WRFN Winter Wonderland!

The Whoville themed entry was the winner in the Best Family Costume Category.

Brisk winter winds could not dampen WRFN community spirit at the "Winter Wonderland" themed Christmas parade hosted by Shawanosowe School on November 30, 2019. A record number of floats, walking entries and pets participated in this Annual event, a kick-off to the holiday season. In total the parade had 20 floats including; four buses, a fire truck and UCCM police, five walking and two pet entries. The parade started at WRFN Administration, where community members warmed up with hot chocolate and hot dogs served in Council Chambers. It then wound through the community ending at Shawanosowe School, where a delicious meal of chili and scone was served in the school gymnasium as the prizes were awarded.

This is the 19th Annual Christmas Parade, and we can look forward to an event next year that exceeds expectations! Chi-Migwetch to everyone involved that helped to make this exciting event a success.

Please note that the deadline for submissions for the next issue is Monday, December 16th, 2019 at noon.

Miigwetch!
rezoundeditor@whitefishriver.ca
Season’s Greetings fellow community members!

First of all, there are some major changes happening within the Health and Social Services Department. The main change is the separation of the two departments. Now there will be a Health Department and a Family Well-Being Department. I will be the Manager of the Family Well-Being Department and will start my new role at the end of November. I am very excited at the prospect as I am interested in social change and development. Both departments will still be housed at the Community Health Centre until a suitable location that can accommodate the staff is determined.

Christmas is almost upon us and we will be busy elves until the New Year. We kick off December with the Youth and Elder’s Christmas Dinner on December 4th, 2019.

A reminder that the Health Centre will be closed from December 21st, 2019 to January 5th, 2020 for Christmas Break. Please contact 911 if you require immediate medical assistance. Clinics at Noojmowin Teg Health Centre will be open for service during select days and I will post that information on the front door of the Health Centre.

If you are requiring long-distance travel for medical appointments over the Christmas break or early January, please submit your request by December 6th, 2019. This time will allow us to seek approvals from Indigenous Services Canada, Non-Insured Health Benefits (formerly Health Canada) in a timely manner. It normally takes up to 2 weeks to get the approvals from the date we apply.

I have provided some infographics on how to dress for the cold weather and hypothermia.

Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at the Health Centre at (705) 285-4354 or via email at: lmgregor@whitefishriver.ca.

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**Tips on How to Dress for The Cold Weather**

- **Base Layer**
  - Light layers that allow freedom of movement
  - Layer of moisture-wicking fabric

- **Warm Layer**
  - Mid-layer for comfort
  - Light layers for additional insulation

- **Middle Layer**
  - Insulated layer for warmth
  - Synthetic insulation

- **Outer Layer**
  - Wind- and water-resistant
  - Waterproof or water-resistant

- **Headgear**
  - Beanie or hat
  - Fleece or wool hat

- **Gloves**
  - Wind-resistant
  - Insulated gloves

- **Wetsuit**
  - Neoprene wetsuit
  - Drysuit

- **Footwear**
  - Boots
  - Rubber or insulated boots

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**Mnidoo Giisonh 2019**

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It’s that time of year where we all get stressed over purchasing the perfect gift for our loved ones. I think the perfect gifts to give are love, kindness, compassion, respect, understanding, forgiveness and laughter.

Over the holiday season we should also appreciate the gift of simply being with family while remembering to celebrate life every day and not for just one day of the year. Spending time with your family and creating memories is also a way to teach our children by example.

I attended a ‘Land is Medicine’ conference on November 5th and 6th, and an underlying message I took away was our present-day disconnect to the land. Mother Earth is missing our shadows, visits and voices of laughter. Gathering medicines, berry picking, harvesting fish and hunting are all ways we can reconnect with the land.

We have such a beautiful community where our leadership works hard at maintenance and upkeep of outdoor recreational sites. When I was younger, I remember family members and community members working together to clean a local pond so we had a place to skate. We would also be outside, both day and night creating sliding races with whatever we had available. It’s these memories and traditions that children will remember.

Merry Christmas to everyone and I wish you all a very Happy New Year in 2020! So hopefully I will see you either at the rink or at a hill with your family.

If you have questions please don’t hesitate to contact me at the Health Center at (705) 285-4354 or via email at wpailbomsai@whitefishriver.ca.
Mental Health & Addictions Worker (NNADAP) - Michael Aelick

Aanii, November was a busy but eventful month. National Addiction Awareness Week ran from Sunday, November 24th to Friday the 29th. The theme this year was Stigma Ends with Me. Stigma is one of the most significant barriers to treatment and recovery. “Words are important. If you want to care for something, you call it a flower; if you want to kill something, you call it a weed.” -Don Coy-"his.

Events that took place during National Addiction Awareness Week were as follows: Photovoice project that will be introduced during National Addictions Awareness (NAA) Week. Going into the Holiday Season can be a stressful time of year. It is essential to keep in mind the practice of self-care to ensure that we remain balanced emotionally, physically, mentally and spiritually.

The Health Centre is looking to develop a list of available Fire-Keeper in the community. If you would like to help support your community during Ceremonies, Feasts and other important events, please call me at the Health Centre to add your name to the list.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at the Health Centre at 705-285-4354 or by e-mail at maelick@whitefishriver.ca.

Health Promotion Educator – Jasmine Fournier

This month’s cannabis safety tip:

Remember that even though cannabis is now legal for those over the age of 19 in Ontario it is an addictive substance. I hear a lot of misconceptions that cannabis is not addictive. The reality is that around 1 in 10 of adults who use cannabis daily and 1 in 6 of youth who use daily, develop a cannabis use disorder (1). These rates change when we are looking at Indigenous people entering treatment at National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs (NNADAP) and National Youth Solvent Abuse Programs. “According to the Addictions Management Information System (AMIS), the rate of cannabis use by adults entering treatment is 64%, with equal usage among females and males. Cannabis use is the number one substance used among First Nations youth, at 89% reporting frequent usage” (2). These numbers are yet another reason why I am passionate about open honest dialogues about substance use, misuse and addictions. If you choose to use, start low and go slow.

As always, you can contact me at the Health Centre 750-285-4354 or by e-mail jfournier@whitefishriver.ca


Frank Rickman and his top-notch CWF wrestlers entertained the all-ages crowd at the WRFN Community Centre during NAAW.

Naidoo Giisoonhs 2019

Annin!

I have attended a few meetings this month that I would like to share with you. On October 28th, I attended a meet and greet with Elders at the Seven Fires Youth and Elder Center. This event provided the opportunity to introduce myself and learn about the wants and needs of community members in attendance. This wealth of knowledge will be invaluable to guide the remainder of this project. Later that day, I also attended a cannabis by-law community consultation session in Aundeck Omni Kaning hosted by UCCMM.

I had an exciting opportunity in mid-November to participate in the Stories from our Roots project by Chiefs of Ontario. This project, “is a youth driven Photovoice project that uses photography and digital storytelling to share messages of hope, belonging, meaning, and purpose.” We learned about life promotion through stories of strength, resilience and hope. I will be sharing these skills throughout our own cannabis-based Photovoice project that will be introduced during National Addictions Awareness (NAA) Week.

National Addictions Awareness Week activities brought in Chris Gauthier of Guardian Pharmacy Little Current to provide Naloxone Training.
Family Resource Worker - Paige Jacko

This December, I will be finishing off our Parenting Group where we have met weekly to discuss parenting strategies around boundaries, behaviors and coping which I have found to be extremely beneficial. One of the other things we have been working on is positive discipline. This is an overarching philosophy that helps a child develop a conscience guided by his/her own internal discipline and compassion for others. Positive discipline is rooted in a secure, trusting, connected relationship between parent and child. Keeping in mind that the ultimate goal of discipline is to help children develop self-control and self-discipline.

Our Girl’s group will also be ending on December 12, 2019. It has been an amazing experience learning about healthy relationships, self-care strategies, bullying, and coping skills. Over the past few weeks we have built on listening to our emotions, and expressing how we feel in a positive way. We have also learned how utilizing our strategies and various grounding techniques. We have also been fortunate to welcome Suzie Stevens aboard, who has been an amazing asset within our group.

I will continue to assist families and link them to supports both in the community and external services. Working in collaboration with the Band Representative programs allows me to focus on assisting families and creating more opportunities for growth, learning, and fun. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at the Health Centre (705) 285-4354 or through email at paigej@whitefishriver.ca

As the Christmas holiday is fast approaching, families from all around the world come together to celebrate different holidays and family traditions and I want to wish you, everyone, a Happy Holiday. I can’t wait to see you guys all in the New Year!

Child & Family Well-Being Coordinator - Susan Stevens

My name is Susan Stevens, and I am beyond excited to work in my beautiful community of Whitefish River First Nation as the Child and Family Well-being Coordinator. Prior to working in Whitefish River, I had the opportunity to work at Nogdawindamin Family and Community Services as a Family Well-Being Worker. I graduated from Cambrian College in the Child and Youth Care Practitioner Program. I have also had opportunities to work in different areas in social services, such as education and child welfare.

Through my education, I have gained knowledge in areas such as Child and Adolescent Development, Child Law & Legislation, Rights & Advocacy, Behavior Programming and Family Intervention. In the upcoming months, I will be completing my full certification with the Child and Youth Care Board.

As I begin my new career path as the Child and Family Well-Being Coordinator, I will be responsible for working with community members, assist with programming, as well as assist families with any needs or challenges they may be facing.

Please remember to have a safe & happy holiday!

If you have any questions or concerns, please connect with me. I can be reached at the Whitefish River First Nation Health Centre by phone at 705-285-4354, or by email at sstevens@whitefishriver.ca

2nd Posting – EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

FULL-TIME YOUTH SUPPORT WORKER

Salary: $35,000 - $45,000 / year
(based on education and experience)

Responsibilities:

- Manages groups of children and youth; supervises children and youth’s safety and monitors interactions during programming;

- Develops and implements after school, professional development day, spring and summer break programming (basketball, volleyball, floor hockey, skating, and etc.);

- Ensures that activity schedules are inclusive and balances between age groups, genders and includes all youth;

- Adheres to protocols regarding parental permissions and liability waivers;

- Create, organize and Facilitate workshops focusing on aspects of healthy living, culture, life skills, self-esteem, alcohol and drugs, etc.;

- Assists with the supervision and assistance homework club; coordinates snacks with nutrition program;

- Creates detailed monthly calendars and circulates in the community newsletter;

- Prepare program budget and reports monthly expenses to Supervision;

- Develops and implements fundraising events for youth;

- Provides one to one support to youth as needed;

- Link with outside agencies and the community on programs relating to WFRP;

- Assists in the delivery of WFRP language and culture programs for the youth;

- Assists in the development, implementation and delivery of community events;

- Promotes education and employment amongst youth; invites guest speakers;

- Promotes and enhances youth participation in local conferences and training;

- Assists youth with educational needs through collaborations with the local schools and teachers;

- Maintains professional boundaries and professional working relationships at all times;

- Mentors and role-models positive behaviors;

- Consults with parents of children and youth;

- Develops and implements community-based and culturally relevant mental health prevention and promotion programming to engage children and youth within community.

Qualifications:

- Native Child & Family Worker, Child & Youth Worker Diploma, or 5 years related experience; preferably in a First Nation Community or Indigenous organization;

- Demonstrated ability to follow direction and work with little supervision;

- Knowledge of Health and Safety and Child and Family Services Legislation;

- Knowledge and understanding of Indigenous culture, language and healing practices, in addition to experience working with Indigenous families;

- Excellent communication and negotiation skills along with the ability to effectively maintain solution focused dialogue;

- Ability to develop collaborative relationships with youth and other service providers;

- Knowledge of needs of WFRP youth and families, or the willingness to learn;

- Excellent verbal, written and interpersonal communication skills;

- Clear Driver’s Abstract, ability to drive, and a reliable vehicle;

- Maintenance of an ongoing clear Police Vulnerable Sector Screening Check;

- Valid Standard First Aid Certificate and CPR; Mental Health First Aid; and A.S.I.S.T Certification; and

- Ability to travel and to work flexible hours according to the needs of youth.

Applications will be accepted via email, fax, and mail or in person to the attention of:

CONFIDENTIAL
Andrea McGregor, Human Resources Manager
Whitefish River First Nation; 17-A Rainbow Ridge Road; P.O. Box 188; Birch Island; ON P0P1A0
Email: humanresources@whitefishriver.ca; Fax: (705)285-4352

Applications must be submitted by December 10th, 2019 by 4:30 p.m. and must include the following: Cover letter, current resume, copies of applicable Diplomas and 3 reference names (with contact information).
Due to the lack of a guest, I am looking forward to having local photographers, Tahnee McGregor and Tammy Assineiwai, on site to snap pictures of our annual event. Tahnee McGregor will be providing games and throughout the evening and we may be lucky enough to get a visit from a special guest. I am looking forward to some good food and good company.

Due to the lack of participants at the Jr. Youth Leadership Program (Grades 7 & 8), I will be moving up to the school gym to host Right to Play games and activities. This program will be open to youth ages 12 to 18.

Happy December everyone!

The Jr. Youth Leadership program has been successful in attendance this past couple of months. They will soon be organizing upcoming events for the community.

There will be no programming on December 11. 2019.

Drop in Nights are still happening down at the Youth and Elders Center every Friday from 6pm-10pm. Please note that this is not related to programming and there will be WRFN Health Staff present during that time.

Please be safe this holiday break and Happy New Year to everyone! 2020 is going to be great!

If you have any questions regarding any programs please feel free to email me at righttoplay@whitefishriver.ca or contact me at the Health Centre at 705-285-4354.

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### Right to Play Worker - Crystal Clark-McGregor

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**December 2019**

**Community Youth Program Calendar**

- ** Ages 12 to 18 **
  - Tuesdays evenings: 4:30 to 6:00pm
    - Right to Play games at Shewanosowe School
  - Wednesdays evenings:
    - Homework Session: 4:30 to 8:00pm
    - Sr. Youth Leadership Program: 6:00 to 9:30pm
  - Thursdays evenings: 7:00pm to 9:00pm
    - Recreation Night at Shewanosowe School

- ** Ages 14 to 18 **
  - Fridays are Youth Drop in Night 6:00pm to 10:00pm

For more information on Youth Programs, please contact Crystal Clark-McGregor, Right to Play Community Mentor at the Youth & Elder’s Center at 705-285-1755 or righttoplay@whitefishriver.ca
Whitefish River First Nation

KINGS DAY

Feast

Please join as we Celebrate
the beginning of a New
Year!

JAN. 6 2020

WRFN Community Centre

5:00 PM
COMMUNITY POTLUCK
Please bring your favourite dish to share.

For more information
Contact the Administration Office at 705-285-4335
November was busy with many seniors events including the following: Straight Talk with Cancer Care Ontario, Seniors Cookbook Planning, Christmas Tree Trimmings, Seniors Painting 102, Christmas Card Social, Seniors Tea Social and November birthday cake acknowledgements. I have also been busy with advocacy and referral supports.

For December I can assist with the following:
- Gift wrapping (in house stock of wrapping paper and tags)
- Christmas card (in house stock)
- Birthday cake acknowledgements – December 20

Reminder that the Seven Fire Youth and Elder Centre is open Monday to Friday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm for seniors to enjoy. We are open for coffee, baking, a place to finish your crafts or friendly visits with each other.

If you would like moose or deer (fish pending availability) please come and pick some up for a healthy and delicious meal.

I am available to assist with the following, but not limited to:
- Referrals to Internal and External supports
- Advocacy (Medical, Housing, Mental Health, Bill Payments, etc.)
- Medical Transportation supports
- Daily practical living referrals (Homemaking, Home maintenance, etc.)
- Application supports (OAS, etc.)
- Collaborate on activities that assist in health and wellness activities
- One to one supports for promotion, prevention, intervention, and aftercare.

I look forward to hearing from you at 705-285-1755 or email at maridam@whitefishriver.ca.

Please contact Marida McGregor at 705-285-1755 for further information.

Migwetch!
This past month, our Shawanosowe students have enjoyed a variety of healthy and nutritious food. We have formed a really enthusiastic relationship with the school children. Some students assist with the mealtime routines by getting classmates in line, checking off names on the list or even getting soup for a fellow student that may not be feeling well. One students anticipates our arrival and has on occasion even helped to serve fellow classmates.

Our bussing students have enjoyed subs, sandwichs, kielbasa/cheese and crackers served with vegetables and dip, fresh cut fruit, homemade muffins, bread pudding and custom made pizzas! Daily lunches are available Tuesday to Friday on a weekly basis with the exception of weeks including a long weekend or PD Days. We would like to encourage all students to make use of the prepared lunches that are healthy and nutritious. I am trying to make a “7 out of 9” lunch which means seven of the nine daily nutritional requirements that are needed for proper development are included.

Community Lunch
This month we had a pasta themed school community lunch. We prepared the main dishes and the children and parents made the side dishes and desserts. It is so nice that many parents look forward to this lunch as a time to catch up with what’s going on, time to take a quick look at accomplishments and most importantly really becoming part of the “school family”.

Healthy Kids
Over the Holiday season we are constantly indulging, but really who doesn’t?! So enjoy all the delectable treats this holiday season but make sure to have a few good batches of vegetables in soup, smoothies or main dishes to help keep your immune systems at top-notch. A smoothie is a quick way to get greens in there when in a rush, or even a quick salad. A good tip is to keep vegetables and fruits washed and cleaned in a container in the fridge, at eye level with children so that they will see the healthy snacks first.

Holiday Safety Tips:
There are many things that can go wrong with leftovers, the most common one is improper storage. Remember to put food away in the refrigerator and covered. If something is served cold, it should stay cold, if it becomes warm it would be best to discard. Likewise, if something is served hot, it should stay hot. Always cook food to the proper required temperature, as listed in your recipe. Washing hands is very good way of keeping food-borne bacteria and illnesses free. Most times we do not wash hands with the proper technique, soap and warm water leaving the window open for contamination and illnesses. The kids sing their ABC’s while washing their hands, this gives them the proper time to lather up properly, rinse and be ready to towel off.

Enjoy the holidays, time for family, food and family fun. May you dream of sugarplums dancing while you sleep. Baa maal!!

Food Security Assistant - Louanne Megwanab

13 Moons Garden
by Michael Aelick
Forest of Food
As Biboonkeonini (winter maker) graces the night sky and the land goes into rest for the winter season, I will talk about the concept of growing food in a Food Forest. The Food Forest also referred to as Permaculture, stands for permanent agriculture. An edible food forest can be established from bare land as well as incorporated within an existing forest. Food forest designs work with nature and become more self-sufficient when established. Meaning, it will function as a living organism and should require very little additional inputs. While living systems have required inputs that sustain life like sunlight, air, water and soil to support it, if these inputs are impaired, it can harm the plants. The additional inputs that I’m referring to are watering, tilling, weeding and the addition of fertilizers. From a permaculture view, ethical actions are those that support life, while unethical actions harm or destroy life needlessly. Three ethics guide to permaculture design and are as follows.

1. Care of the Earth. Earth is the very thing that sustains us and provides us with all the essentials. Soil is often the best gauge for the health of the surrounding environment. The easiest method to tell if the soil is healthy is to see how much life exists there.

2. Care of the People. It begins with ourselves and extends to include families, neighbours and communities. It can we recognize that greater wisdom lies within a group of people, we can work with others to bring the best outcomes for everyone.

3. Return of surplus to people and the earth. If all the resources produced were divided equally, with each person receiving an equal amount. What would happen if people took more than their fair share? Ultimately, someone would have to go without their share.

There are also twelve design principles to consider along with the three ethics. The twelve design principles are as follows.

1. Observe and interact. We can learn a lot from nature and each other.

2. Catch and store energy. Learning how to capture and store energy is essential to living sustainably.

3. Obtain a yield. It can be as simple as growing food but can also be about happiness, health and well-being.

4. Apply self-regulation and accept feedback. Understanding our success and failures are necessary for creating change.

5. Use and value renewable. Learn to use the power of the sun, wind, and water to grow food and to power our homes.

6. Produce no waste. Moving towards “zero-waste” means looking at all the trash we throw out and trying to eliminate it.

7. Design from patterns to details. Thinking holistically about all areas of our lives can help us move forward in a positive direction.

8. Integrate rather than segregate. Use systems that benefit each other

9. Use small slow solutions. Overhauling your entire philosophy at once is unnecessary. Use small obtainable changes to meet your goals.

10. Use the value of diversity. Ecosystems, as well as society, work best when filled with a greater variety.

11. Use the edges and value the marginal. Making use of all the resources that we have at our disposal involves considering fringes and fringe elements.

12. Creatively use and respond to change. Change is an inescapable part of life.

In the up and coming articles, I will cover other concepts that make up permaculture and food forest. I hope you have found this article informative and enjoyable. If you have any questions or comments, please send me a message on Facebook at 13 Moons Garden. Plant a garden, share the bounty and repeat next season.
Registration Forms available at WRFN Administration.

REGISTRATION FEE: $100/PLAYER

Registration fees to be paid directly to WRFN Administration.

Registration Deadline: December 18th, 2019
Registration Fee Payable by: January 24th, 2020

Please contact WRFN Administration at 705-285-4335 for more information.
Maamwe Kendaasing Child Care Centre

Aanii Kinawaya,
December is here! Time sure is flying by, as the days have been filled with a lot of learning opportunities not only for our students, but also for our educators. We believe that learning is a continual journey both formally and informally, and as an educator we are always learning more about bettering our practice through critical self-reflection and collaborative inquiry. This form of learning helps us plan for our future learners in a more meaningful way and can be quite transformative. This month our staff and children will be busy getting ready for the annual Christmas Concert and our Family Christmas Feast; I hope to see everyone at each event. In closing, I would like to wish all our families and community members a safe and happy holiday.

Programming

Aanii from the Toddler Room
We have been so busy enjoying the snow and what winter has to offer. The children are enjoying laying in the snow and catching snowflakes with their mouths. With that being said please ensure your child has extra clothes, as this is the season that children get especially wet. In our classroom we have been completing a lot of winter masterpieces, so your children’s art box will be full. The children have also been experimenting with light and colours through play and discovery. We have been encouraging the children to experiment themselves and see what happens. The children have really been enjoying the child directed activities; they have been pushing their own limits and are really coming out of their shells learning new skills. With Christmas just around the corner we will be having some baking activities, and helping the children make their own gifts for their caregivers. The Christmas concert will also be coming up and we hope to see you all there to enjoy the daycare’s act.

Aanii From the Preschool Room
With the month of December upon us, it will be a very busy one for us in the preschool room. We’ve been getting ready for the Christmas Concert, Christmas Family Dinner and gearing up for the Holidays. This month we will be focusing our activities on Christmas and winter themes, and of course baking some treats to get us through the holidays with cheer, as the children love to bake. Also, in our programming we will continue to learn the days of the week in Anishinaabemowin with the actions. I can see the joy in the children’s eyes and the smiles on their faces when it’s time to sing the days of the week in Anishinaabemowin. I would also hope to start the colours in Ojibway with the children before the holidays start with the help of our Anishinaabemowin teacher supporting our fluency and pronunciation. Lastly, a friendly reminder that it’s that time of the year to ensure that your child comes dressed for the weather. (Hats, mittens, snow pants, boots, extra pair of clothing, and indoor shoes are a must!)

Day Care Spaces
Currently, our toddler program is full, we have space in our preschool program, and a few spaces in the school age program, however, this changes frequently and parents are encouraged to fill out an application. The Centre requires updated employment information should parents require full time day care services as per our policy, and socialization programming will be offered if space is open.

Our recruitment efforts have been quite successful and we have recruited Giselle McGregor to support our Centre in various capacities, she comes with many years of experience in education and as a Community Based Educator in the early years. We have also recruited Natasha Laundrie and she will assist us in our programs where needed, she comes with much experience in health, wellness, and community living programming. We welcome our new staff to our early learning family, and look forward to an amazing New Year! We will continue with recruitment efforts with full-time staff, relief staff, and supply staff, as our new license will allow for higher enrollment into our programs, so please stop by and fill out an application to get the ball rolling if you require care now or in the future!

Child Care Closure:

December 20: Early Dismissal at 2:00
Day care open January 6, 2020
from Christmas Holidays
Visitors to Centre:
Health and Wellbeing Educator, Kim Stewart
Speech and Language Speech Pathologist, Jan Addy
Child Nutrition Coordinator, Cody Leeson
Anishinaabemowin Educator, Marion McGregor
School Health Support Services
Happy Birthday to those celebrating in December!

Baamapii,
Maamwe Kendaasing Eknoomaaget

Whitefish River
First Nation

DEAR POST SECONDARY STUDENT:

On behalf of Chief and Council, we offer our congratulations to you in pursuing your Post Secondary Education, Council recognizes the hard work and commitment you have made with your education. We are confident you will do well in your studies. Good Luck!

We are providing a friendly reminder that submitting your Post Secondary marks to the Whitefish River Education Manager is very important. We look forward to receiving your marks showing the positive progress you are making. Again congratulations!

Sincerely on behalf of Council,
Chief Shining Turtle
The Bobcat

Aanii Parents/Families

As the weeks in the school year continue to fly by, I find it hard to believe that we are already through November.

Treaties Recognition Week with a visit from Sacred Heart grade 5/6 students meeting up with our Grade 5/6 class at Dreamers Rock to learn about Treaties with Esther Osche. Treaty Week was also the focus for the first week of November where all classes participated in activities to learn more about treaties. The Wilkemwoong Robotic team members visited Shawanosowe on November 5th, to mentor our two robotic teams here at the school. Each team consists of 7-8 members and have created their individual team names which are the Mech. Crafters and 8 Amigos. On November 7th, Jason Stewart from Spanish High School presented his knowledge of Podcasting to our Grade 5/6 class. Students were taught the planning process to creating an exciting podcast and collectively created their own school podcast name! ‘Biwiiw Banter’ was the decided upon name, with the catch phrase ‘Hear Us Roar’.

Our students led their own Remembrance Day ceremony on November 8th, in recognition of Aboriginal Veterans Day. Progress reports were sent home to parents on November 12th. As well on November 12 and 13th, Shawanosowe School held sessions at ter hours for parents/students to learn how to make their own moccasins in readiness for the Annual Rock your Moccas Day. November 15th was a Professional Development Day and all staff at Shawanosowe attended the Anishinaabemowin Language conference in Wilkemwoong. Archery training, under NASP, was provided for Shawanosowe staff on November 18th and 19th and we hosted an after-hours session for parents as well. We hope with this training, we can begin to introduce students to archery as part of our physical education program. On November 21st, a few staff will be trained on the Aboriginal Children’s Health and Well-being Measure (ACHWM). We will be resending permission forms to families to participate in this program as we have been selected as a pilot school within the Kinooamazhiwini Education Body. Look for more information to follow in the upcoming weeks.

The monthly community luncheon was held on November 21st, and as usual Migwetch to WRFN Health and the parents and guardians, without whom these luncheons would not be possible. Science North was the destination of choice for our Grade 3/4 and Grade 5/6 classes on November 21st, as they took their learning outside the classroom. On November 29th, our Kindergarten class travelled to Moga Mania for some fun indoor play. November’s highlight of the month was the Annual Santa Claus Parade hosted by the school with a Winter Wonderland theme. Students worked hard on their float and as usual there was amazing turnout for this Annual event.

December Events

December 5: Science North visits Shawanosowe. Students will learn about coding, climate change & AI.

December 11: Community luncheon at 12:30pm.

December 12: Grade 3/4 & 5/6 class trip to Sudbury Theatre Centre to watch ‘A Christmas Tale’.

December 18: Shawanosowe School Christmas concert at 6:00pm.

December 20: Last day of school before Christmas holidays!!

As the month of December progresses we will continue to look for additional learning opportunities for our students. Parents/families are always welcome and are encouraged to take part in classroom activities.

Migwetch

Daniel

Shawanosowe School travelled to visit the "Wigwaas Jiimaan Waashi Zhitoong” hosted at the Debajehmujig Creation Centre.

The Class of the End of the Hall

By Jackson & Nolita

The Grade 5 and 6 class has some really great news to share with you! Our class is so excited for the start of the First Lego League! We have been training with our robots, and are looking forward to our first tournament in December. We are also going to be making a school float for the Christmas parade. We drive (or are driven) around Birch Island throwing candy canes and peppermint balls to share! This month our class and Mr. Legrow’s Grade 3/4 class travelled to Science North and learned about a Sea Turtle named Bungy, and its ocean journey in Turtle Odyssey. We are so hyped for our next adventures!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Staff & Students of Shawanosowe School!
Shamanosome School Presents

DECEMBER 18TH 2019

Christmas Concert

Santa's all night snacking has made him a little too round, and he gets stuck in the chimney! Will the animals be able to save him in the (Saint) nick of time?

@Community Centre

STARTS AT 6PM

Save the date! Come and join us!
Congratulations to the 2019 Cambrian College Pre-apprenticeship Carpentry Graduates.

A Credit Education Workshop with John Cockburn, Financial Empowerment Coordinator was hosted November 12, 2019 at the Community Centre.

Bentley & Leo build the “Treaty of Niagara” wampum belt with LEGO.

Whitefish River First Nation remembers. Lest we forget.

The Wilkwemkoong Robotics Team mentors Shawanoswe School students.

Dakota enjoys the butterfly conservatory on the trip to Science North.
The Shawanosowe School Float was a crowd pleaser for all ages.

Lisa Cywink sings in the Holidays on her music themed float.

Merry Christmas from the Talbossigai Family!

The Francis family was Runner-up in the float contest.

There was a mixed holiday theme on the Sutherland entry.

Carol Hughes, NDP MP makes an enthusiastic appearance at the WRFN Christmas Parade.
1. Chief and Council have set their key Strategic priorities for their term of office and these are:
   a. Serving the People
   b. Wellness
   c. Education
   d. Economy
   e. Good Governance

   2. Health and Social Services
   You may have seen an employment posting seeking a Health Manager which closes December 11th. This is part of the restructuring between Health and Social Services which we feel will meet at least three strategic priorities: Serving the People, Wellness and education. Part of the restructuring is having a dedicated Health Manager and Social Services Managers.

   The social services will evolve to a Family Well-Being unit and Leslie McGregor has agreed to lead this unit as the Family Well-Being Manager. The new Health Manager will be hired and likely in place by January 2020.

3. Annual Christmas Parade
   The 2019 Annual WRFN Christmas Parade will be organized and led by Shawanoswe School and is planned for November 30th.

4. Maamwe Kendaasig Early Learning & Innovation Centre

   Our new Daycare is in its final stages of construction and inspections. Since the daycare is moving to a new site, a new licence is required and we are finalizing all the documentation to secure a new licence. We are anticipating the Grand Opening in December.

5. Staff Recruitment
   You may have seen many positions posted as of late. We will continue to search for the best possible candidates to fill the positions and we ask for your help to get the word out and encourage Whitefish River First Nation members to apply.

6. UCCM Police Service
   Chief Shining Turtle and I met with the UCCM Interim Chief of Police, Yves Forget and part of the discussion included community policing as well as increasing police presence. Interim Police Chief talked about creating a store front office to increase police presence and asked if Whitefish River can allocate some office space to the UCCM police. The Seven Fires Youth & Elders Center was identified as a possible place to provide space to UCCM Police. Office space can be shared between the Senior Navigator and UCCM Police. UCCM Police signage would also be posted at the center. There are some final logistics that need to be worked out, however we will soon see UCCM Police Services at the Seven Fires Youth & Elders Center.

7. The Whitefish River First Nation Citizenship Code was approved on April 6, 1987, some 32 years ago. As part of Council strategic priorities involving good governance, Council has directed administration to prepare a question to the citizens to seek input on any interest on updating the UCCM Citizenship Code. It is a very similar process we followed regarding our custom election code. We will be using Survey Monkey to poll citizens whether there is an interest, and it will be conducted from November 22nd to December 13th, 2019.

   The question we are putting forward is:
   **Do you support updating the 1987 Whitefish River First Nation Citizenship Code?**

   We encourage all citizens to part take with the survey.

   Some dates to keep in mind:
   1. Annual Craft Bazaar, December 1st
   2. Staff Christmas Dinner December 11th at the Manitoulin Hotel & Conference Centre
   3. Daycare Early Learning and Innovation Centre Grand Opening December 2019

   Shawanoswe School Christmas concert, December 18th

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**WHITEFISH RIVER FIRST NATION INFORMATION FEDERAL FUEL CHARGE "CARBON PRICING"**

**BACKGROUND**

The federal government has implemented carbon pricing as part of its efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and address the problem of climate change. Carbon pricing is in federal legislation called the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act, SC 2018, c 12, s 186. Under this Act, provinces may pass their own carbon pricing systems. If a province does not have a carbon pricing system that meets federal standards, a default “fuel charge” applies.

The government of Ontario does not currently have its own carbon pricing system. So the federal “fuel charge” applies. The fuel charge took effect on April 1, 2019.

**WHAT ARE CLIMATE ACTION INCENTIVE PAYMENTS**

To receive your Climate Action Incentive payment, you have to file taxes. They are an annual payment issued as part of your tax refund from the Canada Revenue Agency. The 2019 returns, to be filed in 2020 will be eligible.

Note: that there is an additional 10% benefit for rural and small communities, you are entitled to this, so make sure that this additional option is selected on your tax return.

**WHAT IS WRFN DOING?**

- We are participating on this issue with Chiefs of Ontario.
- UCCMM is applying to intervene with Anishnabek Nation at the Supreme Court.
- Assembly of First Nations is also applying to intervene in the court case.
- We are identifying resources to help our members with tax returns and claiming rebates.

**WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?**


**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE WHITEFISH RIVER FIRST NATION ADMINISTRATION OFFICE 705-285-4335**

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**HOWN MUCH WILL THIS COST?**

The federal government estimates that in 2019 the cost to the average household will be $256.00. The Fuel Charge will be added to the price of fuels directly by fuel distributors.

**HOW MUCH MORE WILL I PAY FOR FUEL?**

The price of carbon will increase every year.

The fuel charges for 2019 are as follows:
- Gasoline: 4.42 cents per litre
- Light Fuel Oil (diesel): 3.37 cents per litre
- Natural Gas: 3.19 cents per cubic metre
- Propane: 3.10 cents per cubic metre

**CLIMATE ACTION INCENTIVE PAYMENTS**

The federal government has stated that rural households will receive more in climate action incentive payments benefits that it will spend on carbon pricing.

**FIRST ADULT $154**

**SPOUSE: $77**

**CHILD: $38**

**HOW WILL I RECEIVE MY RETURN?**

The Returns will be made as climate action incentive payments. These payments will be a benefit added onto income tax returns.
THE WAY YOU BUY TAX-EXEMPT GAS IS CHANGING

STARTING JANUARY 1, 2020

The Ontario Gas Card will be discontinued. Instead, show your Indian Status card to buy tax-exempt gas on reserve.

GAS CARD MODERNIZATION FAQs
Effective January 1, 2020, the Ontario Gas Card will be discontinued. Here are some frequently asked questions about what is changing.

What is NEW as of January 1, 2020?

Instead of the Ontario Gas Card, First Nation people will be able to use their Indian Status Card (Status Card), which is issued by the Government of Canada, as proof of entitlement to buy gasoline exempt of Ontario gasoline tax.

What version of the Status Card can be used?

First Nation individuals will be able to use the version of the card that they currently have in their possession (or may apply to the Government of Canada to obtain a Status Card if they currently are not in possession of a Status Card).

As proof of entitlement to buy tax-exempt gasoline at on-reserve retailers, First Nation individuals will use their:
- Certificate of Indian Status Card, including the laminated Certificate of Indian Status Card with no renewal date.
- Secure Certificate of Indian Status Card, or
- Temporary Confirmation of Registration Document.

How does this change impact me?

- First Nation individuals, band, band-empowered entities, and Tribal Councils will no longer need to apply to the Ontario Ministry of Finance for the Ontario Gas Card, and will no longer need to use existing Ontario Gas Cards to purchase gasoline exempt of Ontario gasoline tax.
- Authorized retailers will no longer accept the Ontario Gas Card as proof of rights to purchase gasoline exempt of Ontario gasoline tax.
- Band councils, Tribal councils, and band-empowered entities will use an Ontario-issued unique identifier number issued by the Ontario Ministry of Finance.
- The Ontario Ministry of Finance will no longer issue the Ontario Gas Card.

Will there be a grace period?

Yes. To help make this transition smoother, on-reserve retailers will still accept Ontario Gas Cards until January 31, 2020, if you have applied for and are awaiting your Status Card, you may use the Temporary Confirmation of Registration document to purchase tax-exempt gasoline.

Information on how to submit related claims using the Ontario Gas Card during the grace period will be forwarded directly to retailers.

QUESTIONS?
1-866-ONT-TAXS (1-866-668-6297)
Email: commodity.tax.ontario.ca www.ontario.ca/TaxExemptGas

Ontario

Will individuals need a new federally issued card or can they use existing ones?

Individuals are not required to obtain a new Status Card. First Nation individuals should use the Status Card in their possession to purchase gasoline exempt from gasoline tax. If the Status Card in your possession has expired, you should request a new one from Indigenous Services Canada. If your Status Card has been lost, stolen, or destroyed, then you should request a new one from Indigenous Services Canada. While awaiting your Status Card, Indigenous Services Canada will issue a Temporary Confirmation of Registration Document for use when temporary proof of Indian Status is required.

Why are you discontinuing the Ontario Gas Card?

Discontinuing the Ontario Gas Card will simplify how First Nation people and band councils buy tax-exempt gas on reserve.

There will be a new process implemented January 1, 2020, that is similar to the process they are currently using to file their claims. Ontario will help retailers transition smoothly to the updated process.

Is there a minimum age to acquire the card?

There is no minimum age for the current Ontario Gas Card. However, children under 16 years of age purchasing small amounts of gasoline for snowmobiles or off-road vehicles are permitted to use the Ontario Gas Card issued to their parents or guardians.

As of January 1, 2020, children under 16 years of age will be able to use their own or their parents’ Status Card to purchase gasoline for their exclusive use. For more information, please visit the Government of Canada’s website and check the requirements to apply for the Status Card which is issued by the Government of Canada.

Where can I get more information?

For more information, please call 1-866-ONT-TAXS (1-866-668-6297) or email commodity.tax.ontario.ca.
You may also email the Ministry of Finance at: indsinfo@ontario.ca.

From a galaxy far far away.
Manager of Community Economic Development
Sandy Jacko

Aanii, Boozhoo

The Holiday Season is upon us and Tis the season to spend. Remember to Shop Local. If you do, more of your money will be kept in the local economy and help create jobs. This also helps the environment by conserving energy and resources in the form of less fuel for transportation and less packaging. When shopping local you invest in entrepreneurs and they help the community. Studies have shown that local businesses are more likely to donate to community causes than big businesses.

Pow Wow Committee meetings will be held monthly to coordinate fundraisers and plan the 2020 Annual Traditional Pow Wow. The Pow Wow Committee will be working with the Youth Council on fundraising initiatives. Our first fundraiser is a Café House and Open Mic Night for those who want to sing, tell jokes or share poetry on December 27th at the WRFN Community Centre. It promises to be an entertaining evening. In addition, the Pow Wow Committee will be selling 50/50 tickets with the draw taking place on December 27th at the Café House and Open Mic Night. Our next Pow Wow meeting is on December 12th at the WRDC building, if you want to come out and get involved, share ideas and volunteer at our fundraisers. Hope to see you there.

The Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement Ratification Vote period is from February 1 - 29, 2020. In January, we will be hosting an information session on when, where and the voting process. For anyone looking for more information about the vote or the Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement, you can email me at sandyj@whitefishriver.ca or visit me at the Administration Office or call me at (705) 285-4335 ext. 216 or check visit the website www.governancevote.ca

WRFN POW WOW COMMITTEE MEETING

December 12th, 2019 at 6 p.m.
at the WRDC Building

Come to the meeting and let’s talk about next year’s Pow Wow

A light supper will be provided.

For more information call Sandy Jacko at (705) 285-4335 Ext 216
Consultation Coordinator - Stephen McGregor

Aanii, 

Consultation includes many fields of study, such as water management zones, the forestry industry, cultural impacts, air quality, economic concerns, social impacts, mining industry prospecting claims and archaeological concerns.

This month I am reviewing the guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists that have been established by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture and involves four stages of archaeological assessment. The reason for these four different steps or stages is to assess and record the level of ‘cultural heritage value’ of the site being examined and decide if more steps are needed to continue an archaeological assessment.

Stage One is research and investigation into the land use of the property and area. Stage Two involves consultation with aboriginal groups identified in Stage One. Stage Three of the Assessment process involves a systematic categorization of artifacts of cultural and historic significance. Stage Three analysis decides the risk of contaminating or destroying the discovery and whether it requires Stage Four. Stage Four of the archaeological assessment involves two options, one being avoidance (catalogue what has been discovered and stop site work) and excavation, which in archaeological terms is the more detailed and laborious process. The excavation process can only be used when the project cannot be avoided or the soil integrity of the site in question is weakening. The Archaeological Assessment process, though mechanical in its methodology is an important step in consultation.

On November 13th, I attended the Fisheries Management Zone 10 meeting. There are 20 Fishery Management Zones throughout Ontario. The purpose of this division is to monitor each zone by ‘customizing catch limits and seasons’. This is to allow for more fishing opportunities while protecting vulnerable fisheries, repopulation of fish as well as adjusting fishing seasons for different climates. The most recent meeting was about the Lake trout and Brook trout populations and how Lake Herring and Whitefish populations affect Lake Trout population. Another concern brought up is fishing/bait regulations as it relates to Brook Trout population. A consistent theme in these meetings seems to be bait regulations and small mouth bass population (considered an invasive species).

Watch for flyers and announcements for upcoming community engagements regarding the Fasting Grounds and Dreamers Rock access. We are hosting a session in January and hope to see knowledge holders and community members participate in this important discussion. Keep an eye out in the New Year for updates on community engagement regarding the draft consultation protocol as we will host an engagement session to enlist the community’s response to the protocol.

I’m available to speak to WRFN members regarding consultation, I can be reached at the administration office at (705)285-4335 or by email: stephenm@whitefishriver.ca.

Wishing you all a very Merry Festivus season.

Miigwech

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Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement FAQ’S

What is the Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement?
The Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement is an agreement between the Anishinabek Nation, on behalf of its member First Nations and Canada that would recognize the power of the First Nations and the Anishinabek Nation to pass laws in the areas of elections, citizenship, language and culture, and government management.

Why are we looking at a self-government agreement?
Self-government agreements provide an opportunity for First Nations to exercise more control over the way their communities are governed and to gradually move out from under parts of the Indian Act.

How will my community benefit from the Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement?
First Nations will benefit from the Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement in a number of ways. Some benefits include: First Nations designed election code, which moves the First Nations who ratify out of the Indian Act election process; First Nation citizens will take part in developing a citizenship law that reflects their rights, privileges and responsibilities that come with being a citizen of their First Nation; First Nation citizens can help develop ways to promote Anishinabemowin and culture by learning and educating others on the clan system of governance and using ceremonies in community and council meetings.

Will my Aboriginal or Treaty rights be impacted?
The Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement will not annul aboriginal or treaty rights of the First Nations who ratify the Agreement. In addition, the Agreement it is not intended to fulfill any of Canada’s treaty obligations, nor is the Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement itself a treaty.

www.governancevote.ca

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Join the negotiators of the Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement for questions and answers on Facebook Live.
Bring your Agreement questions!

Martin Bayer
Chief Negotiator
Jidé Afolabi
Deputy Negotiator

facebook Live Q&A
December 3, 2019 • 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm (EST)
governancevote.ca
Propane Furnace Cleanings
The Housing Department is now scheduling appointments for propane furnace cleanings with PSL. This service is scheduled for December 9-13, 2019. The cost for the propane furnace cleaning is $116.50. The cost also includes preventative maintenance for HRVs and hot water on demand. All registered tenants must provide access to their rental unit on their scheduled appointment. Please contact the Housing Department to schedule an appointment.

Field Beds and Snow Machines/ATVs
The Housing Department would like to remind tenants to ensure their snow machines and ATVs are kept off their field bed and other field beds in the community at all times. This includes driving your snow machine and ATV across a field bed. It is very important that the field bed portion of the septic system is maintained and kept clear of any obstructions or heavy objects. If the field bed is compacted from over usage, the underground lines could clog up and cause the septic system to back up.

Snow Removal
The Housing Department would like to remind tenants that they are responsible for snow removal at their rental units. Please note that the Housing Department only provides snow removal for the triplex units and CMHC multi-purpose units. Section 5.0 (iii) of the Rental Agreement states: “The tenant agrees to pay hydro, telephone, heating, service fees, and/or any other personal utility service; maintain the Premises by setting up and paying for regular septic service; furnace and ductwork cleanings, Heat Recovery Ventilator (HRV) cleaning, snow removal, water and garbage services.”

Occupants and Guests
The Housing Department would like to remind tenants that they must update their rental agreement when adding or removing an occupant. Section 4.0 (b) of the Rental Agreement states: “The tenant agrees that no other person(s) will be allowed to reside in the rented premises, other than those named in section 4(a), without the written approval of the First Nation. Any discovery of such person(s) shall be deemed to be a violation of this agreement and constitute grounds for eviction.” We would also like to remind tenants that guests are not permitted to stay any longer than two weeks at their rental unit. Section 6.0 (ii) of the Rental Agreement states: “The tenant agrees not to allow visitors to stay at the premises for more than two weeks at one time.” Also, please ensure your guests are respectful of your rental unit and the premises, as well as your neighbours.

If you have any questions or require more information please don’t hesitate to contact me at WRFN Administration at 705-285-4335 ext.213 or via email at briannam@whitefishriver.ca.

RentSmart Training for Youth
This four-week program will assist participants with attaining and maintaining housing through education, certification and support.

*LIMITED TO SIX PARTICIPANTS*
Please contact Brianna McGregor, Tenant Relations Worker, at 705-285-4335 ext. 213 to register.

One-on-one personal meetings with representatives of the First Nations Market Housing Fund. Call housing to make an appointment.

OUTREACH
Monday December 16th, 2019 - 10am to 4pm
Band Office - 17 Rainbow Ridge Road

First Nations
Market Housing Fund

For more information contact Georgina Recollet at (705) 285-4335 or email georginar@whitefishriver.ca.
Looking ahead to next summer’s building season. Here is a reminder of the land allotment process. If started now you could potentially be through the process by next summer. If you are interested in either a residential or recreational land allotment please visit the lands office. The following summarizes the process you can apply for:

- **Written Application:** The applicant must submit a written request addressed to Chief and Council for the parcel of land that they are interested in obtaining. The must indicate what type of land use they seek. How they plan to access the lot. The written request must be accompanied by a sketch or map of the location.
- **Access:** Will it be a road access? Or water access? It is the responsibility of the applicant to determine how they will access their proposed land allotment. Access to the lot is essential in order to register an interest in that lot.
- **Arranging for a Sketch / Map:** A sketch must accompany the written request. The lands office now has GIS capabilities and we can make this sketch/map for you! If you need assistance making a sketch please visit the lands office for help.
- **Site Check:** The applicant must attend the Lands Office in person to verify if the site is available for allotment. Inspection of the reserve survey plans then take place followed by a site inspection with the land applicant and lands office staff.
- **Serviced Lots (For Residential_land Allotments):** Serviced lots will be approved for allotment with conditions that a residential unit is to be constructed and completed within two (2) building seasons. Applicants will be issued a Certificate of Occupancy. Should construction not have commenced within the two building seasons, the land will revert back to the band.
- **Septic and Field Bed Suitability:** After the written request is received the lands office will arrange for an inspection by the Environmental Health Officer to check your plans for the
- **Unsuitability:** If the land is considered unsuitable for the proposed septic and field

be system you will have to resubmit your land request and start the process again.
- **Public Posting:** If the requested site meets septic & held bed obligations, Chief and Council will approve public posting of the land request. The land request is posted for sixty (60) days in the community to ensure that no other Citizen has an interest in the same parcel of land.
- **Survey:** Upon approval you have 6 Months to complete a survey of your lot. If the survey is not completed within this timeframe, the requested parcel becomes available for other applicants seeking land. The required survey must be arranged and paid for by the applicant at their own cost.
- **Survey Approval:** Once the site survey is completed by the applicant’s contractor, the applicant brings the final draft survey description to the Lands Office for review. The applicant then provides their written approval for the same. The survey is given approval by Chief and Council after their review.
- **Survey Registration:** The surveyed parcel is registered at the Indian Lands Registry Office in Ottawa, and given a legal description number. A copy of the final registration is sent to the lands office.
- **Allotment by Band Council:** Once the legal description is received, Chief and Council formally allot the parcel under Section 20 (1) of the Indian Act by Band Council Resolution (B.C.R). The BCR containing the legal survey description is forwarded to the Indian Lands Registry Office in Ottawa to register the land allotment.
- **Certificate of Possession:** After the Band Council Resolution is registered, the Indian Lands Registry Office issues a Certificate of Possession (C.P.) to the lands office and then it is distributed to the Applicant named on the CP. You now hold title to the requested parcel of land.

If you would like a copy of the WRFN Land Allotment Policy please contact the lands department at 705-285-4335 and we can make arrangements to get you one.

Happy Festivus from the WRFN Lands Department!

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**NOTICE:**

WRFN Membership Office will be **Closed** on the following dates:

**December 4th – 6th, 2019**

**December 11th - 13th, 2019**

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**Smoke Signals - Birch Island Fire Hall**

Hello everyone,

I’m Andy Recollet, Firefighter Captain with the Birch Island Volunteer Fire Department. We currently have 14 members that meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month. In the New Year we will be accepting applications for new recruits, so keep an eye out for the posting in the next few months.

With the Holiday Season just around the corner, please take this into consideration:

- Even though real trees seem to pose the most threats in the home, artificial trees are equally as vulnerable to Christmas tree light risks. It’s easy for any tree, real or artificial, to catch fire when ornaments overload electrical sockets with Christmas tree lights. Even flame retardant or flame resistant artificial trees can eventually succumb to a fire as their resistance wears off when completely consumed in flames. So make sure to follow the instructions on Christmas tree light packaging to determine how many light strings you can safely connect.

   Electrical safety leads to fire safety.

   Have a safe Christmas Holiday from the Birch Island Fire Department!
Aani,
The last month of 2019 is here. This year just flew by! In November I attended this year’s First Nations Energy Symposium in Toronto. This year’s conference was focused on building capacity within First Nation communities. There was over 250 participants at this year’s symposium and it brought together many representatives from more than 130 First Nation communities in Ontario. There were sessions on the Community Energy Champion Program, project management, evaluating your Community Energy Plan, and transmission procurement. I had the chance to meet with fellow Community Energy Champions, and we had the opportunity to have discussions about work we have completed, and what projects we are still working on.

The same week, eleven other Community Energy Champions and I were invited to a private tour of the IESO system control room. The IESO system control room ensures the reliability of the province’s power system. It balances the supply and demand for electricity on a second-by-second basis and directs its flow across high-voltage transmission lines, so it’s available to Ontarians when and where they need it. (To give you a visual— it looks like the office Homer Simpson works in.)

First Nations Conservation Program
For the first week of December, I will be busy assisting with appliance delivery from the First Nation Conservation Program. Just in time for Christmas Holidays! There are a total of 93 Appliances that will be delivered into Whitefish River First Nation. Wow!

If any Community Members have issues with their new appliances, please contact me at the Administration Office.

Eligible applicants for electrical and thermostat insulation will be contacted directly by the program.

A Chi-Migwetch to all the community members who participated in this important energy-saving program.

If you have any questions or comments, or particular concerns about energy efficiency, don’t hesitate to contact me at kendra.mcgregor@whitefishriver.ca or through Administration at 705-285-4335 ext. 227.

Remember, you will save $ if you do your household chores during off-peak hours!
The Christmas season is upon us again, where did the time go?

We must try and remember all the packing that comes with our Christmas gifts (for those that celebrate) and work toward minimizing our carbon footprint. I have including some information on wish cycling. I’ve been there, you’ve been there, we’ve all been there at some point – is this recyclable and where does it go?

What is wish cycling?
The apt term seems to have been coined by Bill Keegan, president of a recycling company in Shapokee, Minn., and it’s loosely defined as “the practice of tossing questionable items in the recycling bin, hoping they can somehow be recycled.”

Have you ever stood in front of a recycling bin with something in our hand, trying to figure out if it should go in? You’re not entirely sure whether it can be recycled but you really hope it can. You would rather err on the side of caution than waste, so you toss the item into the recycling and figure, if that isn’t where it goes, the recycling facility can sort it out. This is wish-cycling and the reality is, it could cause an entire load of good recyclables to become contaminated trash – and no one wishes for that.

Why is Wish-cycling bad?
When unaccepted and dirty items end up in the recycling bin it costs time and money. It can even end up creating more waste. When non-recyclable materials make it to the sorting facility, they can jam up the machinery. These jams can take hours to resolve and even halt the entire process, preventing any other items from being recycled. All that time spent fixing clogged machinery ends up delaying recycling plant operations.

Recycling programs are successful when they can collect, sort and sell the recyclable material. Recycling is done in batches. If a non-recyclable item works its way into a batch, it risks contaminating all the materials which can no longer be sold and could end up becoming garbage.

Some common wish cycling items in our recycling bins: disposable coffee cups, toys, plastic storage bins, dishes, pots & pans/ lids, Styrofoam meat trays, light bulbs and mirrors. If you’re reading this, there is a chance for you to win a gift card, call me at the administration office to find out if you’re a winner. These are just some examples, as mentioned in previous articles. One thing to remember is that our community follows the basic outline of recycling for the company we work with GFL (Green for Life). Many surrounding communities use the same services but have tailored their recycling program to their community. Unfortunately, not all recycling facilities are the same with universal recycling acceptance & non-acceptance. Please do your best to help reduce recycling contamination.

I recently attended a Waste Diversion Updates Information Session with the Association of Municipalities Manitoba to gather and share information on the upcoming changes to Recycling in Manitoba. As I have mentioned in previous articles, changes to the recycling program in Manitoba are imminent. Programs have changed and are schedule to change moving forward with the plans to transition programs to Full Producer Responsibility.

What does this mean Full Producer Responsibility?
• Requiring businesses to be individually responsible and accountable for recycling their products and packaging can spur innovation in the creation of new markets and services; product and packaging design; and waste management services and processes.
• Polluter Pay Principle requiring businesses to be individually responsible and accountable for recycling or reusing their products and packaging.
• Recovering waste and either reusing or recycling materials back into the production process to eventually eliminate waste is critically needed today to strengthen Ontario’s economy and protect its environment.

There are new (or realigned) groups that will be working toward the development of these changes. Government consultation on a new Blue Box regulation will be under the Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act. Conversations will continue between a group established in 2017 called M3RC (Association of Municipalities Ontario, Toronto, Regional Public Works Commissioners of Ontario, Municipal Waste Association), whose purpose is to develop and promote policies & programs on behalf of all municipalities in Ontario to support the transition to a circular economy. Some of the good pieces that will come from these changes include but not limited to, a universal recycling program that will all follow throughout Ontario and a Province wide coordinated Promotion and Education.

If you have any comments or questions, feel free to contact me crystalmgregor@whitefishriver.ca 705-285-4335 ext.230

We can all do our part to make our community eco-friendly.
• Reduce – Reuse – Recycle
• Remember to bring your feast bundle

We may never reach zero waste. But that’s no reason to take zero action.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year! All the best in 2020!

The Water Shed
Water Quality Analyst - Amy Waboose

Aanii ikini wiya! I’m back! I was asked to attend the 3rd Annual AFN Water Symposium at The Fairmont Royal York in Toronto. I was part of the Youth Water Think Tank, which was a continuation from the trip to Vancouver to develop a strategy to build awareness, mobilize youth, and start a movement to reform water laws.

We all had a chance to speak up on the panel to voice our concerns and have an interactive session with the audience on what they would like to see or just to give tips. We built a stronger kinship with more organizations to broaden our knowledge about the water.

What are the roles of First Nations Youth in the Development of a Long-Term Strategy?
• Creating a legacy of doers
• Awareness, engagement & spreading the word What are our Next Steps & Preliminary Action Plan?
• Developing strong partnerships to create models which aim to advance First Nations youth capacity in areas of impact assessment, water monitoring, GIS, renewable energy
• Leveraging each team member’s skill sets to build a strong foundation for growth
• The implementation of Indigenous knowledge & engagement makes projects more successful (partnerships & collaboration)

It was a very busy week, as I also got my certification for our Joint Health and Safety committee as the Worker Representative! We have a scheduled meeting November 28th, 2019 to assess and further the knowledge of the rest of the committee.

Back here at the Water Treatment Plant, everything has been running and operating smoothly. Last week we just had a professional from Met-com come and re-assess and calibrate our flow meters to make sure we have accurate readings of how much water we are making on a daily basis.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call us at 705-285-0007.

That’s all for now folks!!

DID YOU KNOW?
Only 3% of Water on Earth is Fresh Water. The rest
is Salt Water.

We, in Whitefish River, are surrounded by Fresh Water.
The weather network and environment Canada are predicting a `La Niña` type winter as the west coast current is what is predicted to affect us this winter. It is expected to be a similar winter to what we experienced in both 2013 and 2017. We should see more to our average winter temperatures with above normal precipitation (snow). The snowfalls are anticipated to be heavy with larger accumulations. Now this forecast is good for the avid outdoors person who enjoys snowmobiling or snowshoeing, but to most travelers, they may have a different opinion. For Public Works, this means more hours on the trucks clearing the parking lots and roadways. Remember that these guys start their day at 5:00 am, prepare the trucks and have almost everything cleaned up for the day ahead. They are on-call every weekend from December straight through to the end of March and every day through the Christmas holidays. These guys work hard and are prepared for what winter throws at us so let’s show our appreciation by a friendly smile or wave to the crew.

Congratulations to Amy Waboos, Whitefish River’s participant on the Nation Youth Council for Water. Amy is very vocal and proud of our community and it shows as she was asked to participate and has a female voice endorsing the protection of water and the importance of how important water is to First Nation’s peoples and to everyone.

Please remember that not everyone gets to have a 2-week break, the essential services provided by public works must continue over the Christmas holidays. A calendar has been attached to show when water is getting delivered and when the landfill site is open and curbside garbage pick will happen. So please plan accordingly.

Hoping everyone has a Merry Christmas and is ready for the New Year.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this report do not hesitate to contact my office or drop a line at publicworks@whitefishriver.ca

WRFN Public Works added a trash compactor to the fleet in November.

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### NOTICE - PUBLIC WORKS CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2019/2020

**Water Delivery, Curbside Garbage Pickup and Landfill Operations.**

This Holiday Season will be rescheduled as per the listings on the calendar below:

**Miigwetch**

Whitefish River First Nation Public Works

**December 23rd - 27th, 2019**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>SERVICE</th>
<th>MONDAY DEC. 23</th>
<th>TUESDAY DEC. 24</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY DEC. 25</th>
<th>THURSDAY DEC. 26</th>
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**December 30th, 2019 - January 3rd, 2020**

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<th>SERVICE</th>
<th>MONDAY DEC. 30</th>
<th>TUESDAY DEC. 31</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY JAN. 01</th>
<th>THURSDAY JAN. 02</th>
<th>FRIDAY JAN. 03</th>
<th>SATURDAY JAN. 04</th>
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Pet Care & Tips

Merry Christmas to everyone from me and my cats!

By the time you get this most of you will have finished your Christmas shopping and have your tree and lights up. I have the Christmas music channel on TV as I write this. I could not wait for Christmas to come and I used to try and be the first one to have my lights on or my tree lit up outside. As I grow older I am not quite as enthusiastic as I used to be. I now put up a smaller tree on a table between my doors in the living room. I still like to plug in my lights I have around the edge of my roof. I remember in the past practicing our Christmas Concert and Pageant. The pageant used to be the main part of the concert. In the pageant I’ve played Joseph, a shepherd and even one of the Three Kings. When I was one of the Kings we had just finished pointing to the Star saying, “We have followed that Star from the East,” when it promptly fell off the wall! Another time, when Joseph lifted Mary onto the donkey, she fell right over to the other side! I remember everyone started laughing. We would also do Square Dances and sing all the different Carols of the season. Ah... those were the days!

Well, the Cats are doing fine, with many going out at night and coming in just at daybreak. Soon, when it gets too cold they will be inside more. Empress Farrah likes to lay with me for a while and will then move to her basket by the door. Tinker has been inside more these days while BJ will still go outside at night. The rest find their preferred spots to sleep in the basement. Some people I know have told me they have become foster parents for cats until they find their forever home.

Some Cat Facts:

- Petroleum jelly can be used to treat hairballs in cats. A little can be given directly in the mouth or put on the paws for the cat to lick.
- Among the seven continents, only icy Antarctica remains catless today.
- In ancient Egypt, if you killed a cat you would be punished by death.
- An old superstition says that if a black cat leaps over a corpse, the dead will reanimate as a vampire.

That is it for another month, the cats and I want to wish all the Community Members a "Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!" Remember to visit our elderly, sick and shut-in and take the time to visit them or just to say hello as I am sure they will appreciate that. Don’t forget to get your cats and dogs fixed to help keep the pet population down in our community and also remember to feed and care for them and provide a warm safe place for the upcoming cold nights.

'Till then take care.

From:

Empress Farrah, She-Pet Elizabeth and Webby Debby (The girl cats). Luka, BJ, Tinker and Francis (The boy cats).

Me The Big Cat - Dennis L. McGregor
November was an extremely busy month.
During the month of November we have been involved in:
1. Construction of our elders center
2. Completion of the New Daycare Facility
3. All Souls Day celebration
4. Remembrance Day Celebration
5. Cambrian College Pre-Apprenticeship Convocation Ceremony
6. AFN Housing and Infrastructure Meeting
7. Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement Open House
8. Annual Christmas Parade
9. National Addictions Awareness Week
10. Household Hazardous Waste Day
11. Niiiga Nibaadn Trust Training

Locally, the construction of the Daycare Centre is in its final stages. The interior is being finalized and the completion date for this new center is expected to be mid-December. Watch for information on the Grand Opening of the new facility. This is a truly spectacular addition to Shawanosow School.

With respect to the Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement community sessions there have been many opportunities provided to members to become informed on the governance process and the agreement that will be voted on in the very near future.

These include:
1. WRFN has had a number of sessions on the Governance Agreement – On July 29-31st, 2019 there was a conference held in Sault Ste. Marie and we had band members attend that session.
2. August 6th – Whitefish River First Nation session
3. August 23rd – Whitefish River First Nation session
4. September 18th – Toronto Session
5. September 19th – Sudbury Session
6. November 14th – Whitefish River First Nation – WRFN Staff

Thank you for participating in the information sessions. The Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement Ratification Vote period is from February 1 - 29, 2020.

The construction of the new Elders Building is in full construction. Lignum Construction is our Contractor for the project. If you have been by the site, the roof is now on the structure and work begins on interior finishing. There is a tremendous amount of activity going on at this project site. It nice to see construction fully underway. It won’t be long before we will be picking the finish paint.

We are pleased to report that we have completed the following task relating to our Boundary Specific Claim process since the successful vote on October 26th.
1. On October 28th, Council signed the Band Council Resolution accepting the Claim on behalf of the membership.
2. The certificates and undertakings by our professional management team have all been executed, including 3 certificates in total.
3. The entire executed package, with BCR and certificates sent to CIRNA on November 5th.
4. Letter to Carol Hughes, MP Algoma Manitoulin Kapuskasing, seeking advocacy and a meeting with Minister sent on November 7th.
5. Letter to Regional Director General Ontario Region seeking support delivered on November 8th.
6. Letter to Deputy Minister seeking support on November 12th.
7. Letter to Assistant Deputy Minister seeking support on November 15th.
8. Minister Caroline Bennett appointed to Crown Relations on November 20th.
9. Minister Marc Miller appointed to Indigenous Services on November 20th.

As we all know the Liberals have a minority government. We have already secured meetings with the government to advance our community development priorities for 2020 including:
1. The Finalization of the Boundary Specific Claim.
2. 15 lot Subdivision expansion identified in our Community 20 year Capital Plan.
3. Submission of Community Development Projects.

Our 20 year Capital Plan has the detailed planning done so that we are well positioned to advance work on our community development over the next 3 ½ years.

On behalf of Chief and Council, Season’s Greetings and all the best in 2020!!

If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact my office at 705-285-4335 ext. 202 or via email at: chief@whitefishriver.ca.

Chi Miigwetch

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**Message from Ogimaa Shining Turtle Sturgeon Clan, Anishinabek Nation**

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**CHIEF AND COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE**

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<td>Grand Opening for Early Learning Centre (Tentative) Last Day to vote on Citizenship Code</td>
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<td>Service Meeting -</td>
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<td>Shawanosow School Annual Christmas Concert</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office Closed for Christmas Holidays until January 3, 2020</td>
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<td>SEASON’S GREETINGS</td>
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November 22, 2019

Dear Band Members,

Chief and Council, in our continued effort to inform the membership as we go through the steps following the successful referendum vote on the Settlement Agreement for the Specific Claim regarding our reserve boundaries, wish to inform you of the following:

1. On Oct 28th, Council signed the Band Council Resolutions accepting the settlement of the Claim on behalf of the membership and directing Canada to pay the compensation balance into the Trust.
2. The certificates by our professional management team were then all signed up as of Oct 31st.
3. The entire executed package, with BCRs and certificates was sent to the Specific Claims Branch at CIRNA on November 5th. CIRNA officials have confirmed the package is all in order.
4. Letter to Carol Hughes, MP seeking advocacy and a meeting with the Minister was sent on November 7th.
5. Letter to Regional Director General, Ontario Region seeking support was delivered on November 8th.
6. Letter to Deputy Minister seeking support was sent on November 12th.
7. Letter to Assistant Deputy Minister seeking support was sent on November 15th.
8. Minister Carolyn Bennett was appointed as Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations on November 20th.
9. A letter to Minister Bennett seeking a meeting with her was sent November 20th.
10. CIRNA contacted us to set out the steps that CIRNA has to complete for Minister Bennett to sign the Specific Agreement and flow the funds to our Trust. They confirmed this is a priority for CIRNA.

Based on Canada’s information and as was discussed at the information meetings, we do not expect the Government of Canada to complete its process before the end of January 2020. Thus, we have not received any Specific Claim settlement money at this time and nothing is forecasted for the month of December.

Thank you.

______________________________

Chief and Council

WHITEFISH RIVER FIRST NATION
17A Rainbow Ridge Road, PO Box 188, Birch Island, Ontario P0P 1A0
TEL (705) 285-4335  FAX (705) 285-4532  www.whitefishriver.ca
Happy Birthday to our sister Deborah Dykes on December 3rd. Love your sisters, Rose, Linda, Diane and brothers Rich and Peter.

Happy Birthday to Aunty Debbie Love Jonathan & Peter

Happy Birthday to our sister Honourine Butler on December 10th. Love your sisters and brothers.

Happy Birthday to Aunty Honourine Love John and Peter

Happy Birthday to any other family members, and anyone else that has a birthday in December. I hope your day is nothing but wonderful. From Diane G.

Happy Belated Birthday wishes to my nieces and nephews Luna Toulouse, Lance Toulouse, Autumn & Memphis that celebrated in November. Hope all your birthdays were good. Love Aunty Diane

Happy Birthday to Cheyanne! Heres to another year of friend-ventures and laughing until it hurts! We love you! Aim and Kenj

Happy 29th Birthday on December 9th to Selena You’re the BEST! Love Jeremiah and Zachariah

Happy Birthday Courtney! Love Aunty Connie

Happy Birthday Mommy, Love Deacon, Nico and Haisley

Happy Birthday on December 2nd to Delma & Johnathon Love your Family

Happy Birthday to our sister Phoebe on December 4th Love Noah & Ade

A birthday wish to Tecumseh! Happy 11th Birthday to my little man who has grown so much since our first day as mom and baby. Baby no more, and I’m so proud of the young man you are quickly becoming. Love Mom, Dan, Edward and William

Happy Birthday to our Cousin Nakia Love Eli, Ira, Lucy, Mittty & Ziggy

Happy 11th Birthday Nakia on December 10th! Agahawathaes Megizi Eagle Shadow

We are forever blessed to be chosen by you to be family. Mommy, Daddy, Lila & Diego

Happy Birthday to Jerome Pitawanakwat who celebrated on November 15th. Love your Family.

Happy 5th Birthday Phoebe on December 4th! May your day sparkle & twinkle just like your smile. Love Mom & Dad xoxo

Congratulations to John & Gen on the birth of your beautiful son Gabriel!! Love your Family

Gichi-Nendam Dabishkayek!