Nda-basabaagiz.
I am resilient.

On June 21, 2023, the monument commemorating Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, Trans and 2 Spiritied People (MMIWGT2S) Loved Ones was unveiled to the public. The monument will stand as a visual reminder of the crisis of violence against Indigenous women and girls in Canada; and commemorate those have been lost and in honor of all missing and murdered Indigenous women and children. Miigwech to Meggie Cywink for coordinating this project and bringing the monument to Whitefish River First Nation.

Please note that the deadline for submissions for the next issue is Friday, August 25th, 2023 at 4:30. Miigwetch!

rezoundeditor@whitefishriver.ca
Whitefish River First Nation

HOST DRUM
Under the Pines
Batchewana First Nation

CO-HOST
Bell Rock Singers
Whitefish River First Nation

INVITED DRUM
Chi-Giiizis
Sheshegwaning

MC: Dan Fox
Arena Director: Sunset Sagutch
Head Dancer: Richard Shawanda
Head Dancer: Sophie Pheasant
Head Youth Dancers: TBA
Head Veteran: TBA
Head Elders: TBA

Dancer Registration - Saturday 11am to 12:45 pm
Community Feast - Saturday 5pm

Sunshine Alley
Birch Island, ON
August 19 & 20, 2023

GRAND ENTRY
Saturday 1pm & 7pm
Sunday 12pm

Daily honorarium for all dancers in regalia.
Honorarium for first 5 registered drums.
Min. 4 singers

Moontee Sinquah and his two sons, Sampson Sixkiller Sinquah and Scott Sixkiller Sinquah are proud members of the Hopi, Tewa, and Choctaw nations from the Hopi villages located in Northern Arizona. The Sinquah trio is deeply rooted in their Hopi culture and traditions. On top of humbly winning the World Champion titles from the World Championship Hoop Dance contest; the Sinquah’s all specialize in powwow dances. Moontee is a champion Grass dancer, Sampson a champion Prairie Chicken dancer, and Scott a champion Fancy War dancer, in the USA and Canada.

28TH ANNUAL WAWASKINAGA TRADITIONAL POW WOW

SPECIAL GUESTS!
World Championship Hoop Dancers - Sinquah Productions

ANNUAL LIL MISS & MISS WAWASKINAGA PAGEANT - SUNDAY @ 11AM

SUNRISE CEREMONIES START THURSDAY. ALL VENDORS WELCOME.
ROUGH CAMPING AVAILABLE. NO TRAILERS OR RVs. THIS IS A DRUG AND ALCOHOL FREE EVENT.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER, TAMMY NAHWEGAHBOW OR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, STUART WILSON AT WRFN ADMINISTRATION AT 705-285-4335.
Health Manager and Acting Family Well-Being Manager - Kim Armstrong

Aaniin,

Is anyone else a little shocked that we’re quickly nearing the end of June? This time of year is always filled with excitement (from the kids and teachers that are thrilled to be done another school year) and some dread (from parents) as their children will now be looking for things to fill their time until they return to school in September.

The Family Well-Being team will be able to help with that. We have robust programming planned for July and August. Once July hits, there will be a yard sale (actually, it’s not a sale, it’s a give away), scavenger hunt, a trip to the lazy river, Brunch and Learn Saturdays focusing on traditional teachings, Youth Drop-ins and a Wellness group that will learn water safety and then enjoy the use of canoes to get on to the water. Day Star also returns to our community this year (July 10-14) after a Covid-induced hiatus.

In August, the team has planned more days on the water, a cultural camp, a University of Waterloo STEM camp and wrapping it all up with a family trip to Wonderland (families only). Add to this we will be providing lunch for families with children ages 0-16 at the Family Well-Being Centre on Tuesdays and Thursdays with the help of our colleagues in other departments. We’ll also host four soup and scone days at the 7 Fires Centre. Please watch the Facebook page and utilize the app to get details.

The Family Well Being Team is now complete with the addition of Zena Prestgen as a temporary Cultural Coordinator (until the end of August) and Madeline McGregor as the Youth Support Worker. You will see both of their bios in this edition of the Rezound. We are thrilled to have these two bright lights join our team.

If you get a chance to stop by and say hello, please do!! At the Health Centre, Crystal and Talon have been hosting the Nini golf sessions with the men of the community and July will be the women’s sessions. In June, we hosted a community services mapping session with our many partners. It was a great session that really brought clarity as to what is available to community members in regards to health supports, services and specialists. As well, the Indigenous Cancer Care strategy visited to help our providers access cancer screening resources to support additional screening for community members that require these services.

We are looking forward to welcoming a summer student to both the Health and Family Well-Being teams. These individuals will assist with programming, answer phones if required and essentially get their feet wet with a number of programs and services. As always, we look forward to helping with the planning and execution of the Pow Wow and many other events during the course of the summer.

Chi-Miigwech to all of the volunteers that have agreed to help with the serving of lunches over the summer. It was a big undertaking and requires many hands to be successful.

I wish each of you a safe and enjoyable summer. Remember to apply your sunscreen and hydrate when you’re out enjoying the weather.

For more information I can be reached at healthmanager@whitefishriver.ca, at the Health Centre at 705-285-4354, ext.2311 or via cell at 705-863-0005

Miigwech

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**August - Mnoomni Giizis**

*(Grain Moon)*

**2023**

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**The Birch Island Group of Alcoholics Anonymous**

“The only requirement is a desire to stop drinking”

**Sundays at 2pm**

**Whitefish River First Nation Health Centre**

17 B Rainbow Ridge Rd

Birch Island

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**WRFN Health/ Family Well-Being Centre**

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Aanii,
My name is Zena Pregent. I have been hired by the Family Well-Being team as the Cultural Coordinator, effective June 5th, 2023. I recently moved back to Whitefish River First Nation for the summer. This fall I will be continuing my post-secondary education at Laurentian University where I have been studying Law and Justice. Throughout my post-secondary education, I have gained knowledge in the area of kin and children in-care.

This opportunity is very exciting as it seems to feel full-circle as I will be/ have been planning programs and activities that I participated in as a youth. As well, when I was a child my mother (Arlene Pitawanakwat) often brought me to ceremonies and community gatherings where I was able to learn teachings, traditions, and the importance of ceremonies to our community. Growing up in Whitefish River has been influential and beneficial to me, it has allowed me to build connections with our community members and gain the sense of community. With that being said, I am looking forward to creating programs and activities for families and children throughout this summer.

If you have any suggestions or questions about programming happening this summer, do not hesitate to email me at cultural-coordinator@whitefishriver.ca or 705-285-1941.
Aanii Kina Wiya,

I am Madeline McGregor and have recently joined the Family Well-being team in the position of Youth Support Worker. I am proud to be a member here in Whitefish River First Nation and am excited to be working in the community. I am a mother to Eli McGregor, who you may see me with out and about in the community at different events. In the past few years I have done some schooling through Georgian College, taking Anishnaabemowin Programming and Development, and am now working towards my degree in Indigenous Social Work at Laurentian University. I am excited to join the Family Well-being Team and to work with our youth, our future and cannot wait to meet some new (to me) and familiar faces!

If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to email me at youthsupportworker@whitefishriver.ca. I can also be reached at the Family Well-Being office at 705-285-1941 or via my cell at 705-863-0236.

Migwetch.

SHAWANOSOWE SCHOOL GYM - SNACKS PROVIDED!
THURSDAYS - AGES 8-14
Permission forms required
BEGINS JULY 13
FITNESS & FLOOR HOCKEY
With Christian Kaiser-Fox, UCCMM
1-2pm
BADMINTON WARRIORS
With Mark Pellier, Noojmowin Teg
2-3pm
OPEN GYM/FREE-PLAY
With Madeline McGregor, Youth Worker
For more info contact: Madeline
youthsupportworker@whitefishriver.ca
705-863-0236
Family Well-Being

For more info contact:
Madeline McGregor, 705-863-0236
youthsupportworker@whitefishriver.ca
Mental Health & Addictions Worker - Crystal Mokohonuk

Aanii, Boozhoo

It has been some time since I have shared; the month of May, began with our Sunrise Ceremony and breakfast opening up Mental Health Week. When I reflect on mental health and what that looks like, I remember that we are all unique; what may work for one may not work for another, however we all require connection and love. Love for self is most important, self-worth and each having our own piece of magic from within to share with all our relations.

What are your gifts? What gifts do you have to offer in community, with loved ones and friends? Maybe it’s a smile, maybe you work with our medicines of mother earth, maybe you are a healer/energy worker, or are a great listener! Our gifts look different individually and I think it’s important to embrace our gifts to share with the world.

Mental Health affects us all and it is important to be aware of our thoughts. Do we have the support we need from family, loved ones and community and if so who are they? In times that we are feeling low it is important to have those who we trust as a non-judgmental listening ear. We need those who love us unconditionally and those who are willing to meet us where we are at on this road we are all walking.

Walking in nature, journal writing, ceremony, meeting with a friend or loved one, meeting with an elder or a trusted health care provider, seeing a healer or meditation, are just a few outlets that are beneficial to our mental health. Too often we want to or feel a need to isolate ourselves when we are not well and that can be detrimental to our mental, emotional, physical and spiritual well-being. Our goal is to find balance in all these areas.

Ask yourself what practices help you? Who can you reach out to when you are feeling down? Do you know who your trusted health care providers are in your community?

Our last day the community came out to our Wellness Fair with attendance of more than 40 throughout the day of all ages. Our community experienced all forms of healing. I thank each one of you who shared your experiences, your beauty and your light this day. Chi-Miigwetch to all of our practitioners, our partners Mnaamodzawin and Noojmowin Teg for sharing in our day.

Our Kweok Self Defense 4-week class began on the 4th with 11 participants. It is important to know how to protect ourselves, to be aware of our surroundings, aware of those who we pass along the street, in the mall, on the road and so forth. Learning these techniques has given those kweok opportunity to be safer, use their voice, be loud when they need to and protect themselves from harms way.

Grief affects us all and recently it has become more aware to me of the importance we work through our personal and/or community grief. I recently was guided to receive more teachings through a 4 days training; “EDU Grief Therapy”. Grief looks different for us all and affects us all in different stages. This is a gentle way to work through the different forms of grief we all experience throughout our lives.

June was Health month for men and we had our NINi, Men’s Golf Wellness month which started on June 7th. Golf has many benefits: its great physical activity, connection to the land and fresh air, helps to focus, improve cardiovascular health, connection to all our relations, sense of accomplishment and improves our mental health. I would like to acknowledge the Espanola Golf Course & Talon McGregor for his help in the program and all those who participated in making a successful Men’s wellness month.

June 27th and 28th we have ASIST Training at the Community Centre which is a part of our Harm Reduction strategy plan and requested by our community. Results demonstrate that ASIST helps participants become more willing, ready, and able to intervene with someone who has thoughts of suicide. ASIST helps to understand the ways personal and societal attitudes affect views on suicide and interventions. Those who were unable to attend, we are hoping to offer in the fall along with SAFE talk for our youth.

July is Social Wellness Month and to honor that we have our Kweok Women’s Social Wellness Goit at the Espanola Golf and Country club, beginning July 5th each Wednesday for the month.

Elder Josh Eshkawkogan is a Traditional Healer, Knowledge Keeper, Pipe Carrier, Sweat Lodge Conductor, Anishinaabe Language speaker, orator and cultural teachings provider. He is a member of the Wilkewikong Unceded Indian Reserve, home of the Three Fires Confederacy. Josh specializes in providing spiritual guidance, emotional balance, grounding and well-being in helping people learn from life experiences. He conducts talking, sharing and healing sessions in both Anishinaabe and English languages.

- Prescriptions for Traditional Medicines
- Ceremonials & Teachings
- Visits in the community, if required
- Help with anxiety, depression, mental health and addictions

Appointments are available in the community of Whitefish River First Nation, every other Wednesday afternoon at the Whitefish River First Nation Health Centre.

To book an appointment, contact:
Crystal Mokohonuk
Mental Health & Addictions Worker
Whitefish River Health Centre
(705) 285-4335 Ext. 2508

Baa maa pii
In all relations,
Meeting you where you are at!

Knowledge Keeper Visits
With Josh Eshkawkogan

Elder Josh Eshkawkogan is a Traditional Healer, Knowledge Keeper, Pipe Carrier, Sweat Lodge Conductor, Anishinaabe Language speaker, orator and cultural teachings provider. He is a member of the Wilkewikong Unceded Indian Reserve, home of the Three Fires Confederacy. Josh specializes in providing spiritual guidance, emotional balance, grounding and well-being in helping people learn from life experiences. He conducts talking, sharing and healing sessions in both Anishinaabe and English languages.

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Crystal Mokohonuk
Mental Health & Addictions Worker
Whitefish River Health Centre
(705) 285-4335 Ext. 2508
BEEKEEPING WORKSHOP

DOOR PRIZES TO BE WON!!

DATE & TIME:
TUESDAY,
AUGUST 1, 2023
5PM - 7:30PM

LOCATION:
WHITEFISH RIVER FIRST NATION
Shawanosowe School Gymnasium

EVERYONE WELCOME!

SNACKS & REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

REGISTRATION:
EMAIL: JACQGENRERUX@LIVE.CA
PHONE #: 705-348-0712

UNITED CHIEFS
and COUNCILS
of MNIDOO MNISING

Whitefish River’s newly re-formed hometown drum Bell Rock Singers will be the co-host drum at this year’s Pow Wow!

Shawanosowe School and Maamwe Kendaasing Early Learning Centre teamed up to host the “Maawnjidmi miinawaa enji-jiingtaming - We gather again”, Pow Wow on May 26, 2023.

WRFN Family Well-Being Dept.

BACK TO SCHOOL BINGO

GAMES FUN & PRIZES
Sunday, Aug 13, 2023

STARTS AT 12 PM
Doors open @ 11 am

For more information please contact Marida McGregor, Family Well-Being Coordinator via email at familywellbeingcoordinator@whitefishriver.ca, or phone @ (705) 863-3170

FULL MOON CEREMONY
Honouring Minoomine Giizis
August 1st, 2023
Community Arbour
8:00 PM

EVERYONE WELCOME!
For more information contact Zena Pregent, Cultural Coordinator at the Family Well –Being Center (705) 285 - 1941 or by email culturalcoordinator@whitefishriver.ca
Summer Student Liaison - Eli Paibomsai

Aanii, Boozhow! My name is Eli Paibomsai and I will be working for beautiful Whitefish River First Nation over the course of the summer as the Summer Student Liaison. My job involves me assisting in the management of the community summer students, helping with the planning of the Pow-wow and other duties as assigned.

I have lived and grown up on Whitefish River First Nation all my life, and have a passion for History, Geography and Civics. I will be working from June to August at the Band Office. I can be reached at summer.students@whitefishriver.ca

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**Wellness Sundays**

Join the Family Well-Being team for Sunday canoe
Bay of Islands- Station Grounds
Snacks Provided
Every Sunday starting July 16th- August 6th
8am-12pm

For more information please contact Nala Toulouse at 705-863-3428 or nalat@whitefishriver.ca

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**FAMILY WELL-BEING CENTRE**

**LUNCH**

For Families with Children Ages 0-16

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM or while supplies last

August
1st, 3rd, 8th, 10th, 15th, 17th, 22nd, 24th

For more information contact:
Family Well-Being Center
705-285-1941

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**Nboop miinwaa**

**Bkwezhigan**

Soup & Scone

Wednesday, July 19. August 2nd & 16th.

12:00 -2:00 pm

7 Fires Youth & Elders Centre

For more Information please contact:
Nala Toulouse @ 705-863-3428
FAMILY WELL BEING MANAGER

Salary: $62,113 to $75,748/ year (depending on education and experience)

The Family Well Being Manager will promote the healthy development of relationships and the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual well being of children, youth and families. This position reports to the Band Manager and will be responsible for the operation and management for the WRFN Family Well Being department. This position works closely with the Case Manager to ensure continuity of service to the families in the WRFN community.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

• Provide leadership and direction for the Family Well Being team to ensure the goals and objectives are continually met;
• Promote and emphasize people-centered care in partnership with the families, children and Family Well Being team;
• Supervise program staff and establish annual objectives, training and work plans that are consistent with Indigenous culture, language and traditions;
• Provide guidance to staff around family relationships and provide referrals as required;
• Overseeing the planning and implementation of programming including purchasing of materials and supplies;
• Provide the framework and guidance for delivering client workshops and activities;
• Responding to the varying needs of the community such as required supports, risk factors and nutrition;
• Collect, report and analyse statistics for the Family Well Being Team;
• Develop and review program indicators, goals and outcome measures;
• Ensure services are provided using family-centered, strengths-based, community needs focus;
• Ensure quality standards and policies are developed and implemented and maintained;
• Ensure timely completion of reporting requirements to all funders;
• Prepare comprehensive reports and provide recommendations to improve the effectiveness of services and Family Well Being programs;
• Ensure accurate, confidential, and timely case noting is maintained by staff;
• Work alongside WRFN Case Manager on prevention and intervention;

QUALIFICATIONS

• Degree or Diploma in human services, social work or related field;
• Current Assist (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training), Mental Health First Aid, and First Aid and CPR;
• Minimum two years’ (2) managerial experience including supervision of staff, preferably in the social services environment;
• Work experience should include delivering family-related services to First Nations communities, working with children, youth and families at risk, group facilitation and supervising and directing staff;
• Must have a good understanding and adhere to: General Accepted Accounting Practices (GAAP) and Funding Contribution Funding Agreements;
• Working experience with First Nation people, organizations and communities;
• Knowledge of local services available to the WRFN community;
• Knowledge and understanding of the Child, Youth and Family Services Act;
• Excellent interpersonal skills and problem-solving skills;
• Excellent written and oral communication skills;
• Excellent computer skills with Microsoft Office software;
• Ability to deal with difficult and conflicting situations;
• Ability to work flexible hours including unplanned overtime;
• Ability to work with confidential and highly sensitive and personal information;
• Ability to understand and speak Anishnaabemowin is an asset;

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

Human Resources Manager
Whitefish River First Nation; 17-A Rainbow Ridge Road; P.O. Box 188; Birch Island; ON P0P1A0
Email: applications@whitefishriver.ca ; Fax: (705)285-4532

Applications must be submitted by August 8, 2023 by 4:30 p.m. and must include the following:
Cover letter, current resume, copies of Degrees/Diplomas, and 3 reference letters (with contact information).
Summer is finally here! Time to kick back and enjoy all that summer has to offer.

We would like to take this opportunity to Congratulate all the Whitefish River First Nation graduating students of 2022/2023! Locally we offer congratulations to our Shawa- nassowe School Junior Kindergarten and Grade 6 Graduates, AB Ellis Public School Grade 8 Graduates and EHS Grade 12 Graduates. In addi- tion, congratulations to all of our Post-Secondary Students who have graduated from various Colleges and Universities. We are all so very proud of each and every one of you. Just a reminder, that there will be a graduation ceremony on August 17, 2023 at the Whitefish River First Nation Community Centre. Invitations will be sent out to all graduates. More details to fol- low.

Amongst the new faces in the upcoming school year we are pleased to announce the new principal this fall at Shawanoswe School. Mr. Calvin Make- la will be joining the team and brings with him many years of experience. Look for his in- troduction in this issue of the Rezound.

The Library is celebrating it’s 50th anniversary this year!! Again, please be sure to look for an article from our librarian Lindsey for any upcoming events.

Our second annual Family Fun Day was a huge success again this year. We would like to thank all the Departments, community partners and food providers who came together to help make this happen. Chi-Mi- igwetch. The cotton candy, pop- corn, snow cones and all the other special treats were en- joyed by all and the introduction this year of the “Twisted Torn- do” bouncey obstacle course was a big hit. It was a delight to see so many families come out and have fun. The lucky winner of the Big draw for the X-Box sys- tem was Dryden Paibomai. Congratulations!!!

The summer’s Reach Ahead Program begins July 10th, 2023 and runs through July 28th, 2023. We wish you all a safe, relaxing and fun summer shared with family and friends. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at the Administration office.

Stephen Nahwegahbow, Education Manager, education@whitefishriver.ca 705-285-4335 ext.2209

Bonnie Beattie, Education Assistant, educationass@whitefish- river.ca 705-285-4335 ext.2226

Kudos to the Education Department on the success of the 2nd Annual Family Fun Day!

**Successful candidates must submit a current copy of their Police Vulnerable Sector Screening Check prior to commencement of employment.**

We thank all who apply. However, only those applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

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**Education Department**

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**Employment Opportunity:**

**SPECIAL EDUCATION RESOURCE TEACHER**

**Salary:** Based on Shawanoswe School Teacher Salary Grid

The Whitefish River First Nation (WRFN) invites applications for the position of a Special Education Teacher. Shawanoswe School is an Indigenous school governed locally under the Whitefish River First Nation and regionally through the Kinamaadzoowin Education Body. Our community-centered school aims to nurture each child’s unique gifts as we foster academic and all-around excellence. We also provide students with a strong foundation in culture and identity. WRFN is seeking an individual who will contribute to Shawanoswe School and to the broader community through exemplary teaching practice and leadership.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Develop, deliver, monitor and evaluate individualized educational services, learning programs, and instruction for special needs students in both self-contained and integrated settings.
- Collaborate with classroom teachers in planning for specific student learning outcomes based on assessed needs of individual students.
- Ensure students are supervised in a safe, culturally supportive environment that meets the approved curriculum plans and mission of Shawanoswe School.
- Promote academic excellence by working collaboratively with staff and communicating effectively with parents.
- Follow the policies and procedures of Shawanoswe School and Whitefish River First Nation.

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Bachelor’s Degree in Education or equivalent.
- Ontario Teaching Certification with membership in good/active standing.
- Certification in Primary/Junior Division.
- Special Education Parts I and II (or a plan to complete part I within the school year).
- At least 1-2 years’ teaching experience in a Special Education setting.
- Excellent planning and organizational skills.
- Excellent communication skills.
- Up-to-date First Aid and CPR.
- Experience working with Indigenous communities, knowledge of First Nations culture, traditions, and language would be considered an asset.

Applications will be accepted via email, fax, and mail to the attention:

**Send applications to:**
Confidential: Human Resources
Whitefish River First Nation, 17A Rainbow Ridge Road, P.O. Box 188, Birch Island, Ontario PO Box 140

Email: applications@whitefishriver.ca Fax: (705) 285 4532

Applications may be submitted until August 9, 2023 by 4:30pm and must include the following:
- Cover letter, current resume, and 3 reference letters.

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Maamwe Kendaasing Early Learning & Innovation Centre

Aanii from the Infant Room!
We have been busy with our little friends and would like to share with you some updates on what we have been doing in our infant program. To start we would like to welcome three new infants. In the past month we have been focusing on providing a nurturing and safe environment for our little friends. We have been working on building trust and strong relationships with our binoojinh, ensuring that they feel happy and cared for. We have also been working on developing their gross and fine motor skills in play. We have also been introducing age-appropriate toys and activities to help stimulate their senses and promote their cognitive development.

Parallel Play
Parallel play teaches young children to play and share together. This activity establishes and encourages social skills. Parallel play also encourages self-regulation skills. The infants played with the large pop-it in the morning after we came in from outside. To extend this parallel play after nap time we filled the water table, each infant stood around the table. Being able to extend this morning’s activity continues to teach the infants, social, cognitive and communication skills.

In closing, Summer is here! We look forward to planning more outdoor activities (pending weather) with our infants. Until next time,

Cyndil Nahwegahbow, RECE & Candace Perrault

Aanii from the toddler room!
Wow, the month of June has come and gone, and we’re now at the end of July. Our toddlers say let the summer fun begin! Laura just transitioned into the toddler room from the infant program and is slowly learning the routine of the toddler room, with a little help from the educators. Laura likes the outdoors and is always excited to get outside and play. She is slowly getting used to the playground, like the slide and the climber. We do try to encourage her to try go down on her own, but she is still not sure.

Gemma is the oldest toddler in the group and she also enjoys the outdoors. She tries to keep up with the preschool kids when we are together with both groups. Gemma is very helpful with the young ones when they get moved into the toddler room. She tries to help them try put on their shoes or boots, or show them to the table when its time to sit down. Gemma is definitely a little helper in the Toddler room.

A friendly reminder for the parents to send extra clothes, as you just never know when we will have water play day.

Jo Ann Recollet, RECE

Aanii from the Preschool room,
With the warmer weather among us we have been busy planting vegetable seeds to put into our planter boxes. We recently had a visit from Northern Exotics They brought a variety of insects, reptiles and furry animals. The children were able to practice their regulating skills as they waited for the animals to be introduced to each and every one. The children were able to hold and pet if they were comfortable holding them. The children always show an interest in the insects we find in our yard, and we had 8 caterpillars brought into our classroom to observe the life cycle of a butterfly. We then released the butterflies into the community.

Doris Fowler, RECE

Baamaapii until next time from all the Staff and Students of Maamwe Kendaasing

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Brennan in our preschool room practicing his cognitive, fine motor skills and his communication skills.

Gemma loves doing arts and crafts.

The children were practicing their fine pincer grip with droppers to make themselves into butterflies.
The Bobcat

Aanii kina wiya! Here we are at the end of the year already! Incredible how quickly the time has flown by. So many learning experiences to look back and reflect upon; the Bobcat Run, Jis Giizhgit, Teachings at Rainbow Lodge, Ribbon Skirt/Shirt making. There is a long list of accomplishments for our first year since 2019 without a COVID lockdown. The Shawanosowe Staff certainly worked hard to make up for lost time! The months of May and June have certainly followed this pattern. There’s been so many fun and exciting events.

Of particular note is how engaged students have been in the various land- and culture-based learning opportunities that have been offered. I greatly enjoyed watching how intently focused (and successful!) many of them were during their time fishing at the Lodge. Participation in the School Pow Wow was also wonderful to see. Students were most proud to wear the skirts and vests they had made themselves through our program with Sophie Pheasants this year! Recently we also hosted Dr. Ruth Beatty of Lakehead University with the support of Tim McGregor and Cynthia Wemigwans as students in Grades 3-6 were introduced to coding through the practice of beading as part of a culturally-based math project. In addition to producing some beautiful beaded bracelets, students also quickly learned the skill of digitally coding their designs using mathematical concepts of pattern manipulation. Seeing the students motivated to learn was truly a delight to witness! We are hopeful this initiative will return next year, stay-tuned!

We have also been able to provide some sport and health-related opportunities in recent weeks. Public Health Ontario spent a day with us teaching students to be “tobacco-aware” (including the important differences between commercial and cultural uses of tobacco) while also engaging them in learning to play the sport of Ultimate Frisbee. UCCMM Police and Breakaway Sports joined us once again for a Bicycle Safety Rodeo and repair station. Students tested out their bike-handling skills while also having repairs made free of charge to ensure they’re ready to roll for the summer season. Christian Kaiser-Fox (UCCM) and Mark Peltier (Noojmovin Teg) have also been visiting us regularly on Thursday afternoons for a combined fitness/badminton program.

Finally, I want to extend my best wishes to all of you for an enjoyable summer with your families. This is my final Bobcat, as I will be stepping down in my role as Principal. I hope to see you around the community going forward nonetheless. G’chi-miigwech for the absolute privilege of being able to work with your wonderful children.
Baa maa pi. Mr. Whitaker

Dr. Ruth Beatty of Lakehead University with Cynthia Wemigwans and Miss Bonnie, introduced Miss Emily’s Grade 5/6 class to coding through the practice of beading as part of a culturally-based math project.

321 Maple Heights, Birch Island, Ontario POP 1A0

School Year Calendar 2023-2024

Legend: S - Statutory School Holiday  P - Professional Activity Day  M - March Break  C- Christmas Break  1st Day of School for Students  BH - Band Designated Holiday  Last Day for Students (EARLY DISMISSAL 2:00)  Early Dismissal at 2:00  Prep-Teachers

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Please Note: Calendar is Subject to Change
Principal - Calvin Makela

Aanii Families of Shawanoswe School!
My name is Mr. Makela. I am the incoming Principal of Shawanoswe School. I will begin my tenure on August 14. This is my 19th year in Education and have taught every grade from Kindergarten through Grade 12. I have taken on school and system leadership roles in the last couple of years and have been an Additional Qualifications / Additional Basic Qualifications Instructor for Qualified teachers for the past seven years.

I spent a few years as a teacher in this area. I was the 4/5/6 math teacher at Webbwood Public School and the Junior Kindergarten Teacher at AB Ellis Public School.

Outside of teaching I am a licensed trainer for the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services and provide programming for Indigenous youth in the Sudbury area with a focus on Health and Wellness, Drug and Alcohol Prevention, Cultural Programming and Youth Empowerment.

I am a proud father of two amazing sons who help to keep me busy. We love to spend time at our camp and travel as much as we can, learning about new cultures and trying new things.

I am looking forward to working with the amazing staff at Shawanoswe School and members of our educational community in creating an inclusive culture of student achievement and well-being.

I am excited to get to know all the students and families and become better acquainted with the community of Whitefish River First Nation. I know this is going to be a fun filled year of learning!

Yours in Education,
Mr. Makela
Calvin Makela

Once a Bobcat ... always a Bobcat! Congratulations to the Shawanoswe School Grade 6 graduating class. Pictured (l-r) Miss Emily Kozachanko, Autumn Shawauna, Brayson McGregor & Laila Taibossigal. (missing from picture Violet Sutherland)

Congratulations to the Shawanoswe School Kindergarten graduating class. Nishin Bobkittens!!

Way to go Autumn!

Laila celebrates with some of her biggest fans!

Grade 6 Graduate Violet Sutherland.

Brayson and his extended family celebrate his big day!

Celebrating milestones as a family!

Ace and Andrew are moving on up!
Band Manager - Sandy Jacko

Aanii, Boozhoo

ANISHINABE GIIZHIGAD
June 6th is Anishinaabe Giizhigad and was declared a Band Holiday by Chief and Council. It is the day to commemorate and celebrate the proclamation of the Anishinaabe Chi-Naaknge-win by the Anishinaabe Nation Grand Council on June 6th in 2012. All of the 39 Anishnabek Nations recognize and honor this day.

STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION
Chief and Council has hired a group to develop a 2023-2027 Strategic Plan in consultation with WRFN Chief and Council and band membership. This will be accomplished through community consultations (focus groups, online survey and community planning sessions) and meetings with Chief and Council. The first community session is scheduled to take place on July 10, 2023 at the WRFN Community Centre. It is important for community members to participate in this process as it sets out priorities for the Chief and Council and the organization as a whole for the next four years. The strategic plan is scheduled for completion by November 2023.

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS
Throughout the summer the Niigaan Naabidaan Trust Community Development Bank Account Working Group will be hosting meetings in Toronto, Sudbury and Birch Island to gather input from community members where they would like Chief and Council to allocate the money generated from the Trust in the areas of Education, Health, Culture, Economic and Community Development. The Land Selection Working Group presented a draft map of identifying areas for potential land selection at the first round of conversations. After a brief presentation on the background of the lands negotiations, community members were asked if they agreed with the areas identified or had other areas in mind.

MMIWGT2S+ COMMEMORATIVE MONUMENT
On June 21, 2023, the monument commemorating Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, Trans and 2 Spirited People (MMIWGT2S) Loved Ones was unveiled to the public. The monument will stand as a visual reminder of the crisis of violence against Indigenous women and girls in Canada; and commemorate those have been lost and in honor of all missing and murdered indigenous women and children. Miigwech to Maggie Cwynk for coordinating this project and bringing the monument to Whitefish River First Nation.

HIGHWAY 6 OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW
Whitefish River First Nation requested the Ministry of Transportation conduct a review of the has contract-ed CIMA+ to conduct an operational performance review of Highway 6. The request was made in regards to safety concerns along the Highway 6 corridor related to vehicle speed and pedestrian safety issues. Over the next couple of months, CIMA+ will be collecting data and conducting site visits. Periodically they will be recording the number of vehicles and pedestrians at the following intersections:
- Sunshine Alley Road
- Lafarge
- Old Village Road
- Rainbow Valley Road
- Bay of Islands Road/McGregor Road
- Beedahban Milikun

The draft report on the Highway 6 Operational Performance Review is to be done by October 2023 and ready for Chief and Council to review.

ANNUAL POW WOW
Whitefish River First Nation is going to be hosting its Annual Traditional Pow Wow on August 19th and 20th. The Annual Pow Wow is a time for us to come together to enjoy food, gather, dance and honour the traditions of those who have gone on before us. We are welcome and encouraged to attend to celebrate our culture and community. A daily Sunrise Ceremony will be taking place at the Sunshine Alley Sacred Arbour. Rough camping will be available for those who wish to camp, all are reminded that no pets, drugs or alcohol allowed on site, in or around the pow-wow grounds. The Pow Wow Committee is seeking volunteers to assist with parking, security, and general duties. If you are willing and able to volunteer please contact Stuart Wilson at edo@whitefishriver.ca.

Just a reminder that the best way to prevent conflict with bears is to avoid attracting bears to the community by eliminating attractants such as the scent from garbage, barbecue grills, pet food and bird feeders. Have a safe and happy summer.

If you have any questions or concerns you can reach me at the Band Office 705-285-4335, extension 2223 or via email at bandmanager@whitefishriver.ca or via my cell at 705-863-3294.

It was all Turtle Talk with McMaster University student Reta Meng at Family Fun Day.

Strawberry Shortcake courtesy of WRFN Housing.

Shawanoswe alumnus.

Hope & Jeff enjoy a fresh fish snack box courtesy of the Trust.

Family Time at Family Fun Day.

Kieston learns to assert his treaty rights early on.

There was good weather and good visits during Family Fun Day.

Photo bomb.
Family Fun Day and the Pow Wow was a good time for all!
Lands, Estates & Membership Clerk/IRA - Louanne Megwanabe

We are well into the summer weather now and I am glad to see people out walking, fishing, playing sports and families enjoying each other’s company. Remember to be safe when enjoying those outdoor activities whether they are on land or on water. Have a great summer!

Request to Update Contact Information

We are asking all members of WRFN to please update their mailing/contact information with the WRFN Membership Office.

There is a “Contact information change/update” form that can be picked up at the Administration office or can be accessed on the WRFN Membership Portal and if requested, can be mailed out.

Your mailing address is required for voting purposes as well as distributing important information e.g. elections, referenda, mailing distributions, etc.

Members are encouraged to visit our website at www.whitefishriver.ca and enroll in the Membership Portal.

If you need assistance with our Membership Portal please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Contact Information for the WRFN Membership office is as follows:

Phone: 705-285-4335
Membership: Extension #2204
Fax No.: 705-285-4532
Email: lands.ira@whitefishriver.ca
Mailing Address: Whitefish River First Nation Membership Office
17A Rainbow Ridge Road, P.O. Box 188, Birch Island, Ontario
POP 1A0

Privacy

The membership office cannot disclose any information regarding any individual unless the proper release forms are signed. The Privacy Act is a Canadian Law concerning personal information held by federal government institutions. Its’ purpose is to protect the personal information of individuals by restricting its collection, use and disclosure. It also provides individuals with the right to access their own personal information that is being held or managed by a government institution.

Under the Privacy Act, personal information is defined as “information about an identifiable individual that is recorded in any form”. Examples include; photographs, date of birth, name, registration number, signatures, addresses, marital status, adoption status, etc.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Reclaiming your Name – At this time, your family name, given name or alias can only include letters from the latin alphabet and some accented letters. To reclaim your family name or given name, you must submit a document that confirms your reclaimed name, such as a proof of birth document or a legal change of name certificate, with your complete application.

If you were affected by the 1951 cut-off date and your application for registration was denied, you need to re-apply.

REGISTRATION AS A STATUS INDIAN IN CANADA – REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- Child or Adult Application for Registration on the Indian Register and for the Sure Certificate of Indian Status (SCIS) and Guarantor Form
  - Original long form Birth Certificate (also known as statement of Live Birth)
  - Photo identification

IF YOU WERE ADOPTED:

1. a copy of the adoption order or a letter from the social services authorities confirming the details of the adoption
2. a consent form signed and dated by the adopted applicant, or in the case of a child or a dependent adult, by the adoptive parents or legal guardians, so ISC can get information about the biological ancestry from social services authorities involved in the adoption

You can also submit a copy of the pre-adoption birth certificate listing the biological parents’ name, if available. If adopted in British Columbia, you’ll need to fill out a consent form specific to that province. A CUSTOM ADOPTION is carried out following a First Nation’s practices. Applicants need to submit additional documents to confirm the custom adoption. To find out more about what other documents you need to submit if you’re adopted and to obtain a consent form: write to:

Adoption Unit,
Indigenous Services Canada,
10 rue Wellington,
Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0H4

STATUS CARDS

If you are applying for or renewing the Certificate of Indian Status Card (CIS) for either the Secure card or Paper Laminate card, the required documents are:

- Certificate of Indian Status Application (SCIS or CIS) and Guarantor Form
- 2 pieces of Photo Identification, and
- 2 passport Style photos Identification or use the SCIS Photo app

Status Card Pictures

The cost of a picture for the Certificate of Indian Status Card (CIS) is $5.00. For our elders, we will waive the picture fee.

Marriage Reporting: Original marriage certificate and marriage reporting form is required

Death Reporting: A copy of the Death Certificate is required to register the death of a registered member or spouse.

Name Change Reporting: The following is a list of the required supporting documentation:

- A written, signed and dated request from the individual
- One piece of their supporting ID (applicants can provide one piece of valid government issued supporting ID that contains their name, date of birth, photo and signature. If the applicant if not able to provide supporting ID that meets all the criteria, they can use a combination of IDs or complete the form with the Guarantor.

If the applicant wishes to change their name in the Register at the same time, they must also provide the name-linking document.

Applicants can also choose to record an alias without a name-linking document.

A) An original certificate of legal name change (copy is acceptable if their piece of ID is already updated in the new name) OR
B) An original amended birth document in their name

Please be advised that all life events require the “Request for an Amendment form” to be completed and Photo i.d. be provided with original documents when required.

Forms available at the Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) website or available upon request from the Membership office. https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1462806841047/1572461062751#cert-ind-stat

Please call the Administration office at 705-285-4335 and ask for extension 2204 to make an appointment to renew or replace your CIS card.
NON-INSURED HEALTH BENEFITS (NIHB)

An eligible client must be a resident of Canada and any of the following:

- A First Nations person who is registered under the Indian Act (status Indian);
- An Inuk recognized by an Inuit land claim organization;
- A child less than 18 months old whose parent is a registered First Nations person or a recognized Inuk.

To make sure that your child continues to be eligible for the program, you should apply for your child’s Indian status. This should be done as soon as possible.

For more information on Benefits and services under the Non-Insured Health Benefits program, please visit, the Indigenous Services Canada Website, select Indigenous Health, then select Non-insured Health Benefits for First Nations and Inuit.

https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1572537161086/1572537234517

WHITEFISH RIVER FIRST NATION CITIZENSHIP

Whitefish River is a section 10 band and determines its own Citizenship (Band Membership). Registration for Citizenship with Whitefish River First Nation is not automatic, and everyone must apply. Application forms are available from the membership office upon request.

Wills, Estates and Powers of Attorney

Due to unforeseen circumstances we had to postpone the June 13th information session and the June 14th Client Clinic day. There will be another day posted for the client clinic sessions so that we can include all those that have signed up already.

The next information session for Wills, Power of Attorney & Estates will be held on July 5, 2023 from 6:00pm – 8:00pm at the community centre. The returning facilitator for this is Fred Bellefeuille, Barrister & Solicitor. Mr. Bellefeuille has been in Whitefish River before to present and to complete wills with members.

Our client one-on-one sessions for July 5, 2023 are completely booked. We are booking for September and October 2023.

The information session is open to all and we are asking that you register ahead of time for the information session then we will book your one-on-one session at this time should you choose to book.

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Louanne Megwanabe,
Lands, Estates & Membership Clerk/IRA
705-285-4335 ext. 1104
lands.ira@whitefishriver.ca

Creating Your Will
One-on-One Sessions

2nd of 5 Sessions

JULY 5 - FULLY BOOKED
SEPT 13TH - SPOTS AVAIL
OCT 11TH - SPOTS AVAIL
5TH DATE TO BE DETERMINED

with Fred Bellefeuille,
Barrister & Solicitor

To book your appointment, call
Louanne Megwanabe
Lands, Estates & Membership Clerk/IRA
705-285-4335, ext. 2204
### WRFN Population Stats as of June 19, 2023

| Age Group | Males | | | | | **ON Reserve** | | | | | | **Other + Total** | | | | | | | | **Deceased** |
|-----------|-------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2023      | 0     | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2022      | 1     | 4 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 7 | 2 | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| 2021      | 2     | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 2 | | | | | | | | |
| 2020      | 3     | 5 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 10 | 1 | 0 | | | | | | | | |
| 2019      | 4     | 4 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 4 | | | | | | | | |
| 2018      | 5     | 5 | 0 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 13 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | |
| 2017      | 6     | 7 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 14 | 0 | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| 2016      | 7     | 10 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 19 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | |
| 2015      | 8     | 5 | 0 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 12 | 1 | 3 | | | | | | | | |
| 2014      | 9     | 4 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 0 | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| 2013      | 10    | 9 | 6 | 3 | 10 | 2 | 8 | 19 | 0 | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| 2012      | 11    | 9 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 17 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| 2011      | 12    | 7 | 2 | 5 | 14 | 4 | 10 | 21 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| 2010      | 13    | 10 | 2 | 8 | 18 | 3 | 15 | 28 | 0 | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| 2009      | 14    | 4 | 0 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 0 | 3 | | | | | | | | |
| 2008      | 15    | 12 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 16 | 0 | 2 | | | | | | | | |
| 2007      | 16    | 7 | 0 | 7 | 10 | 2 | 8 | 17 | 0 | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| 2006      | 17    | 7 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 12 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | |
| 2005      | 18    | 11 | 3 | 8 | 11 | 2 | 9 | 22 | 2 | 0 | | | | | | | | |
| 2004      | 19    | 13 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 20 | 0 | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| 2003      | 20    | 15 | 2 | 13 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 20 | 2 | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| 2002      | 21    | 9 | 2 | 7 | 13 | 1 | 12 | 22 | 0 | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| 2001      | 22    | 11 | 1 | 10 | 11 | 3 | 8 | 22 | 0 | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| 2000      | 23    | 8 | 3 | 5 | 10 | 2 | 8 | 18 | 0 | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| 1999      | 24    | 15 | 4 | 11 | 15 | 3 | 12 | 30 | 0 | 2 | | | | | | | | |
| 1998      | 25    | 10 | 3 | 7 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 20 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | |
| 1997      | 26    | 13 | 7 | 6 | 17 | 4 | 13 | 30 | 2 | 0 | | | | | | | | |
| 1996      | 27    | 17 | 5 | 12 | 13 | 3 | 10 | 30 | 1 | 0 | | | | | | | | |
| 1995      | 28    | 17 | 3 | 14 | 14 | 1 | 13 | 31 | 2 | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| 1994      | 29    | 12 | 3 | 9 | 14 | 4 | 10 | 26 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | |
| 1993      | 30    | 14 | 2 | 12 | 15 | 1 | 14 | 29 | 0 | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| 1992      | 31    | 14 | 1 | 13 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 23 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | |
| 1991      | 32    | 12 | 1 | 11 | 10 | 4 | 6 | 22 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| 1990      | 33    | 11 | 2 | 9 | 20 | 5 | 15 | 31 | 2 | 0 | | | | | | | | |
| 1989      | 34    | 9 | 3 | 6 | 14 | 3 | 11 | 23 | 0 | 2 | | | | | | | | |
| 1988      | 35    | 11 | 2 | 9 | 9 | 0 | 9 | 20 | 2 | 0 | | | | | | | | |
| 1987      | 36    | 12 | 0 | 12 | 9 | 0 | 9 | 21 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | |
| 1986      | 37    | 9 | 1 | 8 | 17 | 1 | 16 | 26 | 0 | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| 1985      | 38    | 9 | 0 | 9 | 10 | 1 | 9 | 19 | 0 | 2 | | | | | | | | |
| 1984      | 39    | 13 | 5 | 8 | 16 | 1 | 15 | 29 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | |
| 1983      | 40    | 12 | 2 | 10 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 17 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | |
| 1982      | 41    | 8 | 1 | 7 | 11 | 2 | 9 | 19 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | |
| 1981      | 42    | 14 | 2 | 12 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 19 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | |
| 1980      | 43    | 10 | 1 | 9 | 14 | 3 | 11 | 24 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| 1979      | 44    | 16 | 3 | 13 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 24 | 0 | 1 | | | | | | | | |
**WRFN Population Stats as of June 19, 2023**

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<tr>
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**On Reserve Population**

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<th>On Reserve</th>
<th>Registered Members: 414</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>864</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Population**

Total: 1505

**On-RES. Total: Reg. + Other Residents: 410**

**Deceased Stats include people who are deceased & have not yet been removed from the Indian Registry System (37)**

**Other Resident stats include members who are: not yet registered, non-status, another band, and non-Indigenous**

**NOTE:**

- On-Reserve Stats include people who are deceased & have not yet been removed from the Indian Registry System (37)
- Other Resident stats include members who are: not yet registered, non-status, another band, and non-Indigenous
Aanii Boozhoo
The summer seems to be flying by so fast! When I can, I enjoy spending weekends with my husband fishing in Pike Derbies hosted by the Wiikwemkoong Anglers. It is a wonderful way to spend quality time with each other and enjoy the beautiful surroundings of Birch Island and catch a few gators. Everyone is welcome to join the virtual event, it is catch and release, the more the merrier. Hope to see you out on the water.

Per Capita Distribution (PCD)
Congratulations to all our High School graduates! The sky is your limit! Fly high! As part of the Trust Agreement an individual must be 18 years old with a high school diploma to qualify for the PCD or be 21 years of age. For those who are 18 years of age and graduated from High School (OSSD) or equivalent the PCD forms will be mailed to you or you can contact me at the Administration office if you did not receive them on or around your 18th birthday.

On October 26, 2019, Whitefish River First Nation voted to accept an offer of $103.18 million from the Government of Canada as a land claim settlement for errors in survey after the 1850 Robinson Huron Treaty, resulting in a smaller reserve than agreed upon.

In July 2019, Chief and Council reached out via survey to the Band members to indicate what the dollar amount for the PCD would be, 620 members responded and 83% of members indicated $25,000.00. The Per Capita Distribution (PCD) started in April 2020, there was 1134 band members who were to be qualified recipients on the day of the vote. Qualified recipient is outlined in the Niigaan Naabidaa Trust Agreement.

The PCD is a one-time payment, if you have not claimed your PCD please contact me at trust@whitefishriver.ca or 705-285-4335 to receive the forms.

Community Development Bank Account Working Group
The Community Development Bank Account Working Group completed the first session with members on June 13th in Sudbury, June 14th in Toronto and on June 22, 2023 in Whitefish River First Nation. There was also an opportunity for members to join via Zoom on July 4th for those who were unable to attend the other sessions.

The turn out was great in all locations and it was great seeing everyone once again. Attendance in Sudbury was 37, Toronto 46 and WRFN 68.

The working group consists of Leslie McGregor, Council Ex-Officio, and Band Members Gail Jacko and Kristina Hall.

Sterling McGregor and Julianne Pires were invited to assist the Community Conversations as Youth members. You can read their bio's in the Niigaan Naabidaa Newsletter that can be found on the Whitefish River First Nation website.

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**WHITEFISH RIVER FIRST NATION COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS**

**August 14-16, 2023**

**Community Development Bank Account Working Group**

**Annual Income - 2nd meeting**

**SUDBURY**

Holiday Inn
August 14, 2023
1696 Regent Street, Sudbury, ON
Time: 5:30-9:00 pm

**TORONTO**

Courtyard by Marriott
August 15, 2023
475 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON
Time: 5:30-9:00 pm

**BIRCH ISLAND**

Community Centre
August 16, 2023
6 Rainbow Valley Road, Birch Island, ON
Time: 5:30-9:00 pm

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**DRAFT AGENDA**

1. Opening Prayer
2. Community Development Bank Account Working Group
   - Roll up on 1st meeting
   - Discussion
3. Questions and Answers Period
4. Door Prizes
5. Closing Remarks

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**Dinner & Refreshments provided & Door Prizes**

For More Information contact:
Leslie Manitowabi-Recollet, Trust Secretariat - trust@whitefishriver.ca
705-285-4335
Here is the spend plan process for the working group.

**Spend Plan Process**

- **Community Conversations:**
  - Session 1
  - Session 2

- **Chief and Council Decision:**
  - On Spend Plan

- **WRFN Community Conversations:**
  - Roll-Up

- **WRFN Bank Account Working Group:**
  - Recommended Priorities for Spend Plan

- **Reporting Back to Community:**
  - On Allocated Spend Plan

We are excited to see everyone for the second Community Conversation for August 14-16, 2023.

**Gym Membership Fund**

This fund has been established from the Niigaan Naabidja Trust Annual Income to provide registered band members who require financial assistance for gym membership to promote the health and wellness of all members.

You will need to provide receipts for your gym membership and you then will receive a reimbursement. You can claim up to $500.00. The form can be found on the Whitefish River First Nation website at [www.whitefishriver.ca](http://www.whitefishriver.ca) or by contacting me at 705-285-4335 ext. 2201 or via email at trust@whitefishriver.ca.

We are happy to have Danielle Pregent and Kiana Pelletier join the Rainbow Lodge Team this season, they will be keeping the cabins ready for our guests. We have had two busy months thus far, and are looking forward to the summer months. Here are our bookings to date and a comparison from last year. We are busier this season for sure.

The Rainbow Lodge is a seasonal operation which opens in May and closes in October. If you are looking to book for next year 2024, call soon as we are booking quickly.

Please visit our website at: [http://www.therainbowlodge.ca](http://www.therainbowlodge.ca).

Wishing you all a wonderful summer and hope you decide to come hope and visit the Traditional Pow Wow on the Weekend of August 19th and 20th.

Baamaapii

Leslie Manitowabi-Recollet
Trust Secretariat/Rainbow Lodge Manager
lrecollet@whitefishriver.ca
Cell: 705-863-0255
Tenant Relations Worker - Kendra McGregor

Aanii From the Housing Department! I hope everyone’s Summer is going great! It is important to remember to inspect and maintain your home during the summer season. Basic home maintenance is crucial to prolong the lifespan of major housing components. This is also a reminder to tenants about Yard Maintenance this time of year:

Yard Maintenance
The Housing Department would like to remind tenants to keep playgrounds, fire pits, trampolines, ATV’s, gardens, trees and any other structures or objects off of their field beds. It is very important that the field bed portion of the septic system is maintained and kept clear of any obstructions. Tenants are also reminded to keep their yards clean, cut and clear of debris/junk. The WRFN Housing Policy under Section 3.4 Tenant Responsibilities states: “Keep the rental unit in good, clean and sanitary condition, including the yard.” And “Keep the rental unit and surrounding areas clean and free of rubbish and remove junked cars and other rubbish where it poses a health, environmental or safety hazard.”

Rent and Rental Agreements
The Housing Department would also like to remind tenants that rent is due every 1st of the month. Rental Agreements also need to be renewed annually. If you have not done so, please contact Kendra to schedule an appointment to come in to renew your agreement.

During the month of July, the Housing Department hosted two information sessions.

Introduction to Home ownership
This workshop held Tuesday July 18th, 2023 was open to all community members. Particularly those interested, or in the process of building or purchasing a home.

Topics Included:
• The Importance of Planning
• The Application & Approval Process
• Selecting a House Design/Plan
• Obtaining Costing for Materials and Labor
• Tendering and Contracting
• Inspections and Code Compliance

Introduction to Indoor Air Quality & Introduction to Ventilation Systems (HRV)
This workshop held Wednesday July 19th, 2023 was also open to all community members. Particularly community members that are current renters. This session covered HRV maintenance and the importance of indoor air quality.

If you have any questions, need a Housing Application, or require more information please don’t hesitate to contact me at 705-285-4335 or kendra.mcgregor@whitefishriver.ca Baamaa until next article!

I hope to see some of you at our Annual Pow-wow. 🎉

For more information contact

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**CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF ON-SITE SEWAGE SYSTEMS**

- Do not allow roof drain to discharge to the septic tank or surface waters to drain towards the leaching bed.
- Keep your domestic water usage to a minimum. If automatic washers and dishwashers are used, make sure full loads are washed each time. Excessive use of water could flush solids from the tank to the leaching bed.
- Moderate use of household drain solvents, cleaners, disinfectants should not interfere with the operation of the sewage disposal system; however, indiscriminate use may cause problems.
- There should be no need to use “starters”.
- The septic tank should be inspected at least once every two years and pumped when necessary - every 3 or 4 years is suggested. Failure to pump out a septic tank when required may result in sludge or scum being carried over to the leaching bed resulting in soil clogging and pre-mature failure of the system.
- The performance of the effluent filter must be monitored closely; clogged filter can lead to a sewage backup into the house or leak onto the surface. A septic tank, Clean off filter by washing it with water using a garden hose while lowering into the first chamber of the septic tank periodically or whenever required. This practice will help to prevent clogging.
- Vegetable traffic and storage such as cars, snow machines should not be allowed on the leaching bed. They may crush the plastic pipe with excessive weight and result into the pre-mature of the septic system.
- The leaching bed area should have a good cover of grass, and adequate exposure to the sunlight to enhance evaporation process. Sheds or trees should not be allowed to grow within 3 meters of the leaching bed area as their roots can reach into the pipes and cause clogging.
- The tile bed area should be maintained by the homeowner. The grass should be cut regularly to allow the tile bed to breathe.
- Gardens are not recommended to be planted on a tile bed. The root vegetables may absorb sewage effluent and cause health problems. Better be safe than sorry.
- Playgrounds for children are wonderful; however, they should not be placed on top of a septic system. The wooden structures that some are made of may penetrate the pipes and break them.
- If you are experiencing problems with your septic system please contact community’s Housing / Public Works Department or a Local Septic System Installer (whichever is applicable to you). A licensed installer will be able to run the diagnostics on your system and in return provides you a list of possible remedies available.
- Contact your community’s Environmental Public Health Officer (FNIHB) by calling the numbers listed below or through the community’s administration office to schedule a sewage system inspection to determine if the problem is posing a health hazard to the residents, homeowners and neighbours.

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**Gym HOURS**

**MONDAY** 8AM – 10PM
**TUESDAY** 8AM – 10PM
**WEDNESDAY** 8AM – 10PM
**THURSDAY** 8AM – 10PM
**FRIDAY** 8AM – 10PM
**SATURDAY** 8AM – 10PM
**SUNDAY** 8AM – 10PM

For more information contact

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**FISH FRY**

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16TH
AT 11 AM.
Ceremony begins at 11:30.
Lunch served at Noon.

Please join us at the Lafarge Pavilion
for our Community Fish Fry & Social!

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL

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**Miin Gızís 2023**

For further information please contact:
Indigenous Services Canada, First Nations & Inuit Health Branch
Environmental Public Health Services
282 Elm Street, Sudbury, ON, P3E 0A8
705–671–4100
705–671–4112
Economic Development Officer - Stuart Wilson

June and July have been busy in the Economic Development office! The Summer Student Work Program is in full swing after we kicked off the training in the first week of July. Whitefish River was happy to welcome a total of 8 students from both secondary and post-secondary schools for the 8 week program. The students received their First Aid and CPR/AED certificates after attending a 2-day course with the Canadian Red Cross. After completing other training courses such as WHMIS, health and safety in the workplace, and customer service standards, the students were placed into their positions throughout the daycare, maintenance, lands, and family well-being office where they continue to learn and develop skills that will help to shape their careers moving forward.

As well as co-ordinating the summer student program, I have also been busy helping to organizing the 28th Annual Wawaskinaga Traditional Pow Wow. We are still looking for volunteers, if anybody would like to lend their time and effort to helping out at any time throughout the weekend I ask them to please get in touch with me via email, phone or at the administration office. This is a great way to engage with the community and also can provide a great opportunity for high school students to secure the volunteer hours required for graduation. We are hoping for another great turnout after last year and I personally cannot wait to see everybody again on August 19th and 20th.

Last but not least, the Whitefish River First Nation Coast Guard Auxiliary Team is looking for enthusiastic individuals to join our team! Our mission is to enhance the safety and security of our community’s waterways by working with the Canadian Coast Guard in Search and Rescue operations in our community. If you have a love for the water and a desire to help your community, we invite you to apply to become a member of our team. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Whitefish River First Nation Coast Guard Auxiliary Team or volunteering with the Pow Wow please contact Stuart Wilson at the Administration Office to learn more. We look forward to working with you!

If you have any ideas, questions or concerns you can email me at edo@whitefishriver.ca visit me at the Administration building, or call me at 705-285-4335 ext. 2216

Migwetch

A golf putting challenge was part of the Trust’s Family Fun Day booth held on June 9, 2023.

28TH ANNUAL WAWASKINAGA TRADITIONAL POW WOW

Food and Craft Vendors

August 19 & 20, 2023

Registration fee waived. Vendors must donate an item to Pow Wow giveaway.

To register as a Vendor please call Economic Development Officer, Stuart Wilson at 705-285-4335, ext. 2216 or email: edo@whitefishriver.ca

WRFN Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary Team

JOIN OUR TEAM!

Why should you join?

- Paid education & training programs
- Unique chance to serve your community
- Meaningful volunteer work
- Opportunities for personal growth and fulfillment

To start your application, please email Stuart Wilson, Economic Development Officer at: edo@whitefishriver.ca or call 705-285-4335 ext. 216
For this article I think I will catch everyone up on my recent activities and findings. Then update everyone with the upcoming work in July.

McGregor Bay Fisheries Studies: In April and May of 2023 the Upper Great Lakes Management Unit (UGLMU) completed a Spring Walleye Index netting project, and 2 Early Spring Trap Netting projects in McGregor Bay. The focus of the studies was Muskegg and Walleye. We are still waiting for the results from these studies and I will share the result when received from the UGLMU.

Commercial Fisheries Mtg: On May 28 I attended a commercial fishery meeting in AOK. The MNRF gave there updated about the state of the fishery in Lake Huron and the local First Nations voiced their concerns. The main concern was about the collapse of the Whitefish and the ongoing Lake Trout stocking program. We are asking if anyone has information about Lake Whitefish and their spawning ground to please share that with us.

LRV Recap & Bio Blitz: We held session #2 on May 31st, 2023 which seems like a long time ago at this point. In session #1 we created a significant species list. Out of this our “Traditional Species List” was created. Going forward one of our main focuses will be to enhance this “Traditional Species List” for WRFN. This list can have significance when dealing with any new development in our territory. Next is our BIO BLITZ to be held on July 14th, 2023.

Additions to Reserve (ATR) Training: This three-day ATR training hosted by National Aboriginal Land Managers Association. Here I learned the formal process for an ATR and why it takes such a LONG time. There are 2 reasons for an ATR’s; the first comes from a land claim like the one we are going through now. The other arises from a need or opportunity. I see this as good training when we’re planning to identify a piece of land for economic potential.

Coast Guard Training: In June I also attended the 3-day Level Two Coast Guard Training held in Winkwemikong. This training was an eye opener to how an actual search and rescue operation runs. Day 1 we learned how to pick up a person from the water. Day 2 we learned navigation and search patterns. Finally, on Day 3 we put it all together in a mock search and rescue operation. We are now preparing our boat for rescue mission.

Turtle Files: We are coming to the end of our first year of studying Blanding’s Turtles on our Mainland Birch Island. This year we were successful in catching, tagging, and tracking 12 Blanding’s Turtles to their nesting sites. We determined that the majority of the nests are victims of predation. If we wish to further protect the turtle we may have to consider an incubation program in the future. We will be announcing the winner of the turtle contest soon.

Inland Lakes Monitoring: In July the Anishinabek Ontario Fisheries Resource Centre (AOFRC) will be here to perform Broad Scale Monitoring on 5 inland lakes here in WRFN. We will be gathering basic lake information; average depth, Secchi depth, surface area, water chemistry, and fish populations. This is to be included as part of our environmental inventory and will be our baseline data going forward.

If anybody has any question about past projects or upcoming projects, please let me know. You can email me at keithn@whitefishriver.ca

Lands and Order: Search and Rescue Unit
Lands Officer - Keith Nahwegahbow

BIRCH ISLAND
NATURE CHALLENGE!

TAKE PART IN THE WRFN CITIZEN SCIENCE CHALLENGE!
CREATE YOUR INaturalist ACCOUNT AND GET STARTED!
OBSERVE AND DOCUMENT OUR NATIVE SPECIES WITHIN WRFN BOUNDARIES TO GAIN ENTRIES!

FOLLOW OUR FACT SHEET ONLINE FOR MORE INFO ON GETTING STARTED!
CONTEST BEGINS JULY 21ST AND WILL END AUGUST 23RD
A CHANCE TO WIN THE GRAND PRIZE OF A MICROSOFT PRO VR!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT KEITH NAHWEGAHBOW
AT keithn@whitefishriver.ca OR (705)-285-4335

WANTED

Labrador Tea aka "Leather Leaf"

Our first bounty in our iNaturalist “Birch Island Nature Challenge” contest. Identified as a significant species here in Whitefish River First Nation. If you are able to submit an Observation of Labrador Tea you will be entered into a draw for a Garmin Striker Fish Finder!

For more details please see our iNaturalist contest poster. Or contact Keith Nahwegahbow, Lands Officer, WRFN 705-285-4335 ext. 2220.
The red lines show the eastern boundary for commercial fishing activity in the North Channel of Lake Huron. (46.050556, -81.916867)

Any commercial fishing east of this line is not permitted.

Commercial fishing nets are marked with a special float. They are also larger and longer than your standard gill net.

If you suspect any illegal fish harvesting activities, please take pictures and mark the coordinates.

Report all illegal fishing activities to 1-877-TIPS-MNR (847-7867)
Infrastructure and Emergency Services Manager - Richard Shawanda

Water Plant Operations
This summer looks to be a busy one this year with a few major projects set to start for the Water Treatment Plant and Distribution system. Once we get closer to the start date there will be notices sent out to residents who will be directly affected by the work that will be done but at the same time steps will be put in place to minimize any long disruptions to services provided by our water department. Andy Recollet is in charge of the day to day operations of the plant making sure clean potable water is delivered to our community members daily and also completing planned maintenance and preventative maintenance to our system to ensure it is operating as designed.

Darin Prince successfully obtained his Operator in Training Certificate for the Water Plant and plans are now underway for training and preparing him to write and pass the Level 1 Water Treatment Licence. Darin has proven to be a great asset to the department and we are glad to have him as a welcome addition. Amy Waboose is currently on maternity leave and will be back with us next spring.

Treatment Process
The Water Treatment Plant continues to run as designed. As mentioned earlier we are going to be starting the Ozone replacement for the Water Plant. This will be a much-needed upgrade which will ensure we have the disinfection process to allow us to continue to provide the cleanest potable water to our community members. I will provide updates once we finalize the start date and keep our community up to date on the progress of this project. This project is slated for late fall with completion for spring 2024.

Elevated Storage Reservoir
There are minor repairs still at the ESR that need to be fixed. These repairs are in the planning stage and will be completed by late summer.

Water Delivery Truck
The minor capital application is in final stages of approval with Indigenous Services Canada. We should be hearing from them in the very near future about the allocation of funds to order and purchase our new water delivery truck.

Watermain Replacement
Our department will be getting ready for the replacement of the old ductile iron water main in the main village area of Shawanoswe Street, Bay of Islands Road and Red Eagle Road. This is going to be a big project and measures will be in place to minimize any water service interruptions as well as access to your residences. Tendering process will be out and once completed a contractor will be selected to oversee and take on this project. This is tentatively slated to begin late summer with completion by late fall. I will be issuing a call out later to inform the affected residents of the exact start date and also address any issues or concerns you may have at that time. These are the original lines from the 70’s and are in need or replacement with PVC piping. Another item our crew will be taking care of is the replacement of repairs of existing curb stops and valve boxes throughout the community. Please take notice while they are out working to ensure their safety while performing the repairs.

Projects Team
The following is a list of projects our department is involved with in the community:
1. New Subdivision Expansion Project
2. Watermain replacement
3. Wastewater Treatment Feasibility
4. Septic Tank and Field Bed Replacement and New Lagoon Study/Project

Emergency Services
Progress is being made with regards to upgrading and updating the current Emergency Response Plans for our community. This is a time-consuming effort as there are a lot of variables to consider when making the plans like; the type of emergency, department involvement, community control group selection and so on. I will soon be putting out a call for committee members to assist with the planning and updating of our current plan. I am hoping to have a draft for review in late fall. I will also be going to public buildings making sure fire equipment is up to date and working as designed. I am planning on having another home safety workshop hopefully later this fall. Other items are making sure our fire department has all the necessary tools they need in the event of emergency call outs in the community. We are always looking for new recruits. I will be looking at getting hands-on training for our fire crew in the near future to make sure we are up to date with the skills and resources needed to keep our community safe when called upon. Drop by or email or call me should you have interest in joining the community volunteer Fire Department. Due to manufacture shortfalls our timeline for the delivery of the rapid attack vehicle has been pushed back a bit. We are targeting for a December delivery but it might be in the new year. Also, I am looking for funding to replace the 1972 pumper truck and the 85 cube van. Many things going on for the betterment of the community!

I will be looking at taking more training in the Emergency Services program such as Incident Coordinator training and also risk assessment training. S-100 firefighting course for our fire crew and any interested community members is being worked on and hopefully training will be secured in the very near future. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact me at iesmanager@whitefishriver.ca or call at 705-285-0007 or my cell at 705-562-3583.
Community Energy Champion - Ryan McGregor

First off, I would like to wish all graduating students at every level of schooling congratulations for the time and efforts you put into your education, completing your academic milestones.

The majority of Community Energy projects are all coming together and close to being finished.

The First Nations Community Building Retrofit Program: A program designed to implement energy efficient measures to bring down the cost of electricity. The School, Water Plant and Administration Office were retrofitted with energy efficient and cost-saving LED lights. The last part of the program will be installing community street lights.

Small Business Lighting: An opportunity for small businesses to take part in a lighting program to receive up to $2000 in free lighting retrofits. A few local businesses benefitted from this program.

Indigenous Community Energy Plan: Ongoing. Compiling the data used to shape this plan including energy consumption for every building, propane consumption, home energy audits, changes in fossil fuel and electricity pricing, and the ever-evolving technologies currently available.

Indigenous Energy Project: This project explored the possibility of net metering in the residential and community owned buildings. Energy efficient technology has advanced in capabilities and performance as well as decreased in cost since the 2016 plan. These savings were applied to shape our updated Community Energy Plan. Building capacity within our current infrastructure and residences could hopefully ease our reliance upon the hydro one grid. This was a goal identified in the original community energy plan.

Keep an eye out for community engagements within the next few months to further discussions brought up during the Lands Reversioning Sessions. I would also like to point out if you have questions or concerns outside of these engagements and would like to talk or collect the information you requested, please do come by to chat.

Ryan McGregor
Community Energy Champion
705-285-4335 ext.2222
energychampion@whitefishriver.ca

Relay Education Team is partnering with Whitefish River First Nation!

Limited to WRFN students
Grades 4 to 8
Register early to avoid disappointment!

This program is FREE!

August 8, 9 & 10, 2023
7 Fires Youth and Elders Centre
Light snacks and lunch provided

Spend time with us exploring Renewable Energy, Conservation, Electricity & Wind.

To register contact: Community Energy Champion Ryan McGregor at 705-285-4335 ext. 2222 or via email at energychampion@whitefishriver.ca

Public Works Manager - Francis McGregor

Aaniin,

Public Works Department is busy as usual maintaining our roads and buildings. Maintaining grass cutting throughout as well, including ditches, soccer and ball field, cemeteries and many more.

All band owned gravel roads were calcium sprayed to keep the dust down. Pioneer Construction has finished asphalt replacement throughout our community.

Transfer Station hours are Saturdays 8 am till 3 pm, Mondays 8 am till 6 pm including holiday Mondays and Wednesdays 8 am till 6 pm. Curbside Pick up is Wednesdays at 8 am.

Water Delivery is on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays beginning at 8 am.

Reminder that blasting is still on going on the new 15 lot subdivision.

On a final note, please adhere to the posted speed limits on our community roads. The safety of our children and members comes first.

If you have any concerns or questions, please feel free to contact Francis McGregor at 705-330-2760 or email publicworkmanager@whitefishriver.ca

Migwetch

Miss Emily’s Grade 5/6 class had a hands-on lesson in conservation helping the WRFN Team with the Walleye (Ogaa) release!
Ahniio-Boozho!
Rodney Nahwegahbow n’dizhnikaaz, Misingan n’doodem, minnwa Gmiwin ‘nni’ n’ dizhnikaaz. It’s a pleasure to partake in the first edition of the new bi-monthly Rezound.

I attended sunrise ceremony conducted by Art Jacko at the launch of Mental Health week on May 1st, 2023. This event was planned by Crystal Mo-kohonuk the Whitefish River First Nation Mental Health and Addictions Worker. I appreciated the ceremony, teaching and the fine breakfast that followed. I would like to further acknowledge Council Members, Esther Jacko and Jeff McGregor who made time in their busy schedules to attend with me as well.

I was pleased to be involved in this years Niigaa Naabidaa Trust Audit Presentation which was held at the Whitefish River Council Chambers on May 4th. This year we were able to Zoom community membership from afar as well as have attendance of local community membership. Chi-Miigwech to the Niigaa Naabidaa Trust team who contributed to this presentation. As new leadership we remain committed to aligning spend plan strategies with community guidance and support.

I was honoured to participate in a walk for MMIWG2S on May 5th from Little Current to Whitefish River First Nation organized by Maggie Cywink. This event was followed by a larger MMIWG2S event on June 21st, 2023 in which Ontario Families of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls gathered to unveil a new monument in our community. The objective of the commemorative monument is to honour the lives and legacies of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and to help bring more awareness to this cause. Our community was selected by families who suffered losses to mark and honour their lives with this monument. We need to continue to provide our support to help end the root causes of Human Trafficking and the harmful exploitation of Indigenous Women and Girls. Please visit this beautiful monument and remember the need for our governments to address the 231 calls for action.

On May 9th I attended the Dr. Lillian McGregor Park Dedication in Toronto with Councillors Leona Nahwegahbow, Esther Jacko, and staff member Georgina Recollet. It was a moving event attended by a large number of people from the Indigenous population in Toronto, family members, and dignitaries. Whitefish River Band Member Dennis McGregor was the highlight for this event as he provided heartfelt words on how his mother provided a path of healing for family and friends that is rich in culture and traditions. Whitefish River Chief and Council are proud of Dr. Lilian McGregor and her accomplishments.

Earlier in May, the N’swakamok Friendship Centre in Sudbury celebrated their 50th Anniversary with a Gala event. It was important to attend this event to help acknowledge their contribution to our Anishinaabe community members residing in the city of Sudbury.

On May 30th and 31st, I attended a First Nation By-law workshop with Councillor Esther Osche and Band Manager Sandy Jacko at the Manitoulin Hotel and Convention Centre organized by the UCMM Tribal Council Governance Department. That workshop highlighted the growing need to create our own feasible By-laws that are functional and prosecutable for local by-law officers and police services.

It was good to participate in my first Anishinabe Nation Chiefs Assembly, held June 6th - 8th in Curve Lake. There is a great need to collaborate with other chiefs in our region to address the common needs affecting our First Nations.

Our Niigaa Naabidaa Trust Community Conversations tour and presentations commenced in June. We had a total of three visits with a fourth engagement to be completed by Zoom for those who missed earlier scheduled site conversations. The first three community conversations were well attended. Hats off to our organizers of our Trust team for doing such a great job that helped make this such a great success.

I continue to participate with ongoing and active meetings with the RHT Litigation Team, Trustees, and Mizinawe. I have been and continue to provide regular updates in the form of public announcements on our local media platforms. One major development was the settlement announcement on June 17th by Canada and Ontario with the RHT First Nations to the amount of 10 billion dollars for failing to recognize the augmentation clause of the original RHT. Please stay tuned as we plan a community meeting with the RHT Mizinawe on July 20th, 2023. That meeting will help design a plan for our community to advance a financial strategy for the incoming settlement.

We are asking our community members to adhere to outdoor fire rules with respect to Restricted Fire Zones — a specific area where outdoor fires are not permitted in Ontario. Please refer to the Whitefish River social media platforms for further updates on when burning is permissible.

We are looking forward to the Annual Whitefish River Annual Pow Wow on August 19 and 20th, 2023. Thank you to our Pow Wow committee for all the hard work and planning that has already taken place.

In closing we want to wish all our students and graduates much happiness and success for all their hard work during the school year. Have a safe summer and enjoy your time with family and stay safe.

Baa maa pii,
Chief Rodney Nahwegahbow

The Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) monument was unveiled on June 21, 2023. The project has been in the works for years and is one of the few public monuments dedicated to MMIWG in Canada.

Tecumseh Paibomsai received the Commanding Officers Award on June 4th, 2023. Tecumseh is a member of the Walden Irish Army Cadets unit #2964.
ROBINSON HURON TREATY GATHERING 2023

A charter bus has been secured for WRFN band members interested in attending the celebration in Sault Ste. Marie for the day.

**TENTATIVE ITINERARY**

- Depart WRFN: 7:00 AM
- Arrive Sault Ste. Marie: 10:30 AM
- Depart Sault Ste. Marie: 7:00 PM
- Arrive WRFN: 10:30 PM

*This is a one-day, roundtrip to Sault Ste. Marie and return.*

**SEPTEMBER 9, 2023**

**LIMITED SEATING AVAILABLE REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

Please register with Brianna McGregor, Council Secretary at 705-285-4335 ext.2203 or councilsecretary@whitefishriver.ca
Hello again everyone! I hope you all are enjoying your summer so far. As for me, I’m good so far other than having to use my air conditioner more than usual because of my breathing problems. My cats are doing fine and staying cool during our hot days. You will find them sleeping during the day and then are up around suppertime wanting to go outside. Luka and She-Pet Elizabeth, start scratching the bottoms of my two doors insisting to be let out. Well, the smoke in the air was really something for those couple of days. I know a lot of people got sick, including myself because of it. I guess quite a few people had to go into an emergency because of it.

Some Cat Facts:

• Cats, like other animals who have adapted to live in trees, have evolved an incredible ability to survive extreme falls. In 1987, a New York City cat fell 32 stories and suffered only a collapsed lung and a chipped tooth.
• According to a British poll, 82 percent of women surveyed said that they were more attracted to men who liked animals. Ninety percent think that men who own cats are “nicer” than other pet owners.
• The oldest cat on record was Creme Puff from Austin, Texas. Born in 1967, she lived until 2005 just past her 38th birthday.
• Pickles, a cat from Matamata, New Zealand, lives in Hobbiton, a popular tourist attraction that was once the set of The Lord of the Rings [2012 - 2014].

Well that is it for another month or so ... just think in six months time we will be getting ready for Christmas! In closing the cats and I would like to wish all the people celebrating either a very Happy Birthday or Happy Anniversary. May all your dreams and wishes come true. Remember to visit or phone our elderly or shut-ins or who are sick just to let them know that they are being thought of. Remember to get your pets fixed to help keep the pet population down in our community.

Bye from -
Luka and She-Pet Elizabeth (the cats).
and me, the big cat -
Dennis L. McGregor.

Gichi-Nendam Dabishkayek
Chi-Happy Birthday
Aunt Mel on July 13th.
from Lily and Ace

Chi Happy Birthday to Grandma
on July 24th from Lily and Ace

Happy Birthday to
Birch Island’s very own
Benjamin Button!

80 years young
We love you so much!
Your Family. ❤️

With Sincere Gratitude

There are not enough words to fully express our heartfelt thanks for the sympathy, love and support that was extended from the WRFN Administration, community, and friends to our family during this difficult time.

Thank you for sharing and supporting our family for our mom/grandma’s celebration of life. It was her wishes to come back home, and we appreciate everyone in helping us honour her final wishes.

THE FAMILY OF PAULINE ANDREWS-MIGWANEBI