It was another record-breaking year for the Little Native Hockey League (LNHL). This year’s tournament attracted more than 2,500 hockey players from across the province.

This year, WRFN sent seven of our Whitefish River Warriors teams to compete in the tournament. The tykes, atom boys, novice, peewee girls, peewee boys, midget girls and midget boys represented our community in Mississauga.

Throughout the tournament, social media came alive with photos and updates on our Warriors teams. Parents, players, family and coaching staff were beaming with excitement and pride on social media. Those that were unable to attend got a taste of the spirit that the tournament brings.

All of our teams represented our community exceedingly well. They played with pride, passion and perseverance throughout the tournament. Our Whitefish River Warriors Peewee Girls team won the ‘B’ Championship in their division. We are proud of all of our teams that played in the tournament. As Former Chief & LNHL Co-Founding Father Jim McGregor says, “It’s not if you win or lose, but how much you tried and how fairly you played.”

See pages 10&11 for photos from the LNHL.
2017 Election Results
Congratulations to our newly elected and re-elected Chief and Council

Statement of the Votes

name of candidate for chief | total votes received
---|---
Agawa Carlanne Lynn | 22
McGregor Donald Gerard | 115
McGregor Valerie A. | 18
Palborna Franklin (Shining Turtle) | 130
Shawanda Richard Michael | 44

Number of valid ballots cast for Chief: 327
Number of rejected ballots for Chief: 0

Name of Candidate for Councillor | Total Votes Received
---|---
McGregor-Clark Crystal | 29
Mgwanabe Louanne Marie | 17
Natwegahbow Leona | 79
Nwegiebow Julian | 49
Osche Elsie | 96
Palborna Allen Floyd | 20
Palborna Wiminfred | 20
Plewanaekwat Rose | 51
Plewanaekwat Victor | 82
Recotell John | 68
Shawanda Dave | 75
Shawanda Jacinta | 29
Shawanda Mark Haay | 86
Shawanda Mari (Plewanaekwat) | 36
Shawanda Richard Michael | 56
Stevens Marilyn (Ziegler) | 50
Sill Murray | 37
Ziegler Ann | 38

Number of valid ballots cast for Councillor: 324
Number of rejected ballots for Councillor: 3

Elected Candidates
To the Office of Chief: Franklin Palborna (Shining Turtle)
To the Office of Councillor:
Name: Esther Osche
Name: Cara McGregor
Name: Mark Haay Shawanda
Name: Gerald McGregor
Name: Leona Natwegahbow
Name: Dave Shawanda

This count was diligently conducted in accordance with the Indian Band Election Regulations.

Signature of Electoral Officer

Signature of Witness
One Whitefish River First Nation youth aimed for the stars when she applied for an incredible training opportunity. After completion of the training, the experience has her over the moon.

Sara Gardner, 18, attended the Honeywell Leadership Challenge Academy on March 4-10, 2017. The academy was based out of the US Space & Rocket Centre in Huntsville, Alabama.

Sara acquired this once in a lifetime opportunity by submitting an application to the academy through Honeywell. Sara’s mother, Lisa Gardner, is a full-time employee of Honeywell in Sudbury. This opportunity was exclusively for the children of Honeywell employees.

Sara was one of seven successful Canadian applicants. Sara said, “This experience was amazing and I’m really grateful that I was chosen out of all the applicants. I’ve created memories and friendships that I hope will last a lifetime.”

About 150 youth ages 16-18 attended from across the globe. Sara said learning different cultures from other teens was a unique experience.

Travelling to the United States was also a very new experience for Sara. “It was pretty scary and exciting to travel without my family. It was also my first time flying.”

Upon her arrival to the airport, she was welcomed by crew members in flights suits and bused to the US Space Academy Habitat. She says the crew members were very friendly and made everyone feel welcome.

The days at the academy consisted of classroom training and hands on training in flight simulation, building model rockets and walking at 1/6th gravity. At night, the youth gathered to play games or sing karaoke. Sara says she enjoyed the realistic shuttle mission the most as she was chosen by her team lead to be the Flight Director.

As Flight Director, Sara was responsible for keeping everyone calm and working together. She had the final say on decisions during their realistic shuttle mission, especially when the team had differing opinions and ideas. “Getting to say, “we are prepared for lift off” just like you see on movies... was pretty cool.”

“I would like to send out thanks to everyone who encouraged me to apply, who aided and supported me on my journey of a lifetime – My Family, Chief Franklin Shining Turtle, Whitefish River First Nation, Union of Ontario Indians, Chiefs of Ontario, Patrick Madahbee, St Charles College and my teachers especially Mr. Kingshott.”
Message from Chief Shining Turtle
Sturgeon Clan, Ojibway Nation

During the early part of 1970/71, Chief Jimmy McGregor of Birch Island, Chief James Debassige, Norm Debassige of West Bay and Earl Abotossaway of Sucker Creek were approached by the Reverend Len Self about starting a hockey tournament for First Nation youth. Unbeknownst to these leaders, this simple request would lead to development of the largest First Nation youth hockey tournament in North America, the Little Native Hockey League (LNHL).

The 1st Annual LNHL tournament that was held in Little Current had 17 teams participating from the communities of Birch Island, West Bay, Sucker Creek, Wikwemikong, Garden River and Moose Factory. Little was known about coordinating such events, so much of the work was done on the simple basis of ‘TRUST’. Communities said they were coming to the tournament, so the founders trusted they would be there to play hockey, so this is how the LNHL went for at least the first decade.

Over the past 46 years there have been many special moments for the Little Native Hockey League. Increasing First Nation participation in this tournament, represents one of those special moments. One of the defining features of our tournament has been our four key pillars; EDUCATION, RESPECT, CITIZENSHIP and SPORTSMANSHIP. Despite all the changes in the game, these pillars have guided us in staying focused on what is most important about the game, educating on children on what it means to be part of a team, community and a nation. To that end, this is why we put such an emphasis on not the game, but the opportunity to build on our education for our youth. This year we had the National Anthem at the opening ceremonies sung by one of our youth, what a special honor.

Tomorrow brings new hope and indeed new dreams for our LNHL tournament. We have much to dream about thanks in large part to those dreamers of 1970/71. Thank you to all of you for sharing your dreams for our beautiful community.

Away from the rinks, the work on our Elevated Storage Reservoir continues as we are now approaching 60% of the design work being completed. The estimated cost of $2,918,750.00 will be carried by Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada. Construction is scheduled for July of this year.

There has been work by the administration on such issues as; Matrimonial Real Property, Elders Planning, Council Planning, Youth RTP Planning, Language Conference Planning in the last 6 six weeks.

Moving forward, we are preparing for work on;
1. Repatriation work on the 1852.85 acres returned to WRFN land base directly east of the Whitefish Falls area;
2. Finalization of our housing construction project for 5 new homes;
3. Updates to communication tools for the administration and council;
4. Preparing for the annual Treaty annuities payment day.

So, there is a lot of work going on in the coming months.

I had the privilege to be invited to work with the Chiefs of Ontario Committee on Hydro Grievances over the last 18 months. We held many meetings as we wrestled with the issues of hydro billing and associated issues. One of the most common issues that we as committee continued to hear at our meetings with bands, was the issue of delivery cost being added to hydro billing. Over the course of our meeting with the Ontario Energy Board and Minister’s surrounding the file, we determined that the elimination of the delivery charges to bands would be a good first step toward resolving the many issues bands face when it comes to electricity and pricing. So, it was very good news to all the committee members when the province announced the removal of delivery charges to First Nation hydro bills. News that First Nations community residents will be exempted from delivery charges on their electricity bills as part of Premier Kathleen Wynne’s recently announced plan for electricity relief is being greeted with delight by First Nation leaders. "It’s excellent news," declared Anishinaabek Nation Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee, contacted as he was taking in a hockey game at the Little NHL Tournament in Mississauga. “I have to commend our negotiating team, folks like (Six Nations of the Grand River) Chief Ava Hill, (Whitefish River First Nation) Chief Shining Turtle and (Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians) Grand Chief Gordon Peters, among others,” he said. “They really did an excellent job.”

I have to admit that learning how to use and navigate with social media is not as easy as one would think. The use of Facebook, twitter, snap chat and so on to filter information takes a lot of work. Please bear with me as I navigate through these various tools. If I don’t respond, it’s very likely that I am still in learning mode. So, please be patient.

Recently, we have seen some our citizens in hospitals for various issues. I have been out visiting with family in some of the known instances. In many cases, we can only be there to support the family. We as a Council continue to pray for many of our families that are dealing with ongoing health issues.

We lost a member of our community recently and during this period of ceremony and reflection, I was reminded of the central importance of family in our community. Thank you to all of you that reached out to help during this difficult time. Until next month, start planning your garden.
# Federal Budget 2017 Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program and Funding Areas</th>
<th>Budget 2017</th>
<th>Additional Notes</th>
<th>Budget Page</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Housing, water &amp; infrastructure</td>
<td>$4 billion/10 years</td>
<td>Starting in 2018. Details unclear.</td>
<td>Page 146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Housing</td>
<td>$24M - Yukon</td>
<td></td>
<td>Page 134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$36M – NWT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$240M - Nunavut</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education Post-Secondary</td>
<td>PSSSP</td>
<td>$90M/ 2yrs</td>
<td>Page 65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Indspire Bursaries &amp; Scholarships</td>
<td>$5M/5yrs</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Matching funds requirement.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child Welfare Services</td>
<td>No new funding</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Skills Training</td>
<td>ASETS</td>
<td>$50M/1 yr</td>
<td>Page 66</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Youth Case Management</td>
<td>$39.2M/1 yr</td>
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<td>Northern Adult Basic Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Climate and Environment</td>
<td>Reduce reliance on diesel</td>
<td>$21.4M/4 yrs</td>
<td>Page 127</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Indigenous Guardians Pilot</td>
<td>$25M/5 yrs</td>
<td>Page 170</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Arctic Energy Fund</td>
<td>$400M</td>
<td>Page 128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Indigenous knowledge on climate change</td>
<td>$83.8M/5 yrs</td>
<td>Page 128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Collaboration on climate</td>
<td>$26.4M/5 yrs</td>
<td>Page 130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Indigenous youth and sport</td>
<td>$18.9 over 5yrs</td>
<td>Page 168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specific Claims</td>
<td>$24M ongoing</td>
<td></td>
<td>Page 166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>$828.2M/5 yrs</td>
<td></td>
<td>Page 164</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Indigenous Languages</td>
<td>$89.9/3 yrs,</td>
<td>Page 167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aboriginal Languages Initiative</td>
<td>$69M/3 yrs</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Library &amp; Archives</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>National Research Council</td>
<td>$6M/3yrs</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Nations Policing</td>
<td>$81.6M/5 yrs</td>
<td>Starting in 2018.</td>
<td>Page 169</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aboriginal Justice Strategy</td>
<td>$11.1M ongoing</td>
<td></td>
<td>Page 169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rehabilitation &amp; Reintegration of Indigenous Offenders</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Page 169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fisheries</td>
<td>$250M/5 yrs</td>
<td></td>
<td>Page 170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban Aboriginal Strategy</td>
<td>$118M/5 yrs</td>
<td></td>
<td>Page 170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indigenous Tourism</td>
<td>$8.6M/4 yrs</td>
<td></td>
<td>Page 91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$3.4Billion/5 yrs</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The 2016-2017 fiscal year end has come and gone. We would like to thank all the tenants for their patience while we completed the retrofit projects.

Three projects that we undertook with CMHC last year was the construction of five new housing units, energy efficient home renovations for twelve CMHC Section 95 units and one RRAP/Disability RRAP project.

We are continuing in the proposal development funding (PDF) for our “Elder’s Residence” with CMHC and Walter Kornas, Consultant this fiscal year. More information will follow.

Other initiatives that the Housing Department participated in were the following:

(i) IESO Community Energy Plan Development  
(ii) Prosper Canada –Financial Literacy Program/Training  
(iii) Matrimonial Real Property Awareness Project  
(iv) LEAP Program –Low Energy Assistance Program  
(v) OESP Program –Ontario Energy Support Program  
(vi) CMHC Youth Initiative  
(vii) Community Volunteer Income Tax Program

We look forward to another exciting year ahead with the new projects.

Our office has been very busy completing proposals for additional funding with submissions to the IESO for the continuation of phase two of our community energy plan; CMHC Social Infrastructure Fund to continue the energy efficient home renovations for thirteen CMHC Section 95 units; and to AANDC Immediate Needs Program to complete home renovations ten band rental units.

The Housing Committee will be reviewing the Housing Policy and making recommendations to the Chief and Council.

We are recommending that all our tenant’s review and update their current rental agreement. If you have any concerns regarding your housing rental agreement you can request a copy in writing from Kim.

Please note we are still processing applications for tenants requiring assistance with the LEAP and OSEP program.

If you would like a copy of the Matrimonial Real Property or a Housing Application they are available on our website.

Five Matrimonial Real Property posters featuring WRFN community members/familys were created for awareness on the MRP. The other four posters featuring Jean McGregor-Andrews, Esther Osche, Brian McGregor and his granddaughter Isla, Kathleen Migwanabi and her family are on display at the Administration Office.
Whitefish River First Nation:

Vision: The Anishinabek of Whitefish River First Nation will work in harmony while maintaining our culture, traditions and knowledge to enrich and empower our people.

Mission: The Anishinabek of Whitefish River First Nation will strive to improve community well-being by collectively protecting, strengthening and developing its resources and culture through mutual cooperation.

Project Need:

The First Nation has two distinct water pressure districts, one in the lower section of the First Nation and one in the upper section. The existing standpipe is located within the upper pressure zone. The standpipe does not under certain conditions provide adequate pressure for fire flow and minimum water pressure. The construction of an Elevated Storage Reservoir will maintain adequate pressure and fire flow during annual operating conditions of the water supply system throughout the year.

General Project Overview:

**Project:** Design and Construction of a 1220 m³ Elevated Storage Reservoir and Decommissioning of Old Standpipe (667m³)

**Schedule:** Design to be complete by May 2017

Construction Summer of 2017 based on Federal Funding

**Funding:** Project will be 100% funded by Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada

The Project Team is comprised of:
- Chief & Council
- Band Manager
- Water Plant Operators
- FHR Inc-Project Manager
- First Nation Engineering Services Ltd.
- Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

**Milestone:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Planned Completion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preliminary Design Phase (60% Stage)</td>
<td>March 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detailed Design Phase (90% Stage)</td>
<td>May 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tendering Phase</td>
<td>June 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction Phase</td>
<td>June 2017 to January 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decommissioning of Existing Standpipe</td>
<td>April 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Major Activities Near & Future:**

- March 24th, 2017 – 60% Design Brief and Drawings completed;
- April 11, 2017 – Tank supplier tender awarding will occur at Chief and Council Regular Meeting;
- May 2 or 3rd, 2017 – Community Meeting - Whitefish River First Nation
  - 90% Stage presentation of the Project;
  - Community Input on Elevated Storage Reservoir LOGO layout.

IMPORTANT: Please see following map/drawing outlining proposed location of new Elevated Storage Reservoir.

For further information, please contact Nishin Meawasige, Band Manager at nmeawasige@whitefishriver.ca or Kelvin Jamieson, P.Eng at kelvin.jamieson@fhrinc.ca
Where did the time go! We are already into the new fiscal year of 2017-2018. We hoped everyone enjoyed their March Break, especially for the children that participated in the L’NHL.

There are some new changes in our program. The lower unit has been retrofit as our gross motor room for the children to play due to inclement weather. The area will be equipped with gross motor climbing blocks with the assistance of Great Owl-Lightning from Nexus Guardian Art. The children will learn to balance, tumble in a safe way and learn on mediation while taking part in program.

The Preschool children have been visiting the JK Classroom twice a month to engage the children hands on activities and learning skills for school readiness.

For the parents that will have their children entering the Kindergarten Program at Shawanoswae School in the Fall. Please contact the School at 705 285-1311 for their Pre-Registration date.

We are currently in the planning stages to provide Parenting Engagement sessions in conjunction with the Health Centre and Mnaamodzawin Health Services. More information will be provided once it becomes finalized.

Happy Spring!! This month our themes are Mother Earth, Sugar Bush, Easter and Birds. Easter is always a fun time with the children, dying eggs is an exciting and messy activity and maybe the Easter Bunny will hide some treats at Child Care for us to find!!

We will be focusing on the colour purple, always a favorite our shape is the Oval and we continue working on our numbers and alphabet. It is still pretty slushy and wet in the Child Care playground so please dress your child appropriately for outdoor play and be sure to send a change of clothes in case the water soaks through. I hope everyone has a wonderful Spring and we are all looking forward to getting rid of the winter outdoor clothes as the weather stays warm and dries everything up!!

April 14   Good Friday – Day Care Closed
April 17   Easter Monday – Day Care Closed

Supply Staff! We are looking for ECE Workers with Early Childhood Education Diploma or Certificate. Also a Cook must have Food Handlers Certificate.

Please contact the Child Care Centre for information at 705 285-7777.

Hoppy Easter! Baa-maa-pii Miinwaa!

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**Easter Bunny Cupcakes**

How to make it

1. Frost a cupcake (baked from your favorite recipe) with white icing and sprinkle on shredded coconut fur.

2. Cut a large marshmallow in half widthwise. Squeeze each half slightly to give it an oval shape, then decorate the sticky side of each one with pink decorators’ sugar and set them in place for ears.

3. Add a jelly bean nose and either jelly bean or snipped Sweet Tart eyes, and mini marshmallows for cheeks. For a finishing touch, draw on decorators’ gel pupils or whiskers if you like.
Shawanosowe School Bulletin
Cara McGregor, Administrative Assistant

Highlights from March:

Wednesdays: Shirt and Skirts with Amelia
Thursdays: Looming with Judy
Fridays: JK/SK Skating in Little Current
Mar. 8th, 22nd: Daycare Transaction Days
Mar. 13–17: March Break (GO WARRIORS GO)
Mar. 20th-April 28th: Great Spirit Circle Trail Various teachings
Mar. 22nd: Maple Tree Tapping with Ed and Kevin

Notes from the office:

We have had many activities on the go, as you can see by our March Highlights.

We started Tree tapping with Ed Pitawanakwat and Kevin Lester after the March Break. It is exciting to see the students out collecting the sap from the trees they tapped.

Also after March Break we welcomed the Great Spirit Circle Trail here doing traditional teachings in Drumming, Medicine Wheel Teachings along with Rattle making.

On the 29th we have 8 students leaving for Sault Michigan to the 2017 Anishinaabemowin Conference.
The Whitefish River Warriors Novice team along with coaching staff and former NHL star Reggie Leach.

Danielle Pregent and baby Alana our future Whitefish River Warrior.

Two happy Whitefish River Warriors tykes hugging before their first game.

Warriors fans decked out in their Warriors swag during a game.

Whitefish River Warrior Peewee Girls won the B Championship at the LNHL. Way to go girls!
Whitefish River: LNHL in Mississauga!

Indigenous and Northern Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett on the bench with our Warriors Novice team.

Warriors fans with their Tim Hortons coffees in tow before the next game.

Mary Nahwegahbow of WRFN singing the National Anthem at the opening ceremonies.

The Whitefish River Warriors Atom Boys watching their fellow team mates on the ice.

Chief Franklin and a mascot from the host community: Moose Cree First Nation!
I hope that everyone had a great, enjoyable and relaxing March Break. If you attended the 46th Annual LNHL, I hope that it was a fantastic experience. It was great to see all the pictures all over social media.

Time is moving us along at a rapid pace and right now the Education Department is preparing for the Post-Secondary Education Students. I’m sure there is a mix of emotions for each student and their families. In the Education Department, we are excited to help you take the next step in your education.

For those who are new to the process and for those who are well versed in the process, here is how things work in the Education Department when it comes Post-Secondary Education and the application process.

There is a lot of work that goes into the post-secondary sector of the Education Department. There is a dedication to ensure that the transition from secondary to post-secondary is as smooth as possible. Your cooperation and patience is greatly appreciated during this time.

Currently we are in the Education Department Review section of the process. We thank all those who have submitted an application and we will be in touch with you very soon.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Education Department at 705-285-4335 or by email at education@whitefishriver.ca.

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**Education Department**

*Vanessa McGregor, Interim Education Manager*

**Deadline**
- Post-Secondary Applications are due on April 1, 2017

**Education Department Review**
- Applications are reviewed first by the Education Department for completeness and accuracy
- The information is compiled into a database in preparation for review by the Education Committee (all student information is kept confidential)

**Education Committee Review**
- The information is reviewed by the Education Committee
- The Education Committee prepares a budget recommendation for Chief and Council

**Chief & Council Review & Approval**
- The budget recommendation is then presented to Chief and Council for their final approval

**Notify Students & Institutions**
- Students are then notified and issued their Letter of Sponsorship
- Post-Secondary institutions Registrar Offices are notified of the students sponsorship
Ahnii, this past month I attended the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) convention in Toronto.

PDAC International Convention, Trade Show & Investors Exchange is the world’s leading convention for people, companies and organizations in, or connected with, mineral exploration and finance. In addition to meeting over 900 exhibitors and 22,000 attendees from 125 countries, you can also attend technical sessions, short courses and networking events.

Due to my background in the environment and environmental remediation I have seen firsthand the effects of mining on the land. Although they didn’t have environmental regulations pre 70’s and most mines depleted resources without any reclamation of the land. Leaving useless pieces of land. This makes it hard for me to justify any kind of mining activity.

But as the conference went on I learned to put away my environmental hat and gave a chance to listen to the different companies and organizations about existing and potential projects. These companies want to work with first nations and not just on first nations. We can thank the other First Nations with successful relationships and mining projects for this.

Upcoming this month I will be busy in the office starting the new fiscal years activities. This includes managing the day to day activities of the WRDC (Whitefish River Development Corporation).

I will be filling out funding applications for potential projects and improvements for the community. Since I started working on reigniting the When-Pah-Nud Loan fund it has generated a lot of interest. I will continue working on it and provide updates as it progresses.

This month we will be partnering with the Anishinabek Ontario Fisheries Resource Centre (AOFRC) again to conduct a Walleye Spawning and Tagging Survey.

The survey will be conducted at mouth of Whitefish River during the spawning run. The objective of this project is to contribute monitoring efforts to the status of the Bay of Islands Walleye population. Spawning surveys uses non-lethal trap nets to catch sample and release fish. This will build on the baseline data collected from previous studies conducted here in WRFN.

Past studies have shown a decline in the population and in the number of females present during the spawn. I would ask all community members to not catch any walleye during the spawn. It’s our responsibility to not do further harm to the declining Walleye population.

The AOFRC will also be looking for a community member to provide support during the project. If you’re interested in obtaining hands on experience conducting fisheries research contact me for an excellent short term learning opportunity.

Again before the summer employment rush I encourage anyone interested to come in and fill out employment questionnaire and labour pool registration form. Or you can just drop off an updated resume. When potential employers come looking for workers I will know who to call and for what job.
Pet Care and Tips

Dennis L. McGregor, Community Member

(Note: Article was originally for the March 2017 issue)

Hello everyone, I hope all is well with you and your furry babies. As for mine they are doing just fine. I think they are getting a little cabin fever because they keep looking outside almost every day. They do get a chance to go out whenever I get the chance to shovel the snow off the deck. I have both of my cat houses heated by an electric light bulb and a heating pad I place on the floor for them covered with a blanket. So it is nice and toasty for them inside when they go out in the evenings sometimes warm up.

Well I finally got BJ fixed last November, so now all of my cats are fixed and no more unwanted kittens. I strongly suggest to people to get their dog(s) or cat(s) fixed as soon as they are old enough and this way it helps to keep the cat and dog population down in our community. I know some say that it costs a lot but if you look at it this way it will cost you more to feed them if have puppies or kittens. So this is just only one time expense on your part.

My kitties are getting big again putting on their winter fat as they say. I had a comment by one person who saw them “you have big cats”; I said that it’s because they are well looked after and well fed. I think Tinker, BJ, Francis and Fabio are bigger than a Toy Poodle. Some days if you walk around the house you might see three or two cats sleeping in the first bedroom and maybe another three in my bedroom and some down in the basement on the chairs and couch I have down there and some days it I feel like it I will join them for an afternoon nap. As they say, “why beat them might as well join them”.

It is snowing outside as I write this and just think two more months or so for winter weather and it will start to warm up. I am already thinking about planting flowers. I always make a list of the kind of flowers I plan to plant around the house. I have reduced some of my planting these days because it is getting harder for me to get around some days.

Some Cat Facts:

• If your cat greats you by rubbing themselves by your leg and turning around and showing their behind, that is the way they great each other and their master.
• Cat families usually play best in even numbers. Cats and Kittens should be acquired in pairs whenever possible.
• To deter a cat from scratching your furniture, try putting lemon or orange scent on the area. Cats hate these smells and shouldn’t want to hang around.
• You should talk to your cats often. Cats love to hear the sound of their own name and your voice. I always do that. It has been scientifically proven that stroking a cat can lower a person’s blood pressure.

When I had Kafra I use to dance with her around the living room when ever I had dancing music on my stereo. Every time she heard this music she would come running to me if I was sitting on the couch and she knew it was time for dancing.

I use to swing her around in my arms and she use to put her head back on my arm. I guess she use to like the rocking motion when I was dancing with her. I started doing this with Webby, so now when ever I crank up dance music she comes running to me as if to say it is time to dance.

Well that is all for now until next time. Make sure to get your cat(s) or dog(s) fixed to help keep the pet population down in our community. Remember to visit our elderly and shut ins and have a coffee or tea with them. Stay warm!

I almost forgot, if you are watching TV and come across two programs called, “Psycho Kitty” or “Kitty 911”, check them out. One deals with people who have problems with their cat(s) and the other is of two ladies who started a rescue program in BC for abandoned and injured cats and mother cats with kittens. They are cleaned and checked by the Vet and find their forever homes or foster homes for some cats. It is real nice and interesting to watch.

If you were wondering why I had no article in the past issues it’s because I kept missing the deadline for submitting my article.

Dennis L. McGregor
She-Pet Elizabeth, Empress Farrah and Webby Debby (The girls)
Luka, Tinker, B.J, Fabio and Francis (The boys)
The membership office is open daily to assist band members with membership such as renewing your status card or registering life events. Life events are required to be registered. These include births, name change, marriages, divorces, and death.

**Birth reporting:** Parents, it is your responsibility to register your child for Indian Status as soon as possible. A newborn is covered under the parent(s) until their first birthday. If you child is not registered as a status Indian, then the parent(s) is financially responsible for non-insured health benefits. To register your child, a registration form is required to be completed by the parent(s) and the long form birth certificate is required (also known as statement of live birth).

Main Benefits of Indian Status and Band Membership (Citizenship) may include:

1) Indian Status: possibly post-secondary education assistance, non-insured health coverage, treaty payments (if applicable), and exemption from certain federal and provincial taxes.

2) Band Membership (Citizenship): right to reside on reserve, right to housing, voting privileges within the band, and right to community involvement and affairs.

**MAILING ADDRESS UPDATE**

Members of Whitefish River First Nation, please update your mailing address and contact information with the WRFN Membership Clerk. Your mailing address is required for voting purposes within the band, (i.e. elections, referendums), as well as distributing information.

Please contact Kathleen Migwanabi at the WRFN Administration Office at (705)285-4335 ext. 208, FAX: (705)285-4532 or by email at kathleenm@whitefishriver.ca
Birthday Wishes

Happy 2nd Birthday to our love bug, Isla, on April 9th! You may be just 24 months old, but you have given us the happiness of a lifetime. We love you baby girl!

Love Mommy & Daddy xoxo

Happy Birthday wishes to:
Auntie Val on April 8th
Ashley on April 10th
Uncle Buck on April 21st
From Brianna, Johnny & Isla

Happy 2nd Birthday to our granddaughter Isla. You aren’t just two.. you are too cute, too sweet and too adventurous and fun! You’ve had first steps, smiles, laughs and first words. This coming year will be filled with the wonder and joy of discovering our big, beautiful world. Double the years and double the love.

Hugs & Kisses Grandma & Poppa

Happy Birthday to my “big sis” Val on April 8th. Happy Birthday to the “baby” of the family Larry on April 21st. Cheers to both of you!

Love Karen & Brian

From Miss Congeniality:
Stan Fields : Miss Rhode Island, please describe your idea of a perfect date.
Cheryl “Rhode Island”: That’s a tough one. I’d have to say April 25th. Because it’s not too hot, not too cold, all you need is a light jacket.

It is the perfect date, because that’s the date of my baby’s birthday, Miss Kiana Rae Pelletier!!!!

Happy Birthday from your mom and brothers!!!
Thank You for Prayers and Support
Naomi McGregor, Community Member

Dean Victor Augustine McGregor
Wawashkesh
October 2, 1957 - March 18, 2017

Chi miigwetch for the outpour of prayers and support from the community for our family.

Dean has touched many over the years with his quick wit and humour (surveyed as 2nd funniest in the community at a WRFN family feud carnival event).

Dean loved people, enjoyed a visit, playing drums with the boys, loud music and classic cars. You may have caught a wave as he drove through the community daily with his dogs in tow.

Dean was proud to have built his own home, his work at Bell Canada and wouldn’t hesitate to offer his technical skills to anyone having telecommunication issues. Dean is that one-of-a-kind person you don’t get to meet everyday and he will be surely missed by many and we wish to offer thanks to:

Our Creator
Council and Citizens of Whitefish River First Nation
Chief Shining Turtle
Craig Abotossaway for guidance
Firekeepers: Fabian Paibomsai, Barry Pitawanakwat, Joe Paibomsai, Troy Pitawanakwat
Mushkeway gaabo Drum
Wiky Drum
Julian Nowgabow (flute solo)
Paul McDonald (piper)
Late night jam session: Jules, Kager and Derek
Mike Rudolph for the amazing tire burnout tribute
Dr. Jeffrey
Dr. Meikkleham
Manitoulin Health Centre/EMS-Little Current
Health Sciences North
Mnaamodzawin Noojmowin Teg Health Centre (Anna, Tanya, Carolyn)
Whitefish River Health Centre
UCCM Police Services
St. Gabriel Lalemant and FR. Anthony Baranowski, Dea- con Dan Larouche and Diane Musgrove Lougheeds
Robert Belleau, Carl Cywink, Joe Recollet, Wayne McGregor, Kiki Pelletier, Frances Sanderson, David McGregor, Jessica McCutcheon, Kevin McCutcheon, Regan Langevin, Debbie Shawanda, Veronica Recollet, Denny McGregor, Charlene and Al McNevin, Ryan Corbiere, Mark Mani- towai, Bill Muraz and Team Wolfie’s

Miiigwetch for all feast donations, floral tributes and cards of sympathy and prayer

We are truly grateful to all - Naomi, Matt and Jess
Together with their families - Dawn, Boss, Bez, Lisa, Mike, Cree, Mel and Jay

From Naomi to Dean: “Thank you for our lives together, our son, our home and for bringing me into this wonderful community of Whitefish River. Please know Everything will be alright. Journey well my love xoxo”
COMMUNIQUÉ

TO: First Nations Leadership  
FROM: COO Executive Office  
DATE: March 2, 2017  
RE: ELIMINATION OF THE DELIVERY CHARGE TO ON-RESERVE FIRST NATIONS

The Chiefs of Ontario is acknowledging the hard work and dedication of the Chiefs Committee on Energy for their continued advocacy for the development of a First Nations Energy Rate. Nya:weh/Miigwetch to Chief Ava Hill, Chief Shining Turtle, Chief Dan Miskokomon and Chief Janice Henderson.

We are pleased by Premier Wynne’s announcement this morning of Ontario’s Fair Hydro Plan. After several engagement sessions with First Nations during the fall of 2016, recommendations were submitted to the Minister of Energy that included the elimination of the delivery charge for First Nations citizens.

Premier Wynne’s Ontario’s Fair Hydro Plan announcement this morning is celebrated and one that will cement further government-to-government dialogue. The plan includes:

- First Nations On-Reserve Delivery Credit, a complete elimination of the delivery charge for on-reserve First Nation citizens;
- An average of 25% reduction of the overall bill;
- Enhanced relief through the Rural or Remote Electricity Rate Protection, at approximately $75/month for Hydro One R2 customers and $18/month for Hydro One R1 customers;
- Access to the New Affordability Fund, which will provide up front funding for energy conservation measures such as: Cold climate air source heat pumps, insulation, weather stripping, energy efficient lighting, energy efficient appliances, windows, etc.; and
- Enhancement of the Ontario Electricity Support Program, which includes Indigenous specific support of up to $113.

These changes are expected to be implemented by the summer of 2017.

The Chiefs of Ontario would also like to acknowledge the former Minister of Energy Hon. Bob Chiarelli, current Minster of Energy Hon. Glenn Thibeault, Premier Kathleen Wynne and her Cabinet.

You spoke and they listened.

APRIL 8TH 2017

SEED EXCHANGE

Location: the WRFN Community Centre
Time: 10 a.m. to 12 p.m

All ARE WELCOME 

Bring your flower, herb, and vegetable seeds to swap and maybe get a few new ones that you haven’t thought of growing! There will be knowledge sharing, and a few ideas floating around that will make it an interesting morning of growth. Come out and connect with other growers in our community!

PEER TO PEER TRAINING

Peer to Peer Training is a two day workshop for youth. The workshop will include suicide prevention training as well as training on how to support each other as peers.

For Further Information Please Contact Amber Zona, Youth Support Worker

APRIL 5TH & 6TH

ESPANOLA HIGH SCHOOL

ROOM TO BE DETERMINED

FOOD AND SNACKS PROVIDED

PLEASE REGISTER AND HAVE PERMISSION FORM COMPLETED BEFORE TRAINING DATE

WHITEFISH RIVER FIRST NATION
Accepting applications at the Whitefish River First Nation Health Services 128 Rainbow Ridge RD Birch Island ON 705-285-4354
## Administration Office: (705)-285-4335

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Job Title</th>
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## Health Centre: (705)-285-4354

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## Shawanosowe School: (705)-285-1311

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## Maamwe Kendaasing Child Care Centre: (705)-285-7777

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<tr>
<td>Jo-Ann Recollet</td>
<td>School/Cultural Educator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cindy Tarr</td>
<td>Toddler Educator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blanch Recollet</td>
<td>Cook</td>
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