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Okarahshona kenh Onkwehonwene, Six Nations of the Grand

WEDNESDAY, IOHARIHKÓ:WA / JULY 18, 2012

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LOCAL



Solidarity Day at Six Nations

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Samsung back at dig to clear way for Green Energy Park

By Donna Duric
Writer

Archeological work has resumed on the \$1 billion Samsung renewable energy project slated for development on unceded Six Nations lands.

Archeologists were out in full force last week on South Cayuga lands off Sutor Road sifting through piles of soil for native artifacts and it is all being overseen by the Haudenosaunee Development Institute (HDI) with the endorsement of Confederacy Chiefs.

Archeological work on the property was shut down last month by Confederacy supporters after Samsung C&T Corporation and band council signed the green energy deal without Confederacy input. Band council had threatened to call the OPP on protestors and at least one councillor had said archeologists were

afraid of returning to work on the site after the incident.

Since then, the HDI, on behalf of the Confederacy, has signed a negotiation agreement with Samsung executives.

Negotiations are expected to continue throughout the summer. The two parties are cooperating fully during the archeological investigations, which the HDI is taking the lead on, said Wayne Hill, an archeological consultant for the HDI who is overseeing the work. He provided the Turtle Island News with a tour of the property last Thursday.

"Our role is to...make sure (archeologists) are doing a professional job," said Hill.

To date, archeologists say they've mostly found chipped pieces of stone tools, suggesting the area

may have been a tool manufacturing site.

Jonathan Freeman, field director for Timmins-Martelle Heritage Consultants Inc., said phase-three archeological results are leading him to believe the lands off Sutor Road and Haldimand Road 20 did not house a long-term village settlement.

"This might have been like a tool manufacturing site, or it might have been a short-term camp, or even a seasonal campsite where they would have been processing game," said Freeman. "We're just starting to scratch the surface. It's very early in the project. Stage three you start to figure out how big it is and how old it is."

The area's acidic soils would have been prohibitive to agriculture, he said, adding to his belief it was a short-term settlement or tool manufacturing site.



Teams of archeology students are sifting through land to beat the winter clock. (Photo by Donna Duric)

If any burials are found, that would pretty much stop development in that area, said Hill.

"The (HDI) has a no-movement burial policy. If a burial found was found, the chances of us moving a burial is not going to hap-

pen." Freeman said it's unlikely any burials will be found. "Most likely we won't," he said. "That's really rare."

Samsung plans to build a 515-acre solar and wind farm on South Cayuga lands. The company's

partnership with band council would see a maximum economic benefit of \$55 million to Six Nations over 20 years. Archeological work will continue full-time until the ground freezes in late fall, said Hill.

Six Nations wind farm appeal filed by Haldimand group, local man

By Donna Duric
Writer

A group of concerned Haldimand citizens and a Six Nations man have filed appeals of Samsung's planned wind farm on unceded Six Nations lands in South Cayuga.

Haldimand Wind Concerns and Men's Fire member Bill Monture filed appeals with Ontario's Environmental Review Tribunal earlier this month based on the long-term health concerns of wind turbines.

Proponents of the project

say they are confident the project will go through despite the appeal.

"The Environmental Review Tribunal will hear any appeals and we are confident they will handle those hearings in a fair manner," said Stefan Baranski, media relations for Samsung. "We are confident in the extensive study, fieldwork and science that has gone into preparing our project."

Matt Jamieson, Six Nations Band director of economic development, says although the appeal may have an economic impact

on the cost of power in general, he doesn't think it will stop the project from going forward. "It costs additional money and it drives the cost of power up but eventually, I believe the project will get built."

Six Nations band council entered into a partnership with Samsung C&T Corporation to build a 515-acre wind and solar farm on Six Nations lands that will see an economic benefit of \$33 million to \$55 million to the community over the 20-year lifespan of the project.

Ernie King, president of Haldimand Wind Concerns, lives 650 metres from one of the proposed wind turbine locations in South Cayuga and says he is concerned with the long-term health impacts of low frequency noise emissions from wind turbines. He claims wind turbines cause "serious harm to human health."

"There are serious health issues. People are moving out of their homes because of placement of industrial wind turbines at the current setbacks that Sam-

sung will be using. People are suffering. Their only reprieve is to leave their house."

The closest setback for Samsung's wind turbines will be 550 metres from the centre of a dwelling, he said.

He says health concerns include headaches, insomnia, tinnitus (ringing in the ears), heart palpitations, respiratory illnesses, and anxiety from lack of sleep. "Unfortunately these things work at night and that's when people need restful sleep and they're

not getting that because of the noise that is emitted from wind turbines."

He says residents will lose between 25-40 percent of their property valued.

King has not had any contact with band council or the Confederacy Council regarding his concerns, but says he has a lot of support from the Six Nations Men's Fire.

Preliminary hearings for the appeals will be held on Aug. 9 and Sept. 10 in Cayuga. King says a decision should be reached by early next year.

Six Nations Police investigate fatal roll over

Six Nations Police are still investigating a single vehicle accident that left a vehicle occupant dead. Police confirmed that early Satur-

day morning that the death occurred as a result of losing control of the vehicle and rolling over. Police still had not released

the name of the deceased Monday despite the fact that the accident occurred Saturday. Police claim they still had to notify next of

kin. Tuscarora Road between Second Line and Third Line Road was closed for the investigation. The OPP

Technical Traffic Investigation Unit is assisting in the investigation. The investigation is still on going.

Moratorium on all funding requests

Six Nations band council puts gaming fund \$4 million in debt

By Lynda Powless and Donna Duric
Writers

Six Nations Band Council has put an emergency moratorium on all gaming fund requests after learning it has run its gaming fund \$4 million in debt.

Band Council's new finance director, Gary Phillips warned council, at its committee of the whole meeting Monday, if they paid out all funding commitments owed they would end up \$4 million in debt on that fund alone.

The amount came as a surprise since band council has not had a report on its gaming funds for a year.

Band Councillor Helen Miller, who has been asking for an accounting of the fund for almost a year said she wasn't really surprised. "Trudy (Porter finance department) kept telling us we were okay but I knew we couldn't be. Every time we approved something I kept asking do we have any money to give away. She kept saying yes, well guess I was right. We didn't have any."

Band Council issued an immediate moratorium on all funding requests until the results of its 2011-2012 audit are released in September.

At the issuing of the annual audit band council has normally moved up to \$2 to \$3 million out of gaming fund to cover department deficits.

Miller said departments including recreation, public works, lands research are on a list to receive gaming funds. "That's cause we don't get enough money for them."

Phillips brought the information forward at council's committee of the whole meeting Monday but council would not release details of the fund's financial position. Elected Chief Bill Montour

said council could not release the financial document to the Turtle Island News until it voted on the resolution at its next general council meeting.

The regularly scheduled council meeting for Tuesday night was cancelled. Council could not get a

month," said Phillips.

That \$667,000 will offset the deficit by the end of the year, he said and should leave band council with an additional \$1.2 million in the fund.

But that's only if council doesn't spend anymore.

That means band council is receiving an estimated \$8,004,000 in gaming funds a year.

"We've committed more than we have in the bank account. We can't get too far ahead of ourselves in spending", Phillips told council.

Phillips said if there is no further spending of the funds, it will be in a surplus position at the end of the year, at \$1.2 million.

Ontario First Nations, including Six Nations, share one per cent of all Ontario Lottery and Gaming revenues annually.

The funds are split on a per capita funding formula and distributed through the Ontario First Nations Limited Partnership (OFNLP).

The dollars are sent to Six Nations Band council who disperses the funds to cover band deficits, community donations and in the past provided a portion to the Six Nations Community Trust.

However the community trust has come under fire recently.

The Trust has been the subject of criticism by some community members and organizations, accusing it of "hoarding" funds. The Trust's most recent audit shows it is sitting on about \$17 million.

Montour criticized the Trust's handling of the funds and said he was "perturbed" at a letter sent to Parks and Recreation Director Cheryl Henhawk a few months ago saying the Trust will not provide any money to council departments.

Montour disagreed with

that and said council departments exist for the betterment of the community. "As far as I'm concerned that Trust is set up to help this community," said Montour. "Everything that we (do) is for the community. Every cent that comes here is for the benefit of



"That's all our money that's sitting there and they're hoarding that money," said Johnson. "There's no other word for it. We have to find a way to break through their armor and get it out into the community for the people." Councillor Ross Johnson

this community, not the benefit of council. We've got to put our foot down and say we can't afford any more donations until we get control of (the gaming fund)."

Councillor Ross Johnson accused the Trust of hoarding funds.

"That's all our money that's sitting there and they're hoarding that money," said Johnson. "There's no other word for it. We have to find a way to break through their armor and get it out into the community for the people. We're doing our very best

to use our resources in the very best way that we can with what we have. They're hoarding this money so that we can't fulfill our 100 per cent duty and responsibility to our community. This council has to do something (about that)."

Councillor Helen Miller has been drawing attention to the fund's flaws for a number of years but her concern fell on deaf ears at band council.

She has been asking for an accounting for over a year. "All we keep hearing is we got lots of money."

She said a lot of the money has been committed for projects including the new water treatment plant and landfill site.

But she said council also "decommitted a lot of money," recently and are still running a deficit.

She said there is still "a lot of money sitting there doing nothing that we committed."

She said that includes \$1.5 million for a youth centre that is yet to be built. "Council wants to wait till we raise the \$10 million for the third phase of the recreation plan, add that to it and build the centre then."

"I don't know why we just don't build it now."

She said council could use the \$10 million sitting in the community trust to build the third phase of the recreation plan.

That plan called for among other things, the building of a gymnasium, workout centre, indoor running track and other facilities including a youth and senior centre. A pool had also been included but council said operation costs would be too high.

But Miller said council needs to review its committed list. "If these things are going forward we need to de-commit the funds". She said, "I go up to Brant-

ford and see all our people at their splash pad. I don't know why we have to think about a huge pool. Why can't we downsize it?"

She said she was glad the issue came forward. "We're \$4 million in deficit. We are over committed I have been hollering about it for over a year."

She said council was told the problem stemmed from "bad accounting practices in the finance department. That's what the finance director told us. But he said he was going to work with the departments to fix it and by the end of the year we should be okay."

Monday Miller also called for a restructuring of the original Trust agreement, created in 2004.

"I think the first priority is we've got to do a new Trust agreement. I think that's where all the problems are lying. We need to look at restructuring the Trustees that sit there, Councillor (Melba) Thomas - she's been sitting there for seven years - does she take our issues forward? Or does she just sit there and agree with them?"

Last week, council agreed to give the Six Nations Community Food Bank \$60,000 to purchase food for one year out of uncommitted OFNLP dollars. Miller said that was something that should have been funded by the Trust and she had sent them an e-mail stating that.

"They should be funding that food bank. That money should be coming from the Trust to fund that food bank; it shouldn't be coming from us. I didn't get a reply."

Montour said council received a letter from the Trust last week asking for a meeting with council to determine community priorities. Council agreed to meet with the Trust on Aug. 13.

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GRE pays \$1 million settlement Kansas

The state of Kansas will receive more than \$1 million from a settlement with a tobacco company, Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt

said last week. Grand River Enterprises (GRE), of New York State, agreed to a back payment to Kansas of \$672,000 in escrow funds in

addition to \$336,000 in penalties and reimbursement of the attorney general's office expenses. The money secured in escrow is held by statute

for 25 years. The money is intended for any Kansas consumer who makes a health-related claim against a "Nonparticipating Manufac-

turer" to the tobacco Master Settlement agreement (MSA), in this case GRE. "This is a positive outcome in this long-running case," Schmidt said.

Black sludge dumped in Six Nations back yard, protesters stop

By Chase Jarrett
Writer

Six Nations has sludge, human waste turned fertilizer, in its own backyard. In what Wessuc Inc. calls an "unfortunate loss of business," a group of Six Nations land protectors shut down Wessuc truck operators that had been pumping the black sludge onto Big Creek/Painter Road farmland since early in the morning last Wednesday.

The Wessuc operator on site, who did not give his name, says "we complied when we were asked to shut down the pump." He said the sludge, which was jet black in color, is spread at a predetermined rate over the farm grounds.

One worker told land protector and activist Ruby Montour that about 40 loads of the sludge had been pumped onto the farm lands since morning. Wessuc could not confirm the exact amount of loads, but did say that each load contains 43 cubic meters of sludge, or 43,000 litres of it.

The operator said he had been in the sludge business for "30 plus years" and didn't understand why people chose now to protest. "It's better for your ground than what's in a septic tank," he said.

He said that when they were pumping sludge in 2011 nobody bothered him.

He said it was safe, "The sludge is tested twice a week." He said in his 30 years in the business he has never contaminated a well. "Some sludge smells," he admitted, but didn't see any other concerns.

Sarah Hannigan, land application coordinator for Wessuc Inc. said Wessuc was "disappointed at the shutdown by native protestors for a product regulated by the Ontario government."

Wessuc Inc. serves Brant, Haldimand, and Norfolk, in addition to a number of northern regions.

Hannigan said the company has been in operation for 12 years, but only once since 2010 have they been

shut down.

She says that some of the concerns about heavy metals in the bio-solids are exaggerated. The bio-solids contain low traces of heavy metal, well below the legal limits, she said. According to Hannigan, some of the soil they've tested had higher traces of heavy metals than their bio-solids.

Hannigan said farmers are happy to pay for the bio-solids because of traces of fertilizers like zinc and copper, which are expensive to purchase on their own. "We have a lot of returning customers," Hannigan said.

Bob Douglas, the Six Nations man who saw the operation and let other community members know about it, said polluting the Grand River is a huge concern. "Everybody knows there is a big rain coming. Where's this black stuff gonna go? Oil rises," he said. "It's gonna run right into the river guaranteed."

Douglas said this is such a big concern for Six because Six Nations still draws drinking water from the



Ruby Montour was among several Six Nations people who stopped a company from putting sludge onto a field on Big Creek/Painter Roads last week. (Photo by Jim C Powless)

Grand, which might be contaminated with run-off from the sludge pumped onto Painter Road farmlands. "They emptied three or four trucks in the half an hour I waited," said Douglas.

Douglas said he thinks how quickly the company packed up raises questions. "If they were right

why would they pack up so quick?" Douglas said he was surprised there was no hassle when their Wessuc Inc. operator showed up and told his crew to pack up.

Ironically, the weekend before, Ruby and Floyd Montour, who were both at the Painter Road scene Wednesday night, were in

Dundalk protesting the construction of a plant that would see the same sludge made at the mouth of the Grand River.

Floyd Montour said he's not surprised to find sludge. "When we find out about it we came down and stopped it. We must stop it, that's the bottom line."

Stolen vehicle smashes through police car and spike belt

Six Nations Police failed to apprehend a stolen vehicle and its driver after ambushing the driver at a Sixth Line Road residence last Monday. Police located a stolen 2007 white Trailblazer running with at least one occupant behind a Sixth Line Road residence. Police determined the vehicle had been reported stolen by Peel Police Service. Police pulled into the driveway to attempt to block the vehicle from leaving, instead the driver reversed and collided with a police car as it fled, accelerating eastbound on Sixth Line Road at a high rate of speed. The police vehicle incurred minor damage. A spike belt was deployed in the area of Sixth Line Road and Oneida Road. The stolen vehicle struck the spike belt but continued towards Highway #6. The Trailblazer was last seen heading into Caledonia.

New APTN show will feature Six Nations female firefighters

By Chase Jarrett
Writer

The Six Nations Fire Department will be the stars of an episode of a new APTN documentary set to air September 2013.

"Chaos & Courage" is a new series showing aboriginal women as first responders.

Chaos & Courage is set for six episodes, each focusing on different reserves across Canada and different first response jobs, such as EMT and search and rescue in addition to fire fighting.

Tihemme Gagnon, who is Metis and one of the show's producers, says the aim of the show is to provide youth with positive role models.

A former army medic, Gagnon says she had to come into the job on her own because she didn't have role models herself.

"We want to show constructive trades, and more positive alternatives to other lifestyles."

With about half of the firefighters on Six Nations fire department being women, Six Nations is an ideal setting for the episode.

Fire Chief Mike Seth is excited. "This is an awesome way to promote Aboriginal fire service and female professionalism," he said.

For the film shooting, Six Nations Fire demonstrated their tactics for car extraction and dousing a live fire.

About 10 fire fighters donned their heavy suits in 32 degree heat, peeling a car open like a tin can to rescue fellow firefighters who were acting as victims.

The car extraction, which took 30-40 minutes of work, left fledgling firefighter Teresa Hill close to

exhausted. "It's pretty strenuous," she said. "At least 2,000 lbs. push against your body weight," Hill said of using the mechanized pincers to rip a car door off.

Even with the heat, Hill says you have to overcome an urge to quit or take break. "Your responsibility is to who's inside the car and the safety of your fellow firefighters."

The filming took most of the morning and afternoon. Sweet Grass & Sage Inc. is shooting the documentary and is majority aboriginal owned. Six Nations was their second stop for filming, they plan to visit at least six First Nations across Canada.

"It's been great," said Gagnon. "We're exposing the positive in communities done by Aboriginal women."



(Six Nations female firefighters demonstrate rescuing a trapped victim from a vehicle. Photo by Jim C Powless)

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Ottawa - Canada's aboriginal peoples want the only order relating to be treated as equal partners of the natural resources negotiating table. (Page 10)

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Thursday, July 17, 2012

OTTAWA - Canada's aboriginal peoples want the only order relating to be treated as equal partners of the natural resources negotiating table. (Page 10)

WATLETON, Ont. - A chief of a Saskatchewan First Nation has been given a one-year conditional sentence for stealing trade land settlement funds. (Page 10)

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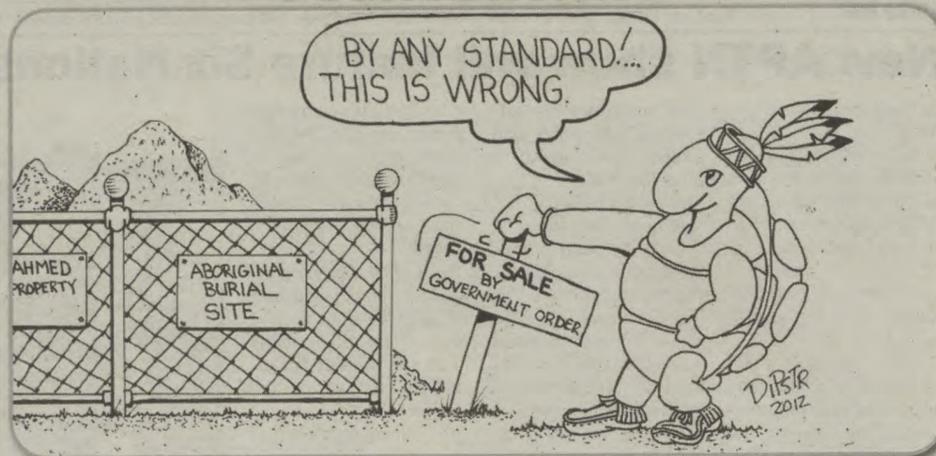
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COMMENTARY



A leader leads, doesn't bark

The Assembly of First Nations opened its national assembly yesterday but the media frenzy to put the "Indians" in their place began Monday and with no less than the Globe and Mail's John Ibbitson.

Ibbitson had to reach back 30 years to begin his argument that First Nations influence on Canada will decline in the future if they don't hurry up and grab whatever the government is offering in land settlements, fair or not.

Ibbitson bases his faulty and somewhat paternalistic opinion on First Nations women having fewer babies in recent years, down from 5.5 children around 1970 to 2.6 children today (still double the rate of non-aboriginal women) to stretch his obscure argument that First Nations influence over government is dropping and their ability to influence Canadians will diminish since new immigrants coming to Canada aren't aware of, or understand First Nations issues nor will they bear responsibility for them.

What Mr. Ibbitson fails to address is how he has managed to explain First Nations rights away as merely a cocktail hour discussion. First Nations rights do not exist merely at the whim of Canadian politicians. They exist as inherent aboriginal rights that have been recognized by the United Nations and enshrined in Canada's constitution.

And with a new report out Monday by Canadian CEO's calling for provincial and federal governments to work with First Nations in resource development and engaging in educating Canadians in general on First Nations, it would appear Canada's mainstream media should be at the top of that education list.

Meanwhile media is busy tracking down every tweet, every email, likening the AFN election to a Canadian federal campaign, bringing First Nations leaders under the media eye as they have never been.

From outrageous calls for grassroots voters to elect the AFN leader, a bizarre call that shows a clear misunderstanding of what the AFN organization is about, to tweets from candidates announcing their campaign to seeking funds and denouncing leaders as sexist, the list goes on.

Let's not forget chiefs will individually cast a private ballot on a very public vote on behalf of their communities. A vote not even band councillors will ever know for sure how their chief voted. And of

(Continued right)

Letters: Trustee clarifies honoraria verses

Mohawk Chapel trust

Let me be clear that the Perpetual Care Trust does NOT pay out hono-

raria to Board Members. We are all volunteers. (Council members I can't speak for.) The monies being spent are for the

Curator who is present daily for the Tourist Season and special events and also for yard upkeep. If I was unclear in the

followup interview, I apologize to my fellow Board members for the confusion. Barry Hill

(Continued from left) course there is the lack of information on candidate's spending and just who is funding the individual candidates. Campaign donations may be limited to \$35,000 but where that money is coming from is never made public leaving First Nations to wonder just whose interest does the new leader have at heart, First Nations or their campaign donor.

The AFN will elect a new leader today. The only real question is will it be a forward vote to bring revenue sharing, economic development and an increased standard of living to First Nations people at the grass roots (not just paying Ottawa's shortfall program bills).

Or will First Nations have to wait, while a new AFN leader gets up to speed not just on the wide berth of issues facing First Nations, but how to be a leader...diplomacy and all.

Letters to the Editor:

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Six Nations council hadn't decided who to support

By Donna Duric
Writer

Some Six Nations people are so desperately hungry and lacking access to food, they have to resort to eating cat food.

The disturbing revelation came at a band council meeting last Tuesday where Food Bank Coordinator Sadie Buck appealed to council for financial help in running the charity, which relies entirely on donations and community support.

"I found out some amazing things that I was not aware of," she said, after reading a survey filled out by com-

Six Nations Band council is in Toronto for the Assembly of First Nations General Assembly and election today. Councillor

Helen Miller, attending for the first time in three years says the council had not decided before it left who it would support in the

Six Nations food bank appeals for help, people eating cat food

munity members who use the food bank. "There are people in this community - older people and kids - who eat cat food because they don't have enough money to buy groceries so they buy a bag of cat food and it lasts awhile. I could not believe that those things existed in this day and age in our community. I had no idea this happened at all."

It costs the food bank \$5,000 to buy supplies needed to serve its roughly 350 monthly patrons and that figure only covers basic non-perishable items, council heard. Buck asked

council to foot the bill for one year, at \$60,000, and council agreed to dip into its unused gaming funds to subsidize the charity.

Buck said her long-term goal is to eventually get rid of the food bank. Staff is working closely with the community garden, good food box and farmer's market to find long-term, sustainable food solutions, she said.

"Eventually, my goal is to get rid of the food bank. As Haudenosaunee people, we should never, ever have had a food bank in this community."

elections. "We talked about supporting Ellen Gabriel in the first round cause the Iroquois Caucus agreed. But I don't know

after that," she said. Along with Miller, councillors Ava Hill, Carl Hill, Bob Johnson, Mark Hill, Elected Chief Bill Montour a SAO

Darryl Bomberry, band researcher Linda Parker and Health Director Ruby Miller are attending.

Programs and workshops on couponing, budgeting and canning are in the works, so eventually, there won't be a need for a community food bank, she said.

"We're looking at trying to create in our people a better (knowledge) of nutrition and food. Basically what the food bank is doing now is taking the place of what we should be doing as a people. For me, it's important to make as many people on the reserve aware and able to help with the food bank because there's no way we should be having people eating cat food.

There is no way that that should be happening as Haudenosaunee people, especially. Because that's one of our big beliefs - food - and it should not be happening here."

They are also in need of volunteers. "My worry is sustainability. I want us to be able to have the volunteers we need in there and have the money coming in to get the food and then we can get it out to the people."

The average amount of people the food bank serves, per box, is four. The largest family they serve consists

of 10 people. "They can come once a week. A single box feeds them for about four days. Two-thirds of people that come in are a family of four."

Elected Chief Bill Montour said he was shocked to learn people are going hungry because they can't afford to put gas in the car to drive to the food bank, which is open weekly in the village.

"That's pretty sad. We're in for some tough times. We gotta start pulling together."

Unique summer camp aims to improve self esteem

By Chase Jarrett
Writer

It's been called the "Value of Life Camp," and it aims to bring a voice to local youth and for a reason.

According to Child and Family services, there were 59 attempted suicides and 15 suicides between 2005-2011 on Six Nations.

The camp, put in motion by Angela Powless, is a direct result of the spike in youth suicides on Six Nations in 2011 says camp counselor Grace Montour.



A summer camp aimed at increasing children's self-esteem opened at the Pageant Grounds last week. (Photo by Chase Jarrett)



Six Nations Fire Fighter Dakota Brant (Photo by Chase Jarrett)

Counselor Montour said that the programming focuses on building up the self-esteem of the children

and teaching them how to communicate.

She says the programming focuses a lot on "respecting each other, treating each other well, and activities where we're helping each other."

Montour, who's never been a camp counselor before, called the job of boosting kid's self-esteem challenging but rewarding. It's

pretty cool watching the behavior and attitude of kids change as they're introduced to each other, she said. She mentioned one boy in particular who had mellowed out and started to enjoy himself more as the week progressed.

Counselor Shania Porter, also a camp newbie, said the kids really enjoy themselves. "They like it, there's

a lot of games. They have fun."

The camp runs from 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. during the week, but the kids do more than just play games. They hold day trips as well.

And on the first Wednesdays of the two week sessions the campers are visited by Six Nations Fire

Department. "I want to be a fire fighter when I grow up," exclaimed one young camper as firefighter Dakota Brant explained the excitement of fighting fires.

The campers got to pass around different pieces of equipment, their favorite being a device called TIC. TIC stands for thermal im-

aging camera. The campers pointed it around, rendering their friends into black and white images based on heat.

The camp, which runs in two week sessions (with one week breaks) for the rest of the summer, currently has 14 campers.

Six Nations Police award badges, promotions



Six Nations Police have a new Inspector. Const. Darren Montour (second from left) was promoted recently He has been working as a criminal intelligence officer. And new recruit Constable Dennis Skye received his badge in a special ceremony Saturday. Police Chief Glenn Lickers (left) and Deputy Chief Rocky Smith (right) congratulated the two. (Photo by Chase Jarrett)



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IndigenACTION Friendship Run



SPORTS NEWS - NEIL BECKER

SPORTS INDEX

Shawn Atleo, centre, poses with category winners in the IndigenACTION race in Toronto July 15. (Photo by Dennis Hanagan)

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Slow start proves costly as Chiefs drop pivotal game

By Neil Becker
Sports Writer

Prior to the opening face-off Six Nations Chiefs coach Rich Kilgour knew that his team wasn't ready to play. Coming off a 14-7 win in Brooklin Kilgour wondered if perhaps his team was feeling overconfident in their rematch which took place four days later on July 15th at the ILA.

"Right off the bat we weren't ready," Kilgour whose team lost 8-5 said. "After that last game we might have been guilty of having a chip on our shoulders. We outplayed them after the first but we need a full 60 minute effort."

Kilgour whose team sits third overall with 13 points in the MSL Standings got behind the eight ball right away as Brooklin scored their first of five consecutive goals only 25 seconds into regulation.

"We had guys showing up late and it's my job to get them ready and they weren't," Kilgour said. "I wasted a time out in the first to let the guys know this wasn't acceptable and after the first 20 we took it to them."

Unfortunately for the Chiefs there was no taking back that opening period which saw a determined Brooklin team take a 3-0 lead after a period.

After that lead was extended to 5-0 midway through the second Six Nations slowly grabbed some much needed momentum

and gave their fans some faint hope as Steve Keogh and Cody Jamieson both scored their first of two on the night.

"We just have to learn from this," Keogh said about the slow start. "Penalties were a huge downfall." Six Nations carried that momentum right into the third period as Alex Hill and Keogh with his second made it a one goal game at 5-4 with 11 minutes still left in regulation.

Sensing a comeback the Chiefs pressed for that tying goal but weren't successful in what was a chippy third period. With tempers flaring high Brooklin managed to take control on the scoreboard as they found their offensive groove by going on a



Chiefs coach Rich Kilgour wasn't very happy with the way his team started as they couldn't overcome a 5-0 deficit against Brooklin (Photo By Neil Becker) three goal run.

Jamieson scored his second with a little under three minutes to play but it was too little too late for the Chiefs.

The Chiefs won't have a lot of time to rest as they travel to Peterborough for a game on Thursday July 19th at 8 p.m.
"It will be a high intensity

game," Keogh said. "They put us out last year and we always want to beat them. We need to win our next two games."

Slash extra motivated heading into game against Buffalo Creek



The Six Nations Slash were extra pumped for their game against Buffalo. That definitely showed on the ILA floor as the Slash emerged with an 17-5 win. (Photo By Neil Becker)

By Neil Becker
Sports Writer

For the Six Nations Slash it was very personal. Heading into their final regular season home game on July 14th against Buffalo Creek the Slash players were aware that their opposition were talking smack. According to Slash veteran Jeremy Johns the Buffalo Creek players were saying that Six Nations was just lucky the last time they played which resulted in an 11-8 Slash win.

"They were talking shit

and this time it was personal," Johns said. "You could tell by warm-ups how you're going to play and we were all joking and passing really well. We knew that we were going to kick some ass."

Six Nations who entered play third overall in the Can-Am Standings had their offence firing on all cylinders especially in the third as they coasted to a relatively easy 17-5 victory.

"We're working the ball a lot better and executing certain plays," Johns said.

It took awhile for the Slash offence to hit its peak as they managed only four first period goals courtesy of Dusty Thomas, Jeremy Johns with his first of two,

Vince Longboat and Brad Mazzacato.

A big story in the first was Slash goaltender Ryan (Gumby) McNaughton who set the tempo with some

big early saves in allowing only one goal.

In what was a wide open second period both teams took turns in exchanging quality scoring opportunities.

Though Six Nations surrendered four they were never in jeopardy of losing control as they countered with five of their own as Thomas and Jeremy Johns each scored their second with singles going to Jeff Van Every, Brad Mazzacato and Kyle Jamieson.

At this point the Slash who made it last year to the Can/Am finals were just hitting their offensive stride as they showed no mercy by exploding for eight third period goals.

Playing what seemed like a fatigued Buffalo team Six Nations continuously pressured and were handsomely rewarded as Vince and Brent Longboat scored along with Jeff Van Every to increase their lead at 12-5 three minutes into the third.

Similar to a boxer looking for knockout the Slash continued to swarm the Buffalo net generating quality chances. As a result the game quickly turned one sided as they not only managed to shut out Buffalo but also rode the hot stick of Mazzacato who scored a third period hat trick. Rounding the scoring was Torry Van Every and Kyle Jamieson with his second.

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Hills United sweeps their way to Cephias Roth Memorial Tournament

By Neil Becker
Sports Writer

Recently out in Tavistock Ontario Hill United was busy making some baseball history.

The same Hill United baseball team who last month swept New Zealand in a friendly exhibition doubleheader continue to impress as they played their way into qualifying for the 2013 Worlds during the Annual Cephias Roth Memorial Tournament.

Hill United entered the July 13-15th weekend tournament on a serious roll as they managed to sweep all their round robin games against Elmira, (5-1), Kitchener (4-3) and Scarborough. (6-1)

Continuing to roll Hill United managed to make it

a tournament sweep as they defeated Port Elgin (10-4) in the quarter finals before mercying Kitchener (8-0) in the semis and eventually defeating the number one ranked New York squad by a 4-3 score in the finals.

Countering with their true ace Adam Folkard Hill United held a 1-0 lead into the fifth when New York erupted for three runs. Though they trailed 3-1 in their final at bat Hill United wasn't about to go down easy as Jeff Ellsworth showed a flair for the dramatics by tying things up with a towering two run homer.

An out later and with two men on base Mark Johnson also showed some flair for the dramatics as he delivered a single to left



The big summer sports story has been Hill United who with their victory in the Cephias Roth Memorial have qualified for the upcoming 2013 World Championships. (Photos By Neil Becker)

field which cashed in the championships winning run.

In two weeks time the Hill United will be looking

to continue the momentum as they play in Ohio at the much anticipated ASA National Championships.

For those who want to

follow their progress just go to twitter and follow them at @HU_Chiefs and receive score updates and live feeds.

Fans can also follow the team on Y Stream as they can look at past archived games and this year's tournaments.

Bats go silent for Six Nations Lassies 2 in playoff opener against Wyoming

By Neil Becker
Sports Writer

The facial expressions went from surprise to jubilation as Six Nations Lassie #2 outfielder Sam made a sensational stabbing catch in playoff action against Wyoming.

Though the Six Nations Lassies#2 dropped their playoff opener at home by a 13-3 score Sam will always remember that July 12th night when in the third inning she recorded that final out with a defensive gem.

"At first I thought that I was

going to drop it," Sam who was still all grins said. "It was fun and we all tried hard."

This defensive gem which came with a Wyoming runner on first got the attention of Lassies #2 coach Stacey Hill.

"I was just proud that she was paying attention," Hill said. "It was a nice catch and I'm very proud of her." After falling behind early by three Six Nations, who had what coach Hill termed "An excellent season" showed plenty of plate discipline as

both Maddi and Kylee drew back to back walks and eventually scored on a groundout from Sarah.

"We just play and hope we win," Sam said.

"We have another game and know we're going to win."

Unfortunately for all Six Nations Lassie fans in attendance they saw that deficit grow even larger as



Plenty of hard core baseball fans were on hand to watch the Six Nations Lassies 2 compete in playoff action against Wyoming. (Photo By Neil Becker)

Wyoming tacked on a sixth run in the second inning. Showing lots of heart Six Nations weren't ready to throw in the towel as they once again showed their plate discipline as Wyoming ended up walking in a run. Following three straight walks to Sissy, Tashina and Kylee Six Nations got their third run following a fourth straight walk to Maddi. Despite some solid pitching and other defensive gems the Six Nations Lassies couldn't get any closer as

Wyoming threatened in every inning and broke things open in the fourth with five runs to take control and eventually win Game 1 of their best of five against Wyoming. "They (Wyoming) seem attentive and played real, Hill said. "We (Six Nations) played a tournament on the weekend and I don't think we've fully recovered. On Sunday hopefully we'll be fabulous." Game 2 is on Sunday July 15th at Wyoming.

Rebels sweep past Orangeville in quarter final action

By Neil Becker
Sports Writer

A big story for the Six Nations Rebels has been the continued emergence of sophomore forward Joe Haodias Maracle.

Following a rookie season of only 31 points Maracle who is only 18 years of age has blossomed not only during the season with his 67 points but also in the playoffs where so far he has scored 23 points after only six games.

"He has really matured in what is only his second year," Rebels GM Cam Bomberly said. "The boys

know that when he gets a chance that he will take that shot and more than likely be successful.

The play of Maracle who has 11 playoff goals is a huge reason why the Rebels have swept their first two series against Niagara and Orangeville. During the series clinching game on July 12th Maracle continued his strong play as he gave the ILA fans reason to cheer with a four goal performance in what was a nail biting 10-9 victory.

Afterwards the soft spoken Maracle was quick to credit teammates for

his success. "I just tried my best," Maracle said. "I got some nice passes and everyone played well."

Also finding himself in a zone was hulking Rebels forward Wayne Hill who gave his team a big lift with two early first period goals. Facing a desperate Orangeville team the Rebels only managed one more goal first period goal from Dallas John before yielding three straight Orangeville goals.

Their (Orangeville) backs are against the wall and we knew there was



There is no slowing down the Six Nations Rebels who completed a second round sweep against Orangeville. Next up is Wallaceburg. (Photo By Neil Becker)

Goodleaf and John with his second scored which got the ILA rocking.

"We were playing hard," Maracle said. "It was fun."

Playing what was a wide open brand of lacrosse Orangeville score late in the second before Maracle countered 45 seconds

while getting in a week of long practices."

With so much on the line Maracle became clutch as he opened the third with two of his three third period goals.

Besides for Maracle with his third of the period and fourth of the game also scoring was veteran Ian

defeat London in their playoff series.

"We have to take the game to them and make sure that our intensity level is up," Bomberly said. "Some of our staff went down to check out their series against London. We know what we have to do."

Six Nations Atom Boys score early and often in playoff opener

By Neil Becker
Sports Writer

In late May the Six Nations Atom Boys received a nice surprise which two months later is still paying huge dividends.

Atoms Coach Rod Miller who recently led his team to a big tournament win in Stratford made what turned out to be the correct decision when he let one of his players in Jason Aguonie pitch a regular season game.

"Jason said he wanted to pitch and he's really come a long ways," Miller said. "He really showed me in

practice what he could. He has a unique windup which I think confuses the batters."

A definite highlight for Aguonie came in late June when he made a bold statement by dominating on the mound and serving Jarvis their first season loss. "Jason really wanted to pitch and he's come a long ways practicing at home with his dad," Miller said.

Following a successful regular season the Atom Boys flexed their offensive muscles when on Friday July 13th in Game 1 of their ORSA series they merced

Ayr by a convincing 24-2 score.

"It's time to get serious," Miller said. "It's playoffs so we have to pay attention to details."

Six Nations wasted no time in getting their offence in gear as they scored seven first inning runs kick started by Brenden Anderson who starting things off with a single.

Following two stolen bases Anderson scurried home on a wild pitch with the game's first run.

Showing a knack for swinging the bats Six Nations followed up with consecutive

extra base hits from Dayton Sawyer, Quwad Powless and Marshall Longboat to stretch their lead at 3-0.

After a fourth run the Atom boys put an explanation mark on things with a three run blast hit by Pierre.

Despite yielding a second inning run the Atom Boys never lost any momentum as they added to their lead in the second. Leading off that inning was Jarred Garlow who after getting hit by a pitch made the pitcher pay by stealing a couple of bases and eventually scoring on a wild pitch.

Also contributing with

timely hits were once again Sawyer and Powless who both banged out homeruns. With two outs Six Nations added one more to increase their lead to an even ten on an RBI single from Marshall Longboat.

An inning later the Atoms once again showed no mercy as Aguonie who led things off with a walk eventually came home on the ever popular wild pitch. Also scoring on wild pitches that inning were Pierre, Anderson, Garlow and Sawyer.

Unfortunately for the Ayr fans who made the trip

to Six Nations they didn't see their team get any closer that 11-1 before the Atoms bats once again made some noise.

Using their speed and taking advantage of some wild throws Six Nations managed continued to get offensive contributions all through their entire line-up which was key in adding another thirteen runs and making a bold statement with their OR Game 1 opening performance.

"We made a tiny switch to our batting order and that was a big key," Miller said.

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WEDNESDAY 25	THURSDAY 26	FRIDAY 27	SATURDAY 28	SUNDAY 29	MONDAY 30	TUESDAY 31
9-3 Jammer Lax Camp 7-8 Bantam 2 VS St. Kitts 8-9 Bantam 3 VS Simcoe 9-10:30 Intermediate 2 VS NOTL	9-3 Jammer Lax Camp Rebels VS Wallaceburg 8pm	Arrows VS Peterborough 8pm	Tentative Slash Game 7pm	0-12 Arrows Rebels VS Wallaceburg 7pm	9-11 Bantam 1 Arrows Tentative Playoff Game 8pm	9-11 Bantam 1 9-9:30 Chiefs

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MAIN DIAMOND	6-8 PM PEEWEE BOYS PRACTICE 8-10 PM OHSWEKEN REDMEN VS JARVIS	6-8 PM PEEWEE GIRLS #2 PRACTICE 8-10 PM SN STORM VS NIAGARA FALLS	6-8 TYKE #1 VS FISHERVILLE	10 AM - 12 PM MUSTANGS 12-2 PM SN JR'S	10 AM - 12 PM OLD BUZZARDS VS NAVY CLUB 4-6 PM PEEWEE BOYS 6-8 PM PEEWEE GIRLS	6-8 PM PEEWEE MUSTANGS VS PORT DOVER 8-10 PM IROQUOIS LIGHTNING VS HAMILTON	6-8 PM PEEWEE BOYS VS LYNDEN 8-10 PM SN JUNIORS VS NIAGARA FALLS
DIAMOND NO. 2	6-8 PM ATOM BOYS PRACTICE 8-10 PM BANTAM GIRLS B VS PRINCETON ORSA BATTING CAGE 5 pm Lassie Girls	6-8 PM LASSIE GIRLS #2 VS CALEDONIA 8-10 PM BANTAM GIRLS #2 PRACTICE	6-8 PM SQUIRT BOYS VS FISHERVILLE	1-3 PM ATOM GIRLS #2 BATTING CAGE 10 am Mustangs 12 pm SN Juniors	10 AM - 12 PM ATOM BOYS 4-6 PM SQUIRT BOYS BATTING CAGE 4 pm PeeWee Boys 6 pm PeeWee Girls	6-8 ATOM GIRLS #1 PRACTICE 8-10 BANTAM GIRLS #1 VS JARVIS BATTING CAGE 6 pm Mustangs 6 pm Lightning	6-8 PM ATOM GIRLS #2 PRACTICE 8-10 PM LADIES 3 PITCH BATTING CAGE 6 pm PeeWee Boys 6 pm SN Juniors
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Assembly of First Nations Kicks off Annual General Assembly with IndigenACTION

Photos by Dennis Hanagan

5km Friendship Walk/Run



OTTAWA - Over 100 people gathered at Coronation Park in Toronto Sunday for the third annual IndigenACTION Friendship Run hosted by the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) national youth council and lead sponsor Tim Horton's. AFN National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo and First Nation Olympian Waneeck Horn-Miller, together with First Nation Elders, youth, the Longboat Running Club and other supporting sponsors spoke briefly prior to taking part in the 5 km run that kicks off AFN's 33rd Annual General Assembly (AGA) taking place in Toronto this week.

"We see more and more a movement toward achieving improved health, fitness and wellness among



The crowd sets out with Shawn A-in-chut Atleo, first left in background in the early - morning IndigenACTION race in Toronto July 15 before the AFN convention.



Shawn Atleo, centre, poses with category winners in the IndigenACTION race in Toronto July 15.

First Nations from coast to coast to coast, and this is what IndigenACTION is all about," said AFN National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo. "Through IndigenACTION and other initiatives, we are putting the focus on healthy lifestyles as the foundation for healthy and strong communities and reaching out to make the connections that will help provide the support and initiatives necessary for Indigenous athletes to

Shawn Atleo sets out at the starting line.



Ojibway brothers Carter Dinsdale, left, and Ethan streak to the finish line.

succeed. Through increased community-based sport, recreation, fitness and wellness in our communities, we can and will provide the best opportunities for our peoples, particularly the youth, to thrive."

Launched July 2010, IndigenACTION aims to foster partnerships that will better ensure Indigenous peoples in Canada have an opportunity to grow themselves and their communities through community fitness, wellness, sport and recreation. It has helped to grow and enhance partnerships with Nike N7, Rick Hansen Foundation and Just Move It. A report on the findings of Phase I of the initiative is expected to be delivered to Chiefs at the AFN AGA this week. The report will outline the findings of the first two years of work compiled as a result of three national roundtables, identifying current best practices in Indigenous sport and wellness, as well as areas of required improvement from a community-based perspective.

First Nation leaders from across Canada are gathering in Toronto this week for AFN's 33rd AGA and election of National Chief which opens Tuesday morning with opening remarks by National Chief Atleo at 10am and an all candidates forum taking place later that day. First ballot results of the (Continued on page 17)



Shawn Atleo with son Tyson.

(Continued from page 16) election for National Chief are expected Wednesday afternoon. For more information visit www.afn.ca For more information on the AFN AGA visit www.afn.ca. For more information on IndigenACTION visit

http://www.afn.ca/uploads/files/10-09-22_indigenaction_background_e_updated_2.pdf The Assembly of First Nations is the national organization representing First Nations citizens in Canada. Follow us on Twitter @AFN_Updates, @AFN_Comms



The winner gives five as he crosses the finish line.



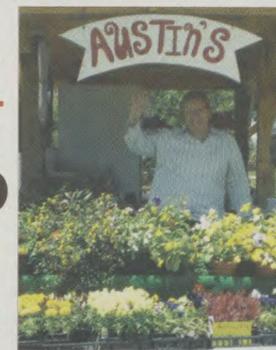
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Atom Six Nations Girls in serious groove as they sweep away Fisherville

By Neil Becker
Sports Writer

Once again the Six Nations Atoms Girls were hitting and running on all cylinders as they swept Fisherville in convincing fashion.

After taking Game 1 by a 20-6 score in their best of three series the Atom Girls who haven't lost a game all season had their bats working in overdrive as they scored seven runs in four innings to run away with what was a 28-1 OR series clinching victory.

"It's a lot of fun winning, travelling and being with friends," Makenna who pitched for Six Nations said.

"I practiced pitching for 16 weeks in the winter and I think it paid off."

Besides for Makenna who also had a few key hits another teammate who was all smiles following this first round playoff victory was infielder/pitcher Ronni.

"Winning by that much is so amazing," she said. "That is the highest game we have ever won. I got some good tips from the coaches and it really helped me."

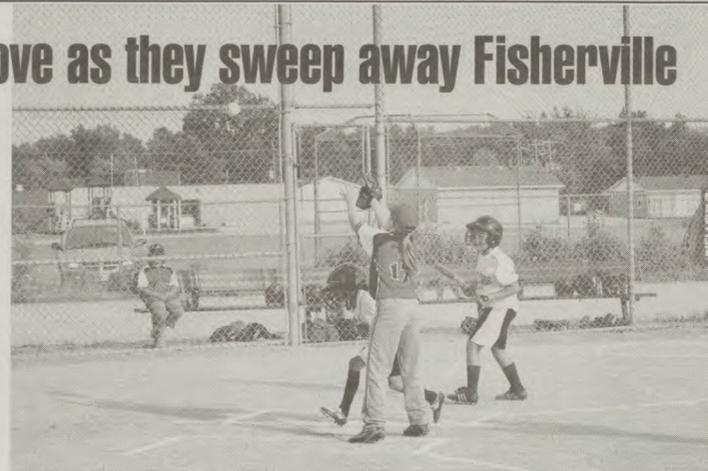
Heading into play Atoms co-coach Brandi Hill noticed early that the Fisherville pitcher wasn't consistent and as a result wanted her players to

practice their base running. "I hate running up the score but I want them always giving an effort," Hill said. "Most of the time our girls think that we're losing as we never tell them the score until the end."

According to Hill Fisherville who had always played Six Nations tough was losing a lot of their players including their starting pitcher.

Though they are undefeated and feeling pretty good about themselves Hill stressed that there is still quite a bit for them to work on before the next series.

"There is always stuff for teams to work on no mat-



The Atom 2 girls were running wild against Fisherville as they completed a first round sweep at home with a 28-1 win. (Photo By Neil Becker)

ter what the sport," Hill said. "We will continue working on fielding and hitting."

Six Nations who in early

July went undefeated in winning an Ancaster tournament will meet Alvinston in the second round of OR.

"It's about an hour and a half away," Hill said. "We're all having fun and we can't wait to play."

Four former Knighthawks have chance of landing in the NLL Hall of Fame

By Neil Becker
Sports Writer

The Rochester Knighthawks have shown once again why they are considered such an elite NLL organization. Besides for winning the much converted NLL Trophy back in May the Knighthawks received some more good news when it was officially announced that four of their former players are among the six fi-

nalists to have a chance of being elected into the NLL Hall of Fame.

Similar to other hall of fames each candidate must be nominated on 75% of the ballots which are casted by the NLL teams, current members of the NLL Hall of Fame and senior members of the league's media.

The four former Knighthawks who consists of Regy Thorpe, Chris Driscoll, Curt Malawsky

and Steve Diertrich will along with former Buffalo Bandits Pat Coyle have to wait until late July before finding out if they in fact were elected.

Thorpe, Driscoll and Diertrich all had success together as they were part of the 1997 Knighthawks World Championship team.

Thorpe who spent his entire 15 year career with the Knighthawks were on both the '97 and 2007 Champi-

onship teams. Remarkably enough Thorpe who made post season in 14 of his 15 years scooped up 966 lose balls and scored a career total of 76 points.

Meanwhile his former teammate in Driscoll retired after the Knighthawks recent championship season. In total he played parts of seven seasons with Rochester and also played with Detroit, Buffalo, New

York and Toronto.

Driscoll who made the playoffs in 12 of his 19 year NLL career scored 240 goals and 618 total points in his illustrious career. In total he earned the right to lift the NLL championship trophy three times starting in 1997 with Rochester and twice in Toronto.

The third former Knighthawk in Dietrich was a goalie who played seven of his 18 years with the

Rochester Knighthawks.

Besides for Rochester the man called "Chugger" also played for Baltimore, Detroit, Buffalo, Calgary, Edmonton and Toronto. In his career he made 5,531 total saves.

Malawsky played six of his 12 years in Rochester and was a key member in helping them make the finals in 1999, 2000 and 2003.

He totalled 260 career goals and 537 points.

Team Iroquois makes history with win against USA

By Corey McLaughlin
TURKU, Finland

For the first time in international field competition, the Iroquois Nationals have defeated a United States lacrosse team. The Iroquois under-19 team beat the

U.S., 15-13, in a pool play game at the Federation of International Lacrosse U19 World Championships on Tuesday afternoon in Finland.

"It's pretty amazing," Iroquois coach Freeman "Boss"

Bucktooth said. "The guys came out to play and showed what they could do. ... We've got a lot of talent on the team and a great coaching staff. We put everything together. We'll walk away with a win [over] the USA team at any time."

The U.S. led 5-2 after the first quarter and 8-6 at half-time, but the Iroquois rallied to take a 9-8 lead less than four minutes into the second half and never trailed the rest of the game. The teams were tied at 11 and 13 in the fourth quarter before Hank Delisle scored the go-ahead goal with 5:35 left.

The U.S. had a man-up chance with less than three minutes remaining, but a Matt Kavanagh try didn't get through. The Iroquois got possession and, after a time out with two minutes left, Lyle Thompson eluded multiple defenders to kill clock, and he drew two

penalties, helping Delisle tack on an insurance goal with 49 seconds to go.

Kavanagh and Mike Tagliaferri each scored a team-high four goals for the U.S., and each scored twice in the fourth quarter. Delisle, Brendan Bomberly and Randall Staats each had hat tricks for the Iroquois.

The U.S. finishes pool play with a 2-2 record and will now play the winner of Germany-Wales in a quarterfinal game at 4 p.m. Wednesday in Turku.

Team USA has never needed to play in the quarterfinal round since sanctioned international U19

play began in 1988. The loss drops its overall record to 38-2, after an 11-9 overtime loss to Canada on Saturday.

The Iroquois (3-1) will be seeded second for the medal rounds and receive a bye to the semifinals, where a potential rematch with the U.S. awaits, Canada (4-0), which beat Australia 25-3 to close out pool play Tuesday, is the top seed.

It's the first outdoor, field win for the Iroquois against the U.S., although they have beaten the U.S. in previous world indoor championships.

NATIONAL

Attawapiskat 7 months later: chiefs still grapple with poverty

By Heather Scofield
THE CANADIAN PRESS

OTTAWA - The last time the chiefs of First Nations gathered for a national strategy session, the housing crisis in Attawapiskat, Ont., cast a dark shadow that no one could ignore.

Outraged resolutions at the chiefs meeting in Ottawa last year were prompted by shivering families in the northern James Bay community living in uninsulated, wood-frame tents, bracing for a harsh winter, even as the federal government removed the band council's financial powers and placed them under third-party management.

Seven months later, the chiefs are meeting again, this time for the election of their national chief and to decide on their policy agenda for the coming months.

New mobile homes provided by the federal government have been set up and serviced. The band has regained control over its finances. They've even broken ground on a new school.

At the political level, the resolutions and the pre-campaign speeches no longer dwell on the northern Ontario reserve, but the underlying issues are the same as ever.

Dozens of Attawapiskat residents are still living in squalid conditions, squeezed together into a trailer complex that was meant to be temporary but now seems permanent, says Mushkegowuk Grand Chief Stan Louttit.

A long-awaited plan for long-term housing is still a

work in progress, with discussions shrouded in mutual mistrust between Ottawa and the First Nation.

The band's finances are still under scrutiny. And while about 100 Attawapiskat members as well as several new businesses are making decent money from the nearby Victor diamond mine, the community is still impoverished.

"Things have not settled down yet," said Louttit in an interview. "The big problem now is the 90 people in those trailers."

The large industrial trailers look like dormitories, crammed with small apartments that rely on common bathrooms and kitchens. Noise and petty crime are constant.

"It's no place for families or children to live. There's no peace of mind," said Louttit. Last fall, Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence declared an emergency in her Cree community, asking for extra help to house families that had no secure shelter for the winter.

In the midst of a media storm detailing the very public confrontation between Spence and Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan, the federal government funded the retrofitting of temporary shelter and paid for 22 new mobile homes.

"Since November 2011, over \$3 million has been invested in providing emergency shelter for the First Nation," said Duncan's spokesman, Jason MacDonald.

At the same time, Prime Minister Stephen Harper ac-

cused the band of mismanaging its money, noting that it had received \$90 million in government funding between 2006 and 2011. He ordered a full audit and imposed a third-party manager to control the band's finances.

The audit has been completed, but band leaders still need to give their feedback before any public discussion takes place on its findings, a spokesman for Duncan said. The long-term housing plan is just a few weeks away from completion, Louttit added. He doubts the plan will ever get the federal funding it requires. For its part, the federal government complains that the chief and council have been dragging their heels in completing the plan.

"While the First Nation is responsible for managing its housing needs and for putting its housing strategy together, we have made repeated offers to assist them in the development of that strategy," said MacDonald, Duncan's spokesman.

"This is a matter that will require a continuing commitment on the part of chief and council to work."

But Louttit, like many other native leaders, says he is tired of dealing with the federal government to negotiate funding that never seems sufficient.

For him, a more sustainable answer to the social problems plaguing many a remote reserve lies in finding new ways to share the wealth that flows from natural resources.

"People used to be really, re-

ally patient, waiting for the government. They're running out of patience," Louttit said.

Chiefs speak about resource revenue sharing, and it will be a common theme for the eight candidates vying for the national chief position today at the AFN assembly.

Louttit sees some good ideas, especially when incumbent Shawn Atleo talks about First Nations taking equity stakes in resource projects.

But Louttit wants governments and companies taking action, and he wants to see the AFN take stronger measures to back local First Nations negotiations.

"Unless there is some real revenue sharing with resource developers and government in our territory, Attawapiskat is going to continue," he said. "Our economy and our wealth and our getting out of poverty is right in our backyard, and we need to be part of that process."

The Canadian Council of Chief Executives said that an effective national strategy for energy requires the "true partnership" of aboriginal peoples who live near the natural resources.

Harper, too, has spoken about the need for First Nations to be self-sufficient and contribute to the national economy.

"We need to be in the driver's seat. We can't be dictated to," he said. "Otherwise, they're going to get rich, and we're going to remain in poverty, just like Attawapiskat."

-Canadian Press-

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Turtle Island News Golfing Special

Hitting the Links

FORE Golf

The Best golf products to Tee up

(NC)—There's nothing like modern technology to enhance the golf experience. Take a look at six hot items to improve your course of play recommended by

Dwayne Boecker, vice president and merchandise manager at leading retailer, Golf Town.

Choose the Right Club Every Time

If there's a single piece of golf gear that is guaranteed to intrigue kids of all ages, it's a SkyCaddie SGX-W rangefinder. Yes, it helps speed up your round and improve your performance by enabling you to pick the right club every time. And it's preloaded with detailed information of up to 30,000 courses. But it's the intuitive nature and



brilliant LCD display of the sleek, durable design that really catches attention.

Walking is Back in Vogue

Golf continues to return to its classic roots, with more golfers experiencing the course on foot. But that

doesn't mean you have to carry your bag. Among the game's new generation of pushcarts is the Clicgear 3.0. The full-sized, three-wheel cart folds up to a convenient 13" x 15" x 24", which means easy storage in your trunk and garage.

More Speed, Greater Distance

The tour-inspired Nike VR_S features a bigger clubhead, a deeper face and exclusive NexCOR face technology, all promising more speed at impact for greater distance.

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tomizable STR8-Fit launch angle system further optimize performance.

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The weapon of choice for Justin Rose and Dustin Johnson, the RocketBallz (RBZ) fairway woods feature TaylorMade's advanced Speed Pocket to increase ball speed and yardage, as well as stability through impact. Its matte-white finish and larger head are easy to align.

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Turtle Island News Golfing Special

Hitting the Links

FORE Golf

Pain in golf shouldn't be par for the course

(NC)— Considering the number of times a swing is repeated during a game of golf, it's not surprising that the season often ends early for those who are not physically prepared.

Every year, Ontario's chiropractors treat countless golfers for injuries that could easily have been prevented. That's why Get in the Game Without the Pain, the Ontario Chiropractic Association's public awareness campaign, is one of their most popular programs year after year.

"Many golfers can't wait to get to the first tee. But twisted postures, the torque of the swing and forgetting to warm up can cause unnecessary injury," says Dr. Natalia Lishchyna, president of the OCA. "It's unfortunate that many golfers miss out on much of the season due to pain, so we designed our Get in the Game Without the Pain program around avoiding common injuries like low back, neck and shoulder pain, muscle strain and tendonitis."

Below are a few simple stretching techniques that can help prevent or reduce the impact of injuries:

- Side bending stretch:**
- Stand with feet shoulder-width apart.
 - Hold the golf club above your head with your arms straight.

3. Slowly bend to one side, without rotating, until you feel a stretch in the side of your back.

4. Hold for 15 seconds and repeat twice for each side.

Shoulder stretch:

1. Hold the shaft of a golf

club vertically behind your back.

2. Gently pull the club up with your top hand until you feel a slight stretch in the shoulder of your lower arm. Hold for 15 seconds.

3. Gently pull the club down

with your bottom hand until you feel a stretch in the top shoulder and arm.

4. Hold for 15 seconds.

5. Reverse hand positions and repeat. The program, which features a poster and an accompanying brochure,

is available at www.chiropractic.on.ca.

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CEOs urging First Nation partnerships in resource development

OTTAWA—Canada's aboriginal communities have found a powerful ally in their bid to be treated as equal partners in discussions about tapping the country's natural-resource wealth.

Big business wants them at the negotiating table, and is urging the federal and provincial governments to lend a helping hand.

A new report from the Canadian Council of Chief Executives, prepared for Canada's premiers in advance of their meeting later this month, urges governments to make aboriginal communities full partners in developing energy and mining projects.

Governments should help train a growing aboriginal workforce and develop new

ways to support aboriginal communities so they can participate in business initiatives and negotiations to share the wealth, says the report, a copy of which was obtained by Canadian Press.

And the stakes are high: the viability of billions of dollars in natural resource investment, said John Manley, the council's chief executive.

"You have to find a negotiation arrangement where everybody benefits. The problem from the business side is more one of predictability of process," Manley said. For corporations, the downside of not having all interested parties on board and pulling in the same direction quickly becomes insurmountable, he said.

"Can you look at this, and

construct a road map to completion within a reasonable period of time?" Manley said. "Because if you can't get there in a reasonable period of time, or if you can't figure out how you are going to manage all of the different and contradictory interests, the odds are your capital will be better deployed elsewhere."

The federal government recently passed into law fundamental changes to environmental assessments and the Fisheries Act, in an attempt to speed up the approvals process for natural resource development.

At the same time, Ottawa put an extra \$13.6 million into supporting aboriginal participation in environmental assessments — acknowl-

edging First Nations demands must be dealt with in

But First Nations are appalled at the change, saying

aboriginal say in how natural resources are developed.

Manley says government support is necessary to set up a framework that ensures all of society benefits.

"If we leave the responsibility entirely with the corporate sector, it's probably not going to be accomplished," he said.

For the chief executives, a solid plan to make First Nations "true partners" in resource development is a key part of a national energy strategy they want the premiers to shift into full gear at their meeting in Halifax.

The executives have placed their hopes in the premiers, rather than Ottawa, because at the federal level, "there's not an appetite for it," Manley said. —Canadian Press-

Some facts about the Canadian Council of Chief Executives' proposal to premiers

OTTAWA- The Canadian Council of Chief Executives gave the premiers a paper on Monday that outlines their proposal for a national energy strategy. Stronger partnerships with aboriginal peoples are a key element in such a strategy. Their main points:

- Canada's richest resources are found near aboriginal communities, leading to "legitimate concerns" for land claims and environmental impact.
- Governments and aboriginal leaders need to step up, improve education, work with the business community for training, and design tri-partite solutions to under-employment.
- Engagement with aboriginal communities needs to start early on in energy and resource projects, with "new thinking" on how to fund and enable consultation.
- Business has good reason to finance and invest in business acumen in aboriginal communities.

order for many projects to proceed. they will erode federal oversight of the land and weaken

Women block road into hydro

SPLIT LAKE, Man. — A group of women from Tatakweyak Cree Nation are blockading the

road into Manitoba Hydro's Keeyask dam site to protest hefty consulting fees.

They also complain that poor band governance and secrecy have plagued the project. Al-

berteen Spence of the Women's Governance Council says the group wants a forensic audit

to determine how millions in dam-related consultation costs could have been spent.

Spence has been a vocal opponent of the current chief and council.

AFN: Leaders mark 1812, no Canada without First Nations

By Dennis Hanagan
Special to Turtle Island News
TORONTO — First Nations people held an Eagle Staff procession through downtown streets July 16 and wound up at historic Fort York where they held a public memorial service to

the First Nations warriors" and their tenacity in battle, he said.

Twenty four First Nations united under Shawnee leader Tecumseh and allied with the British who, under Major General Sir Isaac Brock, had only about

made in the past will only truly be recognized when we — as First Nations — are finally treated as full and equal partners," he stated.

National Chief Shawn Atleo said the day's memorial was "an incredible re-



First Nations mark involvement in War of 1812. (Photos by Dennis Hannagan)



Heading through the gates of Fort York. (Photos by Dennis Hannagan)

reflection of our history." He pointed out that First Nations people fought not as subjects of the British but as allies.

"It was the First Nations contribution that helped shape this country," he said, adding that respect

and gratitude must be shown to all First Nations veterans.

The service began with a prayer by Mississaugas Elder Garry Sault. It included drumming by Paabamasagaa, Little Eagles Feather, Niahnawbe

Aski Nation Traditional Drum Group, and Miidoo Mmissing Young Eagles from Manitoulin Island. Stacy LaForme of the Mississaugas was on the lineup to read her War of 1812 poem.

HEALTH & FITNESS

Don't ignore an irregular heartbeat

(NC)—Shirley Leasa woke up one morning at her home in Stratford, Ontario and knew something was very wrong.

She came downstairs and sat down but her heart was racing and she was worried. She called an ambulance. At hospital, she was diagnosed with atrial fibrillation (AF).

AF is the most common ir-

regular heartbeat problem in Canada, affecting 350,000 or more. People with the condition are three to five times more likely than others to have a stroke. It's estimated that up to 15 per cent of all strokes are caused by AF.

Dr. Paul Dorian, a cardiologist at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto and a Heart and

Stroke Foundation researcher, explains typical AF symptoms: "Some describe it as their heart flopping around like a fish. Or they feel an irregular pounding in their chest. It's a sensation of a rapid, irregular heartbeat. Other common symptoms include shortness of breath, dizziness, weakness, light-

headedness and occasionally chest pain."

Shirley has managed her AF with medication, the most common treatment, although some people need surgery. She says: "I'm really not very worried because I feel that everything is being done that is chemically and physically possible and it

seems to be working."

Having been a nurse for 30 years has helped her understand her condition, and she continues to be actively involved in her care: "It's better to know the enemy than to not know the enemy. You can keep it under control with the proper medical assistance from your physician.

But you have to be honest with your physician and yourself."

Find out more about AF at www.heartandstroke.ca/bepulseaware. While on the site, take a look at a few of the helpful short videos and share them with interested friends and family. www.newscanada.com

HEALTH TIPS

Blood pressure
Many times people come in to use our blood pressure machine in the pharmacy and ask me about their blood pressure targets. Quite often it is not only when is my pressure too high, but also when is my blood pressure too low. A common question as well is which number is more important the top one or the bottom one. In this column I hope to discuss some of these questions.

Your blood pressure is given as number which reflects the pressure of the blood against the walls of the arteries. There are two numbers. The top number, called systolic, is the pressure when the heart contracts. The bottom number, diastolic, is the pressure when the heart is relaxed. A classic example of a "perfect" blood pressure reading is 120/80 mmHg. There are actually two types of high blood pressure or hypertension. Isolated systolic hypertension is where the top number is high but not the bottom number. The other type of hypertension is where both the top and bottom numbers are high. Even though there are two types of hypertension, isolated systolic hypertension becomes the predominant form of high blood pressure as we age. In fact by age 70 more the 90% of high blood pressure is isolated systolic hypertension. Reduction of systolic blood pressure becomes then more important and is associated with greater cardiovascular benefits for those over 50.

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honour Aboriginal contributions to the War of 1812. More than 10,000 First Nations warriors fought alongside the British to stave off the Americans as they tried to invade Canada. But British forces were slight and a lot of the hard slugging fell to Aborigines to keep the Americans out. "They made Canada what it is today," Mississaugas Chief Bryan LaForme told the assembly at Fort York. "You have to be proud of our heritage."

James Bartleman, former Ontario Lieutenant Governor, said that without First Nations participation Canada now would be "part of the United States." He said the Americans thought they could easily take over what was then Upper and Lower Canada. "But they didn't count on

1,200 trained British soldiers. There was the militia, but their loyalty was questionable since many of them were Americans who came north to claim free farmland.

Bartleman told how Fort York was a major battle for the Anishnawbe people — Ojibwa, Chippewas, and the Mississaugas. They held off the first wave of Americans while British troops retreated to fight another day, he said.

"They fought honourably," said Bartleman. In view of that, he said mainstream society should think again about how Canada's First Nations people have been treated over the past 200 years.

On the service program is a statement by newly-elected Ontario Chief Stan Beatty. "The sacrifices we

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Bernard re-elected chief of Cape Breton

WAGMATCOOK, N.S. - Voters in the Cape Breton Mi'kmaq community of Wagmatcook have re-elected Norman Bernard as chief. Officials in the community released the results of the election Thursday, two days after members went to the polls. Bernard received 271 votes. Also in the running for chief were Brian Isadore, Michael Lafford, Lindsay Paul and Alexander Googoo. There were also 53 members of the First Nations community vying for seats on council. Elected were Kimberley Denny, Francis Pierro Sr., Peter Pierro, Thomas Peck, Michael Basque and Angela Pierro.

Assembly of First Nations heads to election today: Atleo says "we will drive our own solutions"



There were a lot of empty seats at AFN opening speech by Shawn Atleo Tuesday. (Photos by Dennis Hannagan)

By Dennis Hannagan
Special to Turtle Island News

TORONTO — The Assembly of First Nations isn't waiting for government to solve the problems of Canada's Aboriginal people and is taking action itself, National Chief Shawn Atleo said here July 17. "We're not waiting. We will not wait on any government. We will not wait on the Canadian government. We will try to find solutions on our own terms," Atleo said at the 33rd Annual General Assembly where he stands for re-election. He gave the example of the International Indigenous Summit that was held in Niagara Falls last summer to which First Nation leaders, Indigenous people and government representatives from around the globe, and the corporate sector were brought together to discuss energy and mining.

He also spoke of the First Nations Rights Fund that started in 2010. "We are looking at growing this fund to become a fully independent source of funding to fight for our rights," he said, adding the executive has approved important contributions to the Treaty 3 legal challenge. Atleo said that with decreased government funding the AFN is learning to do more with less. "We have had to be innovative and sustainable in our approach to every activity," he said. "Our relative stability today is despite the fact that every year beginning in 2007 and 2008 the Assembly of First Nations has received increasingly declining funding, declining from \$10.5 million to \$6.2 million for our core operations." However, at the same time he said AFN has engaged more people in its work than ever before. "Each of

our last three annual general assemblies has seen increased participation. So quite simply we are doing more with less." He noted how social media like Facebook, online forms, and the internet have helped AFN to get out its messages and gain greater participation. "These new tools do play a role in greater inclusion as well as in greater understanding and involvement," he said. Despite challenges and pressures the AFN has faced, Atleo said "we as an organization are in solid shape ... We have every reason to be proud of what First Nations have achieved." Items up for discussion at the assembly include infrastructure, action of the 60s scoop, and justice, safety and security. "We do have urgent and in some cases dire issues that require our attention ... and our actions," said Atleo.

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OBITUARY

CRAWFORD: WILLIAM DAKOTA (ROSS)
 Suddenly as the result of an automobile accident on Saturday July 14, 2012 at the age of 17 years. Beloved son of William Crawford and the late Cynthia Hill. Loving brother of Roni Lynne and Kyle, and Lindsey and Richard. Dear grandson of Ron and the late Linda Hill and Pat and the late Allan Crawford. Also will be missed by Great grandma Lola Hill; friends, Calvin Cornelius, Caulin Hill, Delany Maracle and many aunts, uncles, and cousins. Resting at the Styres Funeral Home, 1798 4th. Line Road, Ohsweken after 2 p.m. Tuesday until 9 p.m. Tuesday then resting at his home 2289 6 th. Line Road, Six Nations where Funeral Service will be held on Wednesday July 18, 2012 at 1p.m. Interment Christ Anglican Cemetery. Evening Service at the funeral home 7p.m. Tuesday. www.rhbanderson.com

THANK YOU

LAFORME - The family of the late Helen Irene (nee Garlow) would like to thank family and friends for the overwhelming support in this difficult time of her passing. The cards, flowers, food, memorial donations and condolences are very much appreciated. A special thank you to: our Aunt Norma for the continued support and being with us, MNCFN Chief and Council for providing the stairlift to make it possible to get to and from her appointments, MNCFN Health and Social Department and staff for providing the in home assistive devices. Kevin and Matt Sault for providing the tent and picnic tables for after the service, Beth King and Lorrie Martin for organizing the food at the house after the service. Thank you to Sue's Floral for the beautiful flower arrangements. An extra special thank you to Brenda Moodie and all her

staff for the daily meals, visits, home care, text messages of concern and overnight stays. Dr. East for her many emails, accommodating home visits and comforting words. All the nurses, doctors and treatment technicians at the Brantford General Hospital, Juravinski Cancer Clinic, CCAC, First Nations Nursing, The staff at the Six Nations Pharmacy. Thank you to Bill Lofthouse of R.H.B. Anderson Funeral Homes Ltd. and staff for a seamless process and caring service. Thank you to Pastor Ralph and Aunt Vera Garlow, Medina Baptist Church, The catering of Lana Henhawk for the delicious meal and the ladies of the congregation for helping organize the meal. Your kindness will always be cherished and remembered. *Charlene, Duane and Family, Marvin Jr., Dawn and Family, Burl, Denise and Boys and Arlie and Seth*

THANK YOU

I would like to thank Martin Coach bus lines, former owners Sam and Pat Martin, wish you were still here, Lynne Montour and Dwayne Martin, the current owners and family for the wonderful barbecue they held for me and the generous gift after my 40 years of working for them. You were great to work for. Thanks to all my past and present co-workers for their cards, gifts and most of all their lasting friendship. Thanks to the teachers and students of various schools I drove to over the years. You made my life very interesting. Thanks to OMSK staff and students. Thanks to the students for the gifts and cards. I am looking forward to my retirement, but I will miss you all. *Thanks again, Bev Beaver.*

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Grand River Enterprises international trade with China

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2012 Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business Award winners - see page 7

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Lynda Powless
Publisher

FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK: FIRST NATIONS MOVING INTO CHINA WITH MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR DEALS

With the Prime Minister dangling the country's natural resources in recent China trade missions it comes as an intriguing surprise to find a First Nations owned company has managed to do, what the Prime Minister didn't.

Grand River Enterprises made history this spring when they signed a multi-million dollar deal with China to supply raw leaf tobacco from southern Ontario's tobacco belt.

While it may not be politically correct these days to tout tobacco, it certainly is to congratulate a First Nations, privately owned, company that has managed to break through another barrier.

The two decade old company became

the first to sign a deal with Germany and open a plant in Europe, and now it's president Steve Williams has managed to take that success a step further moving the First Nations corporation into the most sought after market in the world ... China.

He hopes to continue the newly signed deal long into the future.

And they have managed to open the door for other First Nations who are trying to get a foothold into the biggest market in the world, with natural resource development on their First Nation territory's up for negotiation.

And that could see them competing with Canadian developers and the

country's top salesman, Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

Grand River Enterprises International has opened the door.

Other First Nations have the opportunity to nudge it open further as China learns about Canada's political climate and Harper would be wise to start talking to First Nations about partnerships and development, since the natural resources he is pedalling can be found in First Nations' backyards... and China is beginning to understand that.

Congratulations to Grand River Enterprises and here's hoping there's more to come.



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IT'S A FIRST...FIRST NATION OWNED GRAND RIVER ENTERPRISES SIGNS INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT WITH CHINA



Lynda Powless
Editor

RENTON ON - Grand River Enterprises (G.R.E.) has signed a \$30 million deal with China that may signal a revival for southern Ontario's tobacco industry.

A year in the making, G.R.E. President Steve Williams said the deal will see 12 million pounds of processed Canadian flue-cured tobacco shipped to China through G.R.E.'s subsidiary company, "Norfolk Leaf," from the 2012 crop. That tobacco sale represents as much as one quarter of the entire 2011 tobacco yield.

The agreement was announced at the Greens at Renton Golf Club.

G.R.E., through its subsidiary Norfolk Tobacco Inc., will purchase tobacco from farmers in Ontario's sand plain area.

The newly minted agreement, Williams says has the potential to rebuild the tobacco growing industry.

Williams said the sale is for the 2012 year, but plans are already underway to negotiate a longer term agreement.

“The farmers need a three to five year guarantee”

he says before they reinvest in tobacco growing.

(Continued on page 6)

INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT

(continued from page 5)

Farmers are now licensed by the province and sell directly to licensed manufacturers including G.R.E. at market prices.

Williams said G.R.E. exports to China could reach as much as 35 million pounds, or over \$100 million in an extended contract.

The agreement represents the first free trade deal signed by a First Nation company and China.

A number of First Nations have been courted by China in the past few years. China is looking for natural resources and is in particular seeking out partnerships in the logging, agricultural and mining industry.

In B.C. several First Nations have joined together to create a "China Desk" to work towards free trade agreements.

The agreement with China Tobacco International (CTI) introduced the state monopoly to the area with tours

of Norfolk Tobacco, Grand River Enterprises and Six Nations.

Williams said he sees more employment in the sand plain area.

Last year G.R.E. had contracts with 80 Ontario farmers and now expects to sign up at least 20 more.

"We'll get more farmers involved and more contracts with them."

Williams has spent the past year travelling to China to negotiate the deal for G.R.E..

He said the successful deal was as a result of "building a relationship and trust. It wasn't a case of going on a trade mission trip once and forgetting it. It's a relationship built over time and several visits."

He noted Prime Minister Stephen Harper's recent trade mission to China did not sign a single agreement. "He didn't take any First Nations business people with him."

The PM signed several Memorandum

of Understandings (MOUs) with China on development of Canada's natural resources, energy and mining.

Williams said China was under the mistaken impression there was no Canadian tobacco grown anymore. He said three manufacturers in China specifically requested Ontario tobacco grown in the sand plain because of its flavour.

He said he sees a long term relationship with China and access to its market.

"The possibilities are opened," he said.

"Twelve million pounds, is not enough to supply "even one (cigarette) factory" in China.

Williams, who is president of G.R.E., but not a partner, said last year the state cigarette monopoly made \$750 billion in profits.

According to the World Health Organization, China's smokers number 350 million, with half of all adult males smoking. The market there has been growing by 19% a year.

G.R.E. started 20 years ago and has become a global company with a cigarette manufacturing facility in Germany and Six Nations.

It employs 357 people at its Ohsweken plant and another 200 during winter months at its Norfolk Leaf processing plant in Simcoe.

CEO Jerry Montour told the Chinese delegation his company was "extremely grateful for the opportunity" to work with China.

"We're looking forward to a very long working relationship," Montour said.

He told the delegation the agreement is "extremely important to our farmers and the people who work in the area."

The Williams deal is G.R.E.'s largest single sales agreement.



BLACK TIE EVERYWHERE CCAB HONOURS TWO ENTREPRENEURS



The CCAB 2012 Gala of this year's recipients to the Aboriginal Hall of Fame: L-R Gregory Koostachin of Attawapiskat, Ontario and David Tuccaro, Edmonton, Alberta.

By Lynda Powless and
Susannah Schmidt

For Dave Tuccaro it started with a cab.

The owner of Tuccaro Inc, a group of oil services companies in Fort McMurray, Alberta, and the 2012 inductee into the Aboriginal Business Hall of Fame, bought a cab at 18 to keep him going between jobs as a crane operator in the oil sands.

Then he bought another cab and that led to opening several businesses from an automotive repair shop to a janitorial service, even to a bakery.

Today, the former band manager at Mikisew Cree First Nation is president and CEO of Tuccaro Inc., a group of Fort McMurray area companies that supply services to the oil industry -- laboratory testing, water trucking, and more.

The group of companies has grown 164 per cent since 2004. Tuccaro estimates the company netted \$90-million in revenue in 2011.

Ironically he says it was the oil industry itself that helped make him a success.

"I got help from guys like Eric Newell and Jim Carter from Syncrude Canada who

worked together with us to develop native businesses that supplied goods and services to the oil sands," he says. "That's where I got my opportunities to start some contracting."

Armed with nerve and a little bit of cash he started what today he may never have been able to.

Banks and other potential partners want to see business plans, financial projects and governance structures before they sign on to any venture.

But that's where the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business helps -- and why it named Tuccaro a (Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

2012 Hall of Fame inductee.

CCAB promotes sustainable relationships between the Canadian business sector and First Nation, Inuit, and Métis people through



Entertainer Jim Cuddy of the group Blue Rodeo played at the event

research, networking, professional development and recognizing business excellence.

Two years ago, the CCAB started a mentoring program for First Nations people who have been self employed for at least two years and are profitable or have been in senior management positions at aboriginal or community-owned business for at least three years.

The program assists entrepreneurs and managers to establish contacts outside the

aboriginal community, improve their businesses and management skills and get objective advice from experienced business people, both aboriginal and non-aboriginal.

Clint Davis, CCAB President and CEO, says a panel of corporate and aboriginal community-based judges picked Tuccaro and Gregory Koostachin of Attawapiskat First Nation because they're both trailblazers.

" They were selected from a slate of other nominees based on the fact that they they've done a remarkable job in terms of creating business opportunities, creating opportunities for aboriginal people, and contributing to the community... They were able to create something from nothing."

Davis acknowledges both Tuccaro and

Koostachin are involved in "controversial" projects – Alberta's oil sands and the DeBeers Canada mine located 90 kms west of Attawapiskat.

Koostachin's family-run construction company just finished a five year contract building and maintaining the private mining road between Attawapiskat and the "Victor Mine," said Koostachin.

A DeBeers Canada 2010 corporate report says Aboriginal businesses supplied 53 per cent of goods and services to Canada's second diamond mine, totalling \$49-million.

Throughout Koostachin's life, the grandfather has successfully mixed entrepreneurship with employment, education, and traditional skills.

He first went trapping with his father in 1955. He then studied small business entrepreneurship and took flying lessons in Sudbury, with the original dream of piloting his own planes out of Attawapiskat.

"I'm still looking for somebody to do that, because the way it is now, it costs so much money. All my life I've been fighting for cargo, trying to reduce the rates of freighting," he said in an interview.

Koostachin worked for the Timmins-based Austin Airways for seven years, and for the Ministry of Transportation for 23 years.

While being employed full-time, Koostachin opened the first general store in Attawapiskat



Gregory Koostachin, Attawapiskat, ON brought his wife Mary and children to the podium to accept the award as a family award. (Photo by CCAB)



ESS Support Services Worldwide, sponsor of the awards presents to Dave Tuccaro, Fort Chiewyan AB. (Photo by CCAB)

on March 3, 1976 and launched other businesses.

He was a sub-retailer for skidoos, and hauled cargo between Moosonee and Attawapiskat, pulling small cars on a skid or bringing in trucks or gas. In 1995, he took over a fuel company, which he ran until 2005.

"That was a hard job. You have to worry about it just about every day," he said.

At the beginning of April, Koostachin said he was honoured by the CCAB banquet, his second huge celebration this year on the heels of his 50th wedding anniversary with wife, Mary.

"It was great. It was special. I can't forget, I get reminded all the time, people keep calling

The Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business was founded in 1984 by a small group of business and community leaders led by Murray Koffler, philanthropist and founder of Shoppers Drug Mart It has grown to pack a banquet room in downtown Toronto.. A national non-profit organization, CCAB offers knowledge, resources, and programs to both mainstream and Aboriginal owned companies that foster economic opportunities for Aboriginal people and businesses across Canada.



to congratulate me from all over – the airlines, people I do business with, the banks," he said.

In his acceptance speech, Koostachin acknowledged and thanked Mary and his children.

"People say business is business but sometimes that is not the case. Especially in work with the Aboriginal community you need to envision how your business can grow with the community. So seek the community support and employ the local people and give them a sense that they are also contributing to something that is important."

ESS Support Services Worldwide co-sponsors the CCAB Hall of Fame awards.

DYSFUNCTIONAL'

ABORIGINALS COULD BENEFIT FROM DEVELOPMENT: JOE OLIVER



Minister of Natural Resources Joe Oliver
(Photo by: Mark Blinch, REUTERS)

By Fiona Anderson

Many aboriginal communities are "socially dysfunctional," and could benefit from developments that bring jobs and revenue to them, Canada's Minister of Natural Resources Joe Oliver said at a Vancouver Board of Trade breakfast in March.

Oliver was talking about the need to amend Canada's regulatory process to ensure mining and other resource-development projects could proceed in a timely fashion.

But amendments to the current environmental assessment process — which Oliver said would be introduced within the next few months — would still ensure the projects were "safe for Canadians and safe for the environment," he said.

That includes protecting the interests of aboriginal people, Oliver said in response to a question from the audience.

The government has "a moral and constitutional obligation to consult with aboriginal communities and to accommodate if necessary and we intend to meet our obligations in that regard," he said.

Minister of Natural Resources Joe Oliver found himself under gun this spring when commenting on mining in Canada, he told reporters many aboriginal communities are "socially dysfunctional"

"The developments we are looking at have the capacity to be truly transformative to a lot of aboriginal communities. This is really a tremendous opportunity to transform communities that have been socially dysfunctional, that haven't had economic opportunities, haven't had employment opportunities."

When asked to elaborate to reporters after his talk, Oliver said: "What we want to do is provide the economic opportunity to give them hope, to move them from despair to hope, where their youth can be employed, where people of all ages have an opportunity to have jobs that will provide them the chance to have a good, even a great, standard of living."

"We're very respectful of the traditional way of life of aboriginal communities. It's up to them of course to preserve what they believe is worthy of preserving. We're not taking a paternalistic approach in that regard. That's their decision."

"But what these projects bring is an enhanced economic opportunity which doesn't have to be inconsistent with some of their core values."

Arnold Clifton, chief councillor of the Gitga'at First Nation, called the language "insulting."

The Gitga'at oppose Enbridge Inc.'s \$5.5-billion pipeline that would bring bitumen along northern B.C. to Kitimat for tankers that would go through Douglas Channel, where the Gitga'at are located.

"This language is insulting to first nations and the minister should apologize," Clifton said in a news

release. "This slip-of-the tongue shows stereotypes about first nations people are alive and well in the federal government and it helps explain why this government has such a mistrustful and dysfunctional relationship with aboriginal communities."

Marilyn Baptiste, chief of the Xeni Gwet'in First Nation, which opposes Taseko's \$1-billion New Prosperity mine near Williams Lake, also found the wording upsetting.

Canada has endorsed the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which promises to respect indigenous rights and eliminate racial discrimination, Baptiste said.

"Yet B.C. and Canada are continuing to move forward [with] business as usual," she said. "Furthermore they are changing processes, acts and legislation for the sake of industry and removing protections to the environment, fish and their habitat. That's not acceptable."

Pierre Gratton, president and CEO of the Mining Association of Canada, called the minister's choice of words "unfortunate."

"The minister used an unfortunate choice of words to express a positive sentiment: Mining can offer first nations significant opportunities for economic and community progress," Gratton wrote in an email.

"Mining is the largest private sector employer of aboriginal Canadians and the depth and breadth of our partnerships continue to evolve and deepen. This can accelerate as the industry expands."

— Vancouver Sun & ABM files—

OLIVER SAYS HE'S COMFORTABLE WITH PIPELINE TIMELINES; ABORIGINALS CONSIDER LAWSUIT

By Dirk Meissner
THE CANADIAN PRESS

VICTORIA — The federal government's decision to put a cap on how long environmental assessment hearings can drag on isn't expected to affect the Northern Gateway pipeline project, but aboriginal reaction to the change probably will.

Natural Resources Minister Joe Oliver says Ottawa isn't planning to fast-track the approval process for the proposed \$5.5 billion pipeline, despite his government's announcement in last month's budget they would limit project reviews to 24 months.

The Gateway assessment was always scheduled to be completed within that time frame.

But aboriginal leaders in British Columbia say they are becoming increasingly dismayed with the public hearing process and are now seriously considering bypassing the hearings and heading straight to court.

Coastal First Nations spokesman Art Sterritt said the cancellation of a day-and-a-half of scheduled review panel hearings in the central B.C. coastal community of Bella Bella last week signalled to many Aboriginals that Ottawa has already heard enough from Northern opponents.

"My guess is they are now going to try and shut it down by the fall," said Sterritt, whose organization is an alliance of about a dozen First Nations along B.C.'s north and central coasts and Haida Gwaii.

"We are not now going to try and educate the panel as well as we had hoped we would. We are now going to review our legal options because that's where we are going to end up, no doubt about it. Let's just have at it. There's no sense waiting around."

The three-member panel, which held its first public hearings at Kitimaat Village in January, is assessing the environmental effects of the project and is reviewing the Enbridge Inc. (TSX:ENB) application under both the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act and the National Energy Board Act.

Under the National Energy Board Act, the panel will decide if the project is in the public interest. It will assess its environmental effects under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act and make recommendations to the Conservative government.

"We're not ramming anything through," Oliver told The Canadian Press. "We don't want any project to proceed unless it's safe for the environment and safe for Canadians."

He said the Conservatives have not spoken to the panel members about altering the hearing process.

But he said he believed they are aware of the government's plans to modernize the regulatory review process, including keeping project reviews to two years.

"We've had no direct communications with them," he said. "I'm assuming they are aware of where we intend to go with this legislation."

The panel estimates hearings, including oral evidence, statements and final arguments from intervenors, government participants and Enbridge, will conclude in April 2013, with the release of the Environmental Assessment Report in the fall of 2013 and the final decision on the project at the end of 2013.

The hearings process began last January and if it wraps on schedule, it will come in just under 24 months. More than 4,300 individuals and groups have registered to speak at the hearings across British Columbia and Alberta.



Enbridge, which filed its application for regulatory approval in 2010, plans to construct an 1,170-kilometre twin pipeline from Bruderheim, Alta., to Kitimat on the northwest B.C. coast. The pipeline will carry Alberta crude oil to the West Coast for export to Asia on board huge tanker ships.

"The new rules, after they get royal assent, will apply to existing projects," said Oliver, confirming that the 24-month reviews will be applied retroactively to Northern Gateway and other projects currently under environmental review.

"There will be transitional measures to deal with them and that will have to be handled on a case-by-case basis, because some projects started some time ago and others more recently," he said.

"We think the timelines we're proposing are reasonable and adequate to do the scientific review and to hear people out, and we'll take those timelines into account when we take a look at how much time has elapsed."

Any future aboriginal court challenge to the Northern Gateway project will involve arguments over the extent and interpretation of the federal government's efforts to consult with Aboriginals on the project.

Chief Coun. Andrew Andy of the Bella Coola area Nuxalk First Nation formally withdrew in April from the panel hearing process, saying Ottawa isn't doing enough to consult directly with Aboriginals about Northern Gateway.

Chief Coun. Marilyn Slett of Bella Bella's Heiltsuk Nation said her community, located about 300 kilometres south of Prince Rupert, prepared for months to address the panel, but lost almost two days of hearings because the three panel members were intimidated by the reception they received at the local airport.

Local school children carrying placards and on a 48-hour hunger strike to protest Northern Gateway were at the airport and along community streets. Aboriginal dancers in traditional regalia were also at the airport.

The RCMP said the protest greeting was peaceful and

(Continued on page 20)

First Nations want connections to ONTARIO GRID

POWERING UP

By: Donna Faye

Nishnawbe Aski Nation Deputy Grand Chief Les Louttit speaks at an energy conference in Thunder Bay last month.

Crisis is a word Canadians are hearing lately in terms of Northern First Nation communities. But the Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) said many of its communities face an annual crisis when it comes to its energy supply.

Nearly half of the 49 First Nation communities represented by NAN rely on diesel generators for their energy needs. It is very costly to run the current electrical generation system due to the high cost of transporting diesel fuel. With warm weather, winter roads are becoming less reliable and the cost of flying in fuel is even greater.

To address this issue and develop short- and long-term strategies, the NAN executive council, NAN chiefs and tribal councils, industry, government and other interested parties met for a three-day energy conference Jan. 31 to Feb. 2 in Thunder Bay.

About 225 participants registered for the event that included government agencies; such as the Ontario Power Authority (OPA), Ontario Power Generation (OPG), officials from the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, and industry experts such as solar and wind energy consultants.

Constance Lake First Nation Chief Roger Wesley said that while his community is fortunate to already be linked to the Ontario grid, the delivery cost is a major issue, in particular for homes still relying on electricity as their sole energy source. The monthly electricity bill for some houses that are heated by electrical baseboard heaters can be as high as \$800 or \$900 from December to February.

"So we have to explore other options," said Wesley.

One of those options in the short-term may be Ontario's Feed-In Tariff (FIT) program. "We would like the province of Ontario to institute a remote FIT program that would allow the communities who now have some local generation projects such as wind, solar, etc. to provide that local source of energy to the community distribution," said NAN Deputy Grand Chief Les Louttit. "Then in the long term, they can then leverage the purchase agreements to finance those projects and be able to sell back into the grid and have another source of revenue that they could reinvest."

Louttit said they have also been discussing the possibility of transporting fuel to remote communities using dirigibles.

In the long term, NAN chiefs would like to see all of their communities on the power grid by 2018. The extension would be part of the Ontario power grid, but owned and operated by NAN regional utilities. Planning, construction and eventual ownership will be in the hands of First Nations to stimulate economic growth and provide for business opportunities, as well as enable the development of renewable power generation within NAN communities.

Louttit says there is reason to be optimistic. The only First Nation-owned electricity transmission company in Canada, Five Nations Energy corporation, is headquartered in Moose Factory and serves the remote First Nation communities of Attawapiskat, Fort Albany and Kashechewan.

He remembers being in one of those communities shortly after it had been connected. "Everybody was so happy, they were using power left and right, plugging in appliances, satellite (TVs), gadgets." Suddenly communities that were completely dark were holding contests for the best Christmas light display.

The result was a higher electrical bill than ever before. Now, Five Nations Energy is focused on conservation measures and educating their customers about peak times and how to lower their energy bill.

Chief Roger Wesley was encouraged by the outcome of the conference, in particular, the plan to eventually place the ownership of the utilities in the hands of First Nation communities.

"I am very encouraged to see that NAN Chiefs are going to work together to start developing strategies that will move us into the economy as equal participants and equal benefactors. First Nations need to be equal shareholders with options to be full partners in any of these developments because we're the ones that live here." Wesley said that while energy is a necessity, it is also a great financial opportunity that could be used to help communities address some of the challenges they face in education, health and other areas.

"The First Nations need it — we're the ones living in Third World conditions," said Wesley.

"From what I heard today, it's a statement to the world that the Nishnawbe Aski Nation is here and we've been here all along and now it's time to include us in this industry. The cost of not including us is just too great, not only for our people but also for the province."

Clint Davis taking aim at government procurement next

By Susannah Schmidt

Up next: Aboriginal procurement policies at all levels of government.

That what Clint Davis wants to see.

The president and CEO of the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business says the need for researching, networking, and recognizing excellence is only growing so he expects CCAB to do more of the same.

But the former national director of Aboriginal banking at BMO Bank of Montreal says with ongoing and new research documenting Aboriginal people's contributions to the economy, it's time to get serious with buying Aboriginal.

"One of the biggest things we want to do is try to support a discussion trying to persuade all levels of government including municipal and provincial to have an Aboriginal procurement policy... as a way to address Aboriginal poverty and to support Aboriginal business," said Davis in an end of March interview.

"It does not involve spending new money but is more about directing the spend."

Davis said there is no specific strategy underway just yet and he



Clint Davis

needs to have some discussions with potential partners.

Canada's government has a federal procurement strategy for Aboriginal business, but most provinces and municipalities are lagging behind.

The government of Manitoba saw an Aboriginal procurement policy come in April 2009. Last fall, Winnipeg's municipal chamber of commerce signed an MOU "intended to foster and encourage the participation of more Aboriginal businesses in

Manitoba's main stream economy" with a provincial and Aboriginal chamber of commerce.

A Métis Procurement Conference was held in Manitoba in March 2012.

"Despite what people think, that we are just a drain on the economy, in fact... we are strong contributors. There are certain pockets that are very successful now and I think that our business acumen can influence this government in a very positive way," said Davis, who is an Inuk from Nunatsiavut.

Davis cited a 2011 TD Economics report estimating the total combined income of Aboriginal households, businesses, and government sectors for 2011 at \$24-billion.

Davis said he believes Aboriginal businesses can benefit by forging strong relations with not only the federal government to see how they can be suppliers.

"That might impact how the federal government can be ambassadors for the Aboriginal community to work with businesses. If you can do that you could actually have you'd have a strong advocate that could impact regulation, licensing, and so on."



The signing ceremony between BCABA and its eight founding partners during the opening reception for the B.C. Aboriginal Match 2012.

New group aimed at helping Aboriginal business grow in B.C.

VANCOUVER, B.C. – The Industry Council for Aboriginal Business (ICAB) launched the BC Aboriginal Business Association (BCABA) this past February to help foster capacity for British Columbia's Aboriginal business owners and entrepreneurs.

BCABA was unveiled in Prince George with eight corporate partners, BCABA has established

who delivered seminars covering a range of programs and services to support development in the burgeoning Aboriginal business sector.

"The Aboriginal business owner and entrepreneur sector is growing at five times the rate of self-employed Canadians overall, but one of the challenges individuals face is having the knowledge, resources and finances to develop

corporate partners offering much-needed expertise in key areas such as accounting and financial management, business development, communications, Internet-based technology, legal, media relations and taxation."

According to the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business report Promise and Prosperity: The Aboriginal Business Survey, British Columbia has the second highest concentrations of self-employed Aboriginal people in Canada – 22% of the 37,000 of self-employed Canadian First Nations people overall, or 8,140 businesses, operate in the province.

About ICAB

The Industry Council for Aboriginal Business (ICAB) is a non-profit, member-focused organization guided by a volunteer Board of Directors. The ICAB mission is to deliver value to its members through effective programming and by promoting mutual respect and understanding. Its vision is to realize a vibrant BC economy where Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people prosper together. For more information, visit www.icab.ca.



agreements with eight founding corporate partners: BCIT; Bull, Housser & Tupper; KPMG; Maggie Geiser & Associates; Suite-Apps Advisors; T.E. Wealth and Vancity.

their business," says Keith Henry, president of ICAB. "BCABA will help break down those barriers and strengthen Aboriginal business development by connecting individuals with

LARGEST B.C. JAIL TO BE BUILT IN FIRST NATIONS INDUSTRIAL PARK IN SOUTH OKANAGAN



A tough talking Donald Trump type, Chief Clarence Louie has landed a whale for his community with the building of a \$200 million prison, the largest in B.C., but the fast talking chief wants more than the economic impact, as writer Lynda Powless tells us, he wants to change the face of prisoners....

OSOYOOS, B.C.- When you think about the Osoyoos Indian Band you immediately picture walks in the vineyard and a preppy crowd exploring the band's contemporary winery.

Or a stay at their new resort and spa after a day on their golf course.

A picture created and fostered by the band's feisty chief, Clarence Louie who transformed the band from welfare state to one of the most successful first nation business communities in Canada.

And now the hard nose chief is pushing through another barrier.

His community is about to become host to the largest

prison in the province.

The small band has partnered with the B.C. government to build a new \$200 million, 360 cell prison at its Senkulmen Enterprise Park.

The correctional institute will make its home on industrial land just north of Oliver and 28 km south of Penticton and along side other Osoyoos companies including a wine warehouse.

It's the first time a jail is being built on native land in B.C., and Osoyoos Chief Clarence Louie says he intends to make the most of it not only in terms of economics.

"The news reflects well on the strength of the business case we presented," he said, at the time of the announcement. "Our band owns the most businesses per capita of any First Nation in Canada, which made us a major economic driver in our region," he said.

At a ceremony announcing the contract this past February Premier Christy Clark said the prison will provide economic benefits for the South Okanagan and greater public safety.

The prison will more than double the corrections capacity in the Interior.

Clark said the project will create up to 1,000 direct and indirect jobs during construction, and the jail itself will

LARGEST PRISON BEING BUILT ON FIRST NATIONS LAND

employ about 240 people.

Osoyoos Mayor Stu Wells calls the pending construction of the new provincial correctional facility one of the single-most important economic development projects in the history of the South Okanagan.

He says the jobs alone will attract young families to the area and new business.

The Osoyoos Indian Band has 460 members and employs approximately 700 people.

Their enterprises contribute \$40 million to the local economy and carries on their tradition as builders.

In the recent past, ranching, trading and small farms were the call the day.

But today those lands are successfully cultivating vineyards.

Soon after, about 1966, they added a small campground with 100 sites.

The Nk'Mip Campground & RV Park has grown to more than 300 sites and 3,000 feet of lake front.

In 1968 they added the Nk'Mip Vineyards which have grown from 120 acres to almost 280, and awards for their wines are beginning to pile up.

The band owns a construction company, Nk'Mip Construction and now has its own certified carpenters building homes on and off the reserve from the Hester Creek Winery, Vincor Winery warehouse and more than 100 single family residential homes.

Today they have added the Nk'Mip Canyon Desert Golf Course Ltd. and Spirit Ridge Vineyard Resort and Spa to service tourists now being drawn to the area.

"Two thirds of our employees



are non-band members," said Brian Titus, chief operating officer for the band. "So we have a strong economic impact on the surrounding community."

The Senkulmen Enterprise Park, site of the future prison, is a \$10 million dollar project that was completed in October of 2011.

It was built as a 112 acre environmentally sustainable business and light industrial park, where they are building a warehouse to store

wine products for small wineries in the area.

Chief Louie said the provincial jail will mean more stable, permanent jobs for band members, who now depend heavily on tourism for their income.

Shirley Bond, minister of public safety, attorney general and solicitor general, said she is optimistic the prison will open as planned by 2015.

"Our goal right now is to try to compress the planning time and the business-case development into a six-month window," she said. "There is the potential that it may move slightly into 2016, but our goal is to get this moving. We recognize the pressures on the system and the importance of this project."

Bond said an independent panel chose the site after an in-depth review over the past several months.

Also in the running were the Penticton Indian Band, District of Summerland and Village of Lumby. Penticton dropped out after a referendum-style ballot last June saw two-thirds of voters oppose the project.

The province will now work with the band to complete a business plan.

The announcement had originally been expected in June 2011.

The proposed jail is expected to help relieve overcrowding at the Kamloops Regional Corrections Centre, said Minister of Public Safety, Shirley Bond.

"The Okanagan correctional centre will add new cells and more corrections officers and will go a long way toward addressing capacity needs in the system," said Bond.

(Continued on page 18)



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GERMANY ITALY URUGUAY JAMAICA SOUTH AFRICA BELGIUM

REBUILDING INDIGENOUS TRADE ROUTES WORLD WIDE

(Continued from page 16)

With more than 240 permanent full-time jobs being created once the facility opens and another 1,000 jobs during construction, area schools and regional hospitals will benefit as will the entire economic basin stretching from Penticton to Osoyoos, said the premier.

The OIB site was selected as the preferred location after a comprehensive and detailed independent study and it's clear this band's long history of success played a significant role, said Clark.

"They are an absolutely sterling partner for this project," she said. "The Osoyoos Indian Band owns more businesses per capita than any other band in this country ... we're proud to partner with them on this project."

Chief Louie credited OIB members Darren Baptiste and his brother Shorty, who recently passed away, for doing diligent work on behalf of the band over several years after the province confirmed six years ago a new correctional facility would be built in the South Okanagan.

The OIB has enjoyed a great deal of success over the past several years, but having a project and facility of this size that will benefit so many people and create so many jobs is historic, said Louie.

"It's a big and important day for the Osoyoos Indian Band," he said. "It's so awesome to see the biggest project to come to this area in a long, long time is with correctional services and the provincial government."

Louie said he looks forward to working closely with the provincial government and Correctional Services Canada as the project develops from planning stages to construction to opening and operating.

Beyond the economics he wants to



make societal change.

He wants to implement unique and progressive programming once the jail is open to assist aboriginal offenders.

Aboriginal offenders make up a disproportionately large percentage of the inmate population in Canadian prisons.

Chief Louie toured several correctional facilities in western Canada.

He said he and the OIB made a commitment, if successful, OIB would try and implement programs and support systems to attempt to assist and rehabilitate aboriginal offenders and this will be a key focus once the new jail opens.

He said Okanagan College is very interested in being a partner in developing programs to train correctional officers as well as training for offenders who want training.

"We look forward to working with college officials in developing these programs in the next couple of years," said Louie.

"We would hope that this project, being the first of its kind on an Indian reserve, that we can work out and change the statistics of aboriginal

incarceration in this country," he said.

"Our people want to be involved in the rehabilitation of our people, and we hope that this project really sets the standards of what can be done in corrections."

Allan Patton, a director on the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen, said locals didn't express many fears about the project. "I haven't heard much negativity," he said. "We need this, there's no question. This is great for our local economy."

In Kelowna the new prison was good news for prisoners and courthouse sheriffs.

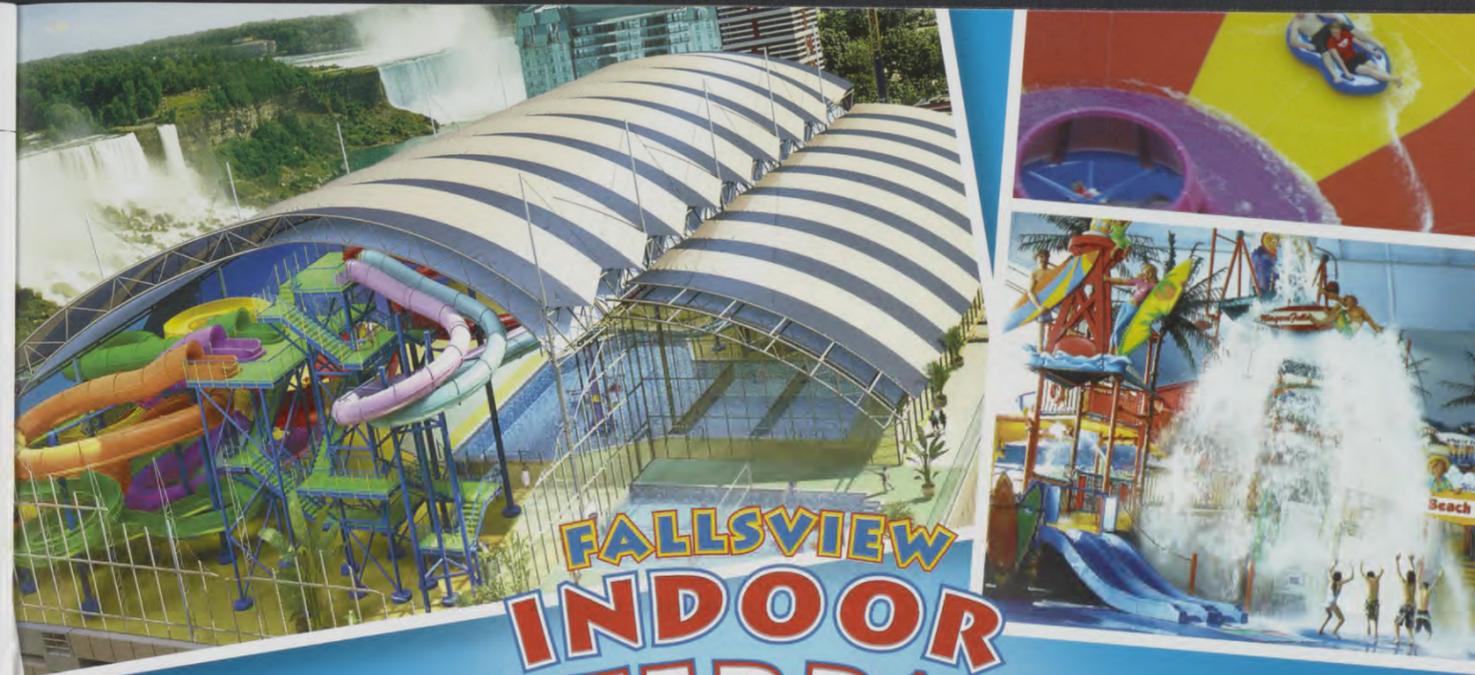
The Kamloops jail is so overcrowded, some cells are triple-bunked. The new jail is expected to relieve pressure on the Kamloops facility, said Penticton lawyer Don Skogstad.

"They've been double-bunking for years, and triple-bunking with the third guy on the floor. There's been a tent in the yard for 1 1/2 years. It houses low-risk prisoners in summer and winter," he said.

Inmates appearing in the Kelowna Law Courts will spend less time at the RCMP lockup in Kelowna since the drive to Oliver is an hour shorter than the two-and-a-half-hour journey to Kamloops.

In the nearby town residents are expecting the town will get busier and that isn't a bad thing.

"It's a boost and really not that surprising considering Chief Clarence Louie is such a go getter. He has brought in everything from wineries to fancy accommodations to benefit the Indian band and everyone else benefits as a result," said Brita Park, an Oliver teacher.



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FEDERAL GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE OF THE COWICHAN SWEATER



OTTAWA - The distinctive Cowichan sweater of B.C.'s Coast Salish First Nation has graced the bodies of people worldwide, and now it's being recognized by the Canadian government.

The bold, patterned sweater is one of 13 First Nations items, sites or persons that Ottawa has designated as having national historic significance.

Environment Minister Peter Kent announced the designations Thursday, saying

they bring to life the spiritual, cultural and physical ties that First Nations have in Canada.

The Coast Salish of Squamish, B.C., have combined ancient wool working with European knitting to construct Cowichan sweaters dating back to the late 19th century.

Also making the distinction is the basket making of the Nlaka'pamux (ent-lah-cap-um) First Nation near Ashcroft.

The government says the long practice of basket making passed down through generations of women embodies their role as culture bearers.

Aboriginals consider lawsuit...

(Continued from page 11)

there were no incident reports.

"To be portrayed in this way has been really insulting to us," Slett said. "We've been quite offended with their actions. We're a peaceful and respectful people. We're known up and down the coast as a welcoming community."

The NEB, speaking on behalf of panel members Sheila Leggett, Kenneth Bateman and Hans Matthews, said the panel's arrival in Bella Bella on Sunday caused several concerns they believed could result in difficulties at the hearings.

"The hearing was cancelled because of circumstances the panel experienced. They felt a meaningful hearing could not be achieved until issues were discussed with the community leaders," said the statement.

"The panel needs to be able to receive information from the community in an environment that is safe and secure and where it can be assured that there is a clear understanding of expectations and protocols."

Skeena-Bulkley Valley New Democrat MP Nathan Cullen said aboriginal court challenges will pose a nightmare scenario for Enbridge and cost taxpayers dearly in federal legal bills.

"The courts will tell you immediately, particularly on First Nations rights,

if you haven't consulted, the time line doesn't override the constitutional right," said Cullen, whose riding includes Bella Bella.

"You can't simply say, 'I'm putting a time line on your constitutional rights.'"

Prof. George Hoberg, an environmental and natural resource governance expert at the University of B.C., said the federal government's proposed review process is adequate, providing the review panels are properly funded.

But he said government consultations on aboriginal rights issues are more difficult to hold to time lines.

Hoberg said he was pleasantly surprised the panel decided to cancel the hearing sessions after being confronted "by the magnitude and intensity of community opposition on the Coast."

"I'm gratified to see that they're emotionally affected by this," he said. "They're a group of thoughtful, professional people who have an extremely challenging decision to make."

Hoberg said the Northern Gateway project has stirred a massive reaction among Canadians.

"It's tapped into a big cultural divide in Canada," he said.

"It's the divide between Alberta and British Columbia. It's the divide between the oil sector and the people who aren't involved in that. It's the divide between the Harper Conservatives and other political parties."



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CREE LEADER BREAKING GROUND IN FEDERAL POLITICS



Romeo Saganash MP NDP Abitibi-Baie-James-Nunavik-Eeyou-Quebec



OTTAWA - Romeo Saganash may have bowed out of the NDP leadership race and found a spot on the shadow cabinet but the legacy he leaves will inspire future aboriginal politicians.

New NDP leader Romeo Saganash will move to international development. He had been in natural resources before he decided to give the NDP leadership race a try.

Saganash spent months campaigning before withdrawing from the race in Val d'Or, Que.. Sources said the Cree leader and northern Quebec MP decided to call it quits partly because of illness in his family, which has caused him to miss a number of all-candidates debates.

But sources also said his lowkey campaign simply failed to catch fire with the more than 100,000 New Democrats who choose a successor to the late Jack Layton on March 24.

Party officials had hoped Saganash's candidacy would help the NDP make inroads into aboriginal communities, which have a notoriously low voter turnout rate. And many New Democrats found his personal story, as a survivor of a residential school who was born in the bush in northern Quebec, to be inspiring.

But insiders say that simply didn't translate into hard support among existing members

or enough organizers to recruit thousands of new members.

With the Feb. 18 cut-off for signing up new members fast approaching, and his energy diverted by family crises, sources said Saganash simply decided there's no point in continuing with "this torture," as one put it.

In a written statement, Saganash cited "several competing demands" on his time for his decision to withdraw.

"My mother, sisters and brothers and my children all need more attention than I have been able to provide," he said. "I am unable to devote enough time to them, my constituents or my party and run the kind of campaign I would like to run."

Saganash also said he realized that, despite "a warm reception" from New Democrats, "it is impossible to run a winning campaign as the favourite second choice. People send you good wishes but they don't send their money."

He did not specifically endorse any other candidate, saying he intends to "endorse whichever candidate can best move" his vision for the party forward.

Olivia Chow in the Yukon campaigning for the territory's NDP party, said she saw it as "exciting" that Saganash had jumped into the race to replace Layton, who died from cancer in late August.

"I think it's exciting to see Romeo Saganash run," said Chow. "I hope he can inspire different communities to get involved, to say, this is our party."

New party leader Thomas Mulcair called Saganash's candidacy "ground-breaking."

"For years to come, tens of thousands of aboriginal children will be inspired by having watched him in this race, knowing he was a credible candidate for the leadership of the official Opposition," he said in a statement.

Topp called Saganash "a real leader in our party and in our caucus."

"He brought a tremendous amount of integrity and purpose to the race."

Cullen said it's "sad" to see Saganash bow out. "His personal story of triumph over adversity was inspiring to many and me in particular. He did himself and his nation proud," Cullen said.

Dewar called Saganash "a caring and strong leader within our party and our country." "Everything he does, well, he does it with courage," Nash said.

"He brought a great deal of experience and knowledge to the race but, more importantly, he inspired so many Canadians to join our party and get involved. I'm looking forward to continuing our work together in the House of Commons."

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