Works department and the Administration department. Every month, she also keeps staff and community members informed on regular activities and events by producing the Mattagami Drumbeat, a monthly newsletter for the First Nation.

She started out in the health field and completed a Personal Support Worker (PSW) program at Northern College in Timmins. She used her training to work in her home community for a year providing health

care. She changed career paths to Office Administration and attended post secondary training in this field in Sioux Lookout, Ontario. Over the two years she and her family spent there, Naveau attended school, took part in training and worked part time while raising her eldest son Joshua.

Later, she returned to Timmins where she was employed for three years full time and two years on contract from her home with Kuuwanimano Child & Family Services in an Office Administrative role.

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***"I do my best to help whenever and wherever I am needed"***

***-Dorothy Naveau***

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Naveau is a supporter of community development. She is a member of the Board of Trustees for the Mattagami First Nation Trust, a community trust fund that supports various community projects, programs, events and gatherings for the benefit of the First Nation. She was first elected to this board in 2009 and reelected again in 2015. Over the past two years she has received training as a Treasurer with the assistance of Darlene Lafontaine, Wabun Tribal Council Financial Advisor. Naveau also added to her training by taking part in an Accounting Program with Athabasca University for a year.

She is also an active community volunteer as a member of emergency services for her First Nation. She volunteers her time as a dispatcher for the Mattagami First Nation Fire Department. For the past 14 years, she has been a member of

the Mattagami First Nation Community Crisis Team. The group is comprised of community professionals who make up a crisis response team that can deal with minor events involving a few people or a community wide emergency dealing with the entire First Nation.

"The Community Crisis Team has been a big deal for our community over the years. It has helped local families through events on smaller individual levels involving our members and also in terms of larger critical community wide emergencies. One such crisis involved the evacuation of our First Nation from an oncoming forest fire. It is an ongoing challenge for us to stay alert and ready with the necessary skills and efforts we need to make sure our people here are safe. It is reassuring to our members and to myself that we are ready and that provides a sense of security and confidence," commented Naveau.

She regularly volunteers her time to community events and gatherings.



**DOROTHY NAVEAU (MIDDLE 2ND FROM LEFT) WITH HER WOMEN'S DRUM GROUP OF WOMEN AND GIRLS FROM MATTAGAMI FN**

“I like helping our people in creating and developing anything positive for our people and especially our youth. I do my best to help whenever and wherever I am needed,” said Naveau.

She and her partner Curtis Fowler have a 14 year old daughter Samara. Naveau also has two sons Grayson Luke and Joshua Luke, from a previous relationship.

Her father, the late Norman Naveau, who passed in July 2017,

was a First Nation leader who was involved with Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN) at a regional level in northeastern Ontario in the 1970s and 1980s. Norman Naveau was also known as a talented and legendary northern musician who played old time reels and jigs on the fiddle and guitar.

Dorothy Naveau’s mother, the late Margaret Naveau, who passed in October 2010, was a former Chief of the community who was

instrumental in the development of the First Nation.

Her siblings are Cathy Stoney, Kim Naveau and Beverly Naveau. They also have a brother Michael Gauthier.

She enjoys taking part in traditional activities such as hunting and fishing near her home community. She grew up in Mattagami FN and attended elementary school in the community and then went on to high school in Timmins.

# Waste Management Addressed

Mattagami First Nation administration is taking steps to upgrade community infrastructure to ensure the continued growth and health of the community. The First Nation Lands and Economic Development department recently announced plans for a Waste Management System Planning Study which will include a Land Fill Assessment. The study has been approved for funding by Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC).

Councillor Jennifer Constant, who is also the Lands and Economic Development Coordinator for the First Nation, is heading this process with the assistance of Tracy Harnack, Public Works Director and Tim Harvey, Lands and Resources Coordinator. They will also be working in conjunction with external technical advisers from Wabun Tribal Council and INAC.

“We want to move our community ahead with lands and economic development projects but we need to ensure that our basic services are first dealt with to aid in our future growth. Some of our current infrastructure is out dated and we need to update them in order to maintain the health and safety of our community,” said Councillor Constant.

The application process for the Waste Management System Planning Study was also done with the assistance of Caroline Burgess, Odonaterra Inc. Burgess has been working with Mattagami FN for several years. She is the Managing Director of Odonaterra Inc and as an

environmental planner, she has 23 years of experience in public and indigenous consultation, environmental assessment and regional planning.

Councillor Constant explained that currently, the Mattagami FN landfill site is inadequate for the needs of the community. The landfill site had originally been set for closure in 1994 but due to lack of funding and available land, the community has not been able to deal with issue until now. She said that a Land Fill Assessment will help in developing a new land fill site that will meet the current needs of the community and the future growth of the First Nation.

“At this point we are currently in the planning stages of this process and we will be working with technical experts and advisers that will come to the community to conduct on site surveys and consultations,” said Councillor Constant.

She added that although a time line of events have not been settled on at this time, the upcoming planning stages will provide plenty of opportunities for community members to provide their input to the process. Community members will also be regularly informed and updated on the progress of this project through community meetings and newsletters.

“Ultimately, we want to establish a waste management system to deal with our current needs in a safe, environmentally friendly and economically efficient way. We also want to plan for the future and build a land fill space that can in fact accom-



**Jennifer Constant**  
Lands and Economic Development Coordinator

modate the future growth of our community,” explained Councillor Constant.

Mattagami First Nation has negotiated several major resource development agreements over the past few years and with the continued activity in mining ventures, more opportunities for the First Nation are expected to affect their community in terms of size and population. Councillor Constant explained that over the next few years it is anticipated that the growth of the community will increase due to this economic activity of the First Nation.

“We have many people who currently live away from our community. The growth of economic activity will mean that more people can become employed through the mining agreements we are negotiating and this will give them the opportunity to live in their home community. We need these major infrastructure projects put in place as soon as possible to meet any growth because we are looking out for the future of our First Nation,” said Councillor Constant.

# COMMUNITY SPIRIT

all photos provided by Betty Naveau



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THE CANOE EXCURSION PROVIDED TRADITIONAL EXPERIENCE FOR YOUTH.



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THE ELDERS CHRISTMAS SOCIAL FEATURED MANY COMMUNITY MEMBERS. FROM L-R ARE: SALLY LUKE AND BONNIE FLETCHER.



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highlights traditional  
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featuring  
demonstrations,  
traditional food,  
teachings and activities**

**Mattagami FN Drum**

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