Gaawiin Geyaabi
Da-gmoodziim Shiimenhiig
No More Stolen Sisters

On May 5, we wear red to mark the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Gender Diverse People (MMIWG2S+), also known as Red Dress Day.

Please note that the deadline for submissions for the next issue is Friday, May 31st, 2024 at 4:30.
Miigwetch!
rezoundeditor@whitefishriver.ca

“Please note that the deadline for submissions for the next issue is Friday, May 31st, 2024 at 4:30. Miigwetch!”

On May 6, in honour of MMIWG2S+ (May 5), Shawanosowe Students and Staff participated in a community walk to bring attention to this ongoing national tragedy and to remember and honour the lives of those lost and the families and communities affected. Today and every day, we hold in our thoughts the families and communities who carry the weight and live with the grief of losing loved ones.

Pane gmakwenmin. I always think of you.
Health Manager - Kim Armstrong

Aanii,

It’s with a heavy heart that I am writing my very last Rezound update. My last day in the Health Manager role will be Thursday May 2nd. Although I’ve only been in the community a very short time, I want to emphasize all of the exceptional people I had the privilege to work with throughout the organization and the amazing community members that I’ve been blessed to cross paths with on my journey. While my new position takes me out of the community, I know the staff that are in place will ensure the community is well cared for. If you are wondering, take the time to drop in to the Health Centre or ask questions via telephone, I urge you to do so, the staff is phenomenal!

We were very busy in April. Talon and I attended a Health Transformation meeting. Momentum is picking up fast with this project and it’s exciting to be part of. The next meeting is in July. The Mental Health and Addictions worker and the Community Wellness Worker both attended training and information sessions related to their positions. The Senior’s Navigator accompanied a group to the Language Conference in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

Marida is keeping busy with all of the medical transportation requests. As a reminder, she needs as much notice as you have to ensure your approvals can be submitted to NIHBF if you’re asking for long distance travel, or need a room prior to or after procedure. These requests get handled in a timely fashion prior to the appointments, but things move much slower as post-approvals. Thank you in advance.

Our Northern Ontario School of Medicine learners arrived this week. Expect to see them out and about in the community. They are excited to learn about Whitefish River First Nation and our community members. They will be in the community until Friday May 24th. Before that time, they will be presenting a project they are working on. Watch for the date, time and venue for that.

In this edition of the Rezound, you will see posters for all of the programming that we have planned. The Health Team looks forward to seeing everyone attend.

Baamaapii...

Mnaamodzawin Health Services - Diabetes Health Promotion Coordinator, Denise Graham

Aanii. I am Denise the new Diabetes Health Promotion Worker with Mnaamodzawin Health Services.

I was born and raised on Manitoulin and my husband and I moved back here 15 years ago to raise our 3 children, in what we think, is the most beautiful place on the planet. We reside in Little Current with our family and our 4 fur babies. Over the last 6 years, I have worked intensely in the health field, obtaining my certification as a Nutritionist, Health Coach, and Personal Trainer.

Together with my husband we run On The Rock Fitness Center, and I coach classes there and provide clients with Nutrition and Life Coaching support. I am passionate about helping others to find healthy and holistic ways to improve their lives and feel their best!

Fun facts about me: I love peanut butter and eat it daily! I am a rock fanatic and am constantly bringing home new rocks to add to my collection (often in my husband’s pockets while hiking), and I have most recently taken up pottery, which I find to be a relaxing and creative outlet.

I look forward to meeting and working with WRFN community members and am very excited to part of the Mnaamodzawin Health Services team of holistic health care practitioners.
Elders Walking Group

Tuesday & Thursday's
May 7, 16, 21, 23, 28, 30, 2024
Time: 1:00PM - 2:00PM
Location: Community Center

For more information please contact Arianna Pitawanakwat at 705-285-4353 ext. 2307

GWIIWIZENS (BOYS) FIRE KEEPING
TEACHINGS WITH DAN GARCIA
at the arbor

JUNE 2 2024
10:00AM - 1:00PM

Father Figures encouraged to participate
To register contact: Talon McGregor @ (705) 285-4354

The WRFN Health Staff said boaanaapi to Health Manager, Kim Armstrong on May 2, 2024. We wish Kim all the best on her new journey! Minawendaagwad wiiji nakimnaa. It’s fun working with you.

Pictured back row (l-r) Community Health Nurse, Talon McGregor, Community Wellness Worker, Arianna Pitawanakwat, Mnaamodzawin Community Health Nurse, Shelby Hester, Health Centre Receptionist, Cathy McGregor, Health Manger, Kim Armstrong, Mental Health and Addictions Worker, Crystal Mokohonuk. Front row (l-r) Medical Transportation Coordinator, Marida McGregor, Elder in Residence, Genny Jacko, & Seniors Navigator, Gail Pelletier.

Missed an issue of The Rezound? Find them online at www.whitefishriver.ca

Cherise Opolko B.A RPN (she/her), Community Health Nurse
Aanii WRFN, Niin Cherise nindoishinkaaz. I am a Community Health Nurse with Mnaamodzawin Health Services and work in WRFN at the Health Center. Our nursing team offers Home and Community Care, Immunizations, Health Promotion, and Drop-in services. We are available Monday-Friday from 9:30am-3:30pm. Always feel free to drop into or call the Health Centre to contact us. Chi Miigwech!
POW WOW DANCE STORY & ART
JUNE 2024

JUNE 11th @ 6pm
JUNE 18th @ 6pm
JUNE 25th @ 6pm
Outdoors @ the Soccer Field
If weather does not co-operate we will be at the Community Centre

Ambe Niimi‘daja
Let's dance

Sophie Pheasant will be sharing education, teachings & awareness on aspect of culture, our well-being & 2amin Pow Wow Dance session (optional).

TO REGISTER CONTACT:
Crystal Molokonik 705-285-4364 Ext. 2308
moralhealth@whitefishriver.ca

Kids Help Phone
1-800-668-6688
Hope for Wellness Help Line
1-855-242-3310
Trans Lifeline - Peer Support
1-877-330-6366
Talk4Healing
1-855-554-4325
Connex Ontario
1-866-531-2600
Telehealth Ontario
1-866-797-0000

Warm Line 6pm-12am
1-866-856-9276
24 Hour Sexual Assault Crisis Line
705-675-1233
Northeast Mental Health Services
Weekdays 8:30-4:30pm
705-368-0756 Ext. 222
Poison Control Information
705-674-3636
HSN-Crisis Line
1-877-841-1101
MHC-Little Current Hospital
705-368-3300
Manitoulin Northshore Victim Services
705-377-3378
1-866-392-7733

In case of Emergency call 911

UCCM POLICE
705-377-7135

24/7 CRISIS LINE
705-348-1937

OPP
1-888-310-1122

WRFN celebrated Shkakaamikwe Giizhigad with the Annual Community Clean-up BBQ.

The WRFN Seniors Navigator Program, in cooperation with UCCM Anishinaabe Police offered a Seniors Workshop on recognizing Elder Abuse on April 30, 2024.

Bringing Essential Services to the community! ServiceOntario Customer Service reps Jennifer Owl and Jana Lee, were in WRFN with the Niigaanii trailer on April 19, 2024.
Youth Support Worker - Hunter Shawanda

Tap tap tap* aaniin? O’owedi na? Is this thing on? Aaniin Anishizi ezhi aaayaan? How are you all doing? Spring is here, and I hope everyone is doing well! It’s been a very busy and exciting couple of months so far. A lot has happened from February till now - I have had the opportunity to bring various programs, activities and engagements throughout the community for our youth and with our warmer months on the horizon, it looks like a busy summer.

In the beginning of February I attended a training session in Akwesasne where I was fortunate to gain some new skills and knowledge as it pertains to identifying vulnerable aspects in children and youth lives. These kinds of training opportunities allow me as an individual and service worker to upgrade and hone my skills so that I can provide support to the best of my ability, for our youth here in Whitefish River First Nation and beyond. In the month of February I was also a part of the Greater Toronto Hockey Exchange weekend that took place over the weekend of February 9-11. This was a great experience for the handful of youth and visiting youth from Toronto to connect with each other and build core memories over the land and with hockey.

In March I also had the chance to partner up with Mark Peltier from Noojomowin Teg to collaborate and deliver a 5-week basketball clinic at Shawanoswe School. Each session, Mark coached and demonstrated the basics of basketball to another handful of youth who came out. There were a total of 8 youth who came out to each session, and all individually developed their own skills and athleticism in basketball! This was a rewarding program and I was happy to see everyone enjoying themselves and the sport! As part of the basketball program, Mark and I brought these youth to attend a Sudbury 5 Basketball game. It was neat to attend this, and for some it was their first time watching a professional basketball game. The atmosphere was electric and all had a great time. We even had the chance to practice on the game court, as well as enjoy a nice team meal at Wacky Wings before the game. At the end of March, an invitation was extended out to youth from WRFN for Youth Sponge Puck in Little Current. This was another great time for our youth to socialise and mingle with other youth from our neighbouring communities on Manitoulin Island. The month of March concluded with a youth and family trip to Ottawa, ON to attend hockey night with the Ottawa Senators. We had a total of 53 youth and their families attend this event - the night was a big success and all enjoyed themselves. Chi-miigwech for those who shared kind words about the trip and to the team at the Family Well-Being Centre for the support. I hope to have more adventures like this for the youth in the coming months.

The month of April opened up with Open Gym Nights and Youth Social Nights. In the evenings for open gym, there is usually a particular sport that youth want to play, so depending on what sport that is, we start with rules for the session, go over rules of the game, warmups and friendly scrimmages. Youth Social Nights are intended for our youth to come to the 7 Fires Youth and Elders Centre, grab a bite to eat, create connections, hang with friends and participate in weekly crafts and activities. During one of the social nights, we had guest speaker Megan Gros Ventre Boy (Blackfoot Woman, Blood Tribe) come in and share her journey as a two-spirit individual. The invite was open, and we had participants of all ages who came out to share that space and a nice meal together (miigwech Nala and your catering service!). Closing out the month of April, I also had the chance to attend another training opportunity where I brushed up some of my facilitating skills with the circle process. The tools that I grabbed from this session will be able to help me facilitate healing and sharing circles for our youth when needed.

With the month of May, there is a continuous chain of programming occurring for the youth. Monday evening’s are still our Open Gym nights, Tuesday’s are our Youth Social Nights and Pickleball on Thursday’s. I will also be visiting our youth at Espanola High School with my colleague Cheyanne Pitawanakwat-McGregor to help facilitate ribbon shirt and skirt sessions during lunch. Alongside the team at the Family Well-Being Centre, I will be assisting with the Spring Fast where I can, as well as joining the fast for the last two days.

Please keep an eye out for upcoming events and programs for the youth as we roll into the summer months! Do not hesitate to reach out to me if you any questions or concerns. My office is located at the Family Well-Being Centre and you can reach me by phone at 705-285-1941 or via email at youthsupportworker@whitefishriver.ca.

Miigwech,
Hunter Shawanda
Youth Support Worker
Whitefish River First Nation

*Baatinok e.mnade ejik maanpii gitkamik.
Giiispin bwwa mkowat bezhig, kiin aawin.
There’s a lot of kind people here on earth.
If you can’t find one, be one. *
Housing Navigator - Tina Rowe

Boozhoo, my name is Tina Rowe. Although I grew up outside our community, I am a proud member of the Whitefish River First Nation. It is with great pride and honor that I join the Whitefish River First Nation team as the new Housing Navigator. With over a decade of frontline and agency experience in the Greater Sudbury area, I am committed to leveraging my skills to serve our community effectively.

After a reflective two-year hiatus from professional work, I have recently earned a B.A. in Anishinaabe Studies with a minor in Anishinaabemowin from Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig. This educational pursuit was a deeply personal journey aimed at enriching my spirit. My qualifications include:

- Registration with the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers.
- Certification as a mental health professional through the Ontario Association of Mental Health Professionals.
- Graduating member from the school of hard knocks.

In my role, I will be dedicated to developing and implementing a referral-based Housing Navigation program tailored to the unique needs of Whitefish River First Nation members, whether residing locally or remotely. I am here to offer support and resources, including:

- Assistance with income support applications (OW, ODSP, EI, CHPI).
- Help in finding culturally relevant housing resources.
- Referrals to home buying and building supports.
- Guidance on where to find help on improving credit scores.
- Providing transportation for housing-related appointments.

I am excited to bring my knowledge, experience, and renewed energy to this role and look forward to contributing to our community’s well-being. I can be reached through the Family Well-Being Centre at 705-285-1941 or via email at trowe@whitefishriver.ca.

The Family Well-Being Team, with the assistance of Ogimaa Nahwegagbow, handed out door prizes to a few lucky winners at the WRFN AGM held April 12, 2024.

Invitation to Anishinaabek

Spring Fast

May 22 - 26, 2024
Sunshine Alley, Birch Island

Fasters are required to bring:
- Tent
- Bundle
- Blankets/sleeping bags
- Sleep mat
- Tobacco
- Cloth

Fasters can go out on the land for 4 days, 3 days, 2 days or 1 day

Sweat Lodge Ceremony will be conducted on Tuesday May 21 at 10AM for Helpers, and every morning after for all Fasters going in.

Helpers needed for picking Cedar, preparing Sweat Lodge, and Fire Keeping

For more information or to sign up to Fast, help or attend contact Arlene Pitawanakwat at the Family Well Being Centre (705) 285-1941 or by email arlenep@whitefishriver.ca
Megan Gros Ventre Boy (Blackfoot Woman, Blood Tribe), joined the FWB Sewing Circle on Wednesday, April 17, 2024 to share her knowledge of applique work.

Preparing and scraping the skins for gigoonh-bshkwgin (fish leather).

The Band Representative Team and Family Well-Being Team worked together for Earth Day clean-up.

Mom Circle
Join us Tuesdays during the month of May!
Candice Jacko will lead conversations on various topics, Lunch n’ Learns & Light Crafting
Each attendee will receive a $100 Gift Card.
This event is for WRFN residents and members only.
For more information please contact the Family Well-Being Centre (705) 285-1941.

Whitefish River First Nation
FITNESS CENTRE
NEW GYM HOURS
6 AM - 10 PM
7 Days a Week
Band Members, Residents and Employees of WRFN
Gym Membership Form and Fobs NOW AVAILABLE at FAMILY WELL BEING CENTRE
For more information contact (705) 285 - 1941

The Sewing Circle
Join us in May for a drop-in style sewing circle. Participants are welcome to bring any new or unfinished sewing projects.

Beginners are encouraged to come and learn!

- Participants under 16 are required to have an adult present.
- Limited materials provided.
- 10 sewing machines available.
- Participants are welcome to bring their own sewing machines.

Light snacks & refreshments

This event is for WRFN members & residents only

For more information contact the Family Well-Being Coordinator, Cheyanne Pitawanakwat - McGregor at (705) 285-1941 or by email cheyannep@whitefishriver.ca
Welcome to WRFN’s EHS Space!

Introducing Whitefish River First Nation’s own Support/Resource room at Espanola High School! Students can access a quiet space that offers personal support, snacks, and resources in A125. Migwech.

Contact Student Wellness Worker, Aimee Tremblay at 705-863-0317 or studentwellnessworker@whitefishriver.ca

ESPLANOLA HIGH SCHOOL & A.B. ELLIS PUBLIC SCHOOL
POWWOW

MC: ADRIAN TRUDEAU
ARENA DIRECTOR: ROBERT STONEYPOINT
HEAD ADULT DANCERS: WELLSLEY & TIMMY CLELAND
HEAD YOUTH DANCERS: TBA
HEAD ELDERS: MARETTA JONES & TIM MCGREGOR
HOST DRUM: CHIPPAWA TRAVELLERS
CO-HOST DRUM: NORTH SHORE OGIICITHA SINGERS
INVITED DRUM: A.B. ELLIS SINGERS

Friday, May 17th, 2024
Gates Open: 10am
Ending: 2pm
Espanola High School
147 Spruce St.
Espanola, ON.

Free Admission - Only provided for indigenous people. Everyone Welcome - No Pets Allowed - No Alcohol, Deodorant, Permissio • Smoking permitted please bring your own lunch and water bottle.

The Land Stewardship Plan community engagement session took place in Sudbury on Friday, April 19, 2024.

Espanola High School
RIBBON SHIRT & SKIRT MAKING
With Cheyanne & Hunter
In Room A127 (Fashion/Sewing Rm.)
11:20am - 12:00pm
4 Sessions in May!
May 8th, 10th, 13th, & 15th
Lunch Provided.

Preference for this workshop will be given to WRFN Students. Contact Aimee for more information:
studentwellnessworker@whitefishriver.ca or 705-863-0317

Tenant Relations Worker, Kendra McGregor welcomes Winnie and Tecumseh to the Whitefish River First Nation Housing and Information Forum.
HEALING Garden

This therapeutic garden space will be built in stages beginning in spring 2024.

JOIN AS A VOLUNTEER OR SPONSOR
EMAIL: LIBRARIAN@WHITEFISHRIVER.CA

Librarian - Lindsay Auge

The WRFN Library is abuzz with activity! Wildflower & pollinator mix seeds are available now through next month in promotion of our seed library.

We are also looking for volunteers for WRFN Library’s therapeutic ‘Healing Garden.’ This small garden space will be built in stages at the library. Sign up if you'd like to participate in the creation of this space or if you'd like to be the first to know when there are garden-related events!

Click on the following link to sign up today: https://woobox.com/gjyibv

Want to learn more? Book it over to the Library, Mondays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays from 9:30 am - 4:30 pm at 52 Bay of Islands Road. Call Librarian, Lindsay Auge at 705-285-1888 or email librarian@whitefishriver.ca.

WHITEFISH RIVER FIRST NATION

POST SECONDARY EDUCATION PROGRAM

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS:
MAY 31, 2024 at 4:00 pm

Applications available online:
https://whitefishriver.dadavan.com/student/pseapplication.jsp

An application needs to be filled out for all new and returning students.

Please email education@whitefishriver.ca
705-285-4335
If you require help or have questions!
Aanii Kina Waaya!

It is hard to believe that we are already in May. Teachers are planning end of the year trips in June. Our staff continue to bring new and exciting opportunities for our students to participate here at Shawanosowe.

For example:
- On May 6, 2024 our 5/6 class organized a MMIWG (Missing Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls) walk.
- Upcoming we have an assemble to bring awareness to “Bear Witness” May 10.
- For Police week we will have UCCM visiting May 15.
- Our Grade 6’s have been invited to the AB Ellis Pow Wow May 17.
- Spirit North will be here week of May 27 engaging our students in outdoor education activities.
- Reminder that May 29 is an Early Dismissal Day • we will be ending the month of May with our Annual Pow Wow.

I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of your community and work together to assist our children in reaching their true academic potential that will assist them when they transition to the public school system. I believe that our children have a right to learn and understand their role as stewards of skakamekwe through language and cultural opportunities as well as, the connection to their overall well-being.

It is important to remember we all play apart in the well being of our students and their overall success. With that being said, a few reminders that we need you, the parents & guardians assistance with are the following:
- Wear proper footwear & clothing ie. Rain days - rubber boots and raincoat
- Excursion forms and submitting by deadline as per letter sent home April 29, 2024
- Reminding our students to model and uphold the seven grandfather teachings of Respect, Love, Humility, Truth, Bravery, Wisdom, Honesty Miigwetch giininmaa maanda,

Ms. Valerie O’Leary

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**Shawanosowe Maamgo’aajmo**
(tell bits of news, tell about various goings-on)

**JK/SK Class**
Kindergarteners learn about Siginaawish. Worms. Over the past few weeks, the children took a great interest in worms. They created a KWL chart about worms, things they know, what they want to learn, and what they learned about worms. They created a habitat for the worms in the classroom using leaves, sticks, dirt, and fruit. Students learned about the life cycle and what they eat. Today was a bittersweet day as we released them back into the wild. Baamaapii Siginaawish.

- Teacher, JK/SK
  Tracy Megwanaabe

**Check out the Crew in Grade 1/2**
What are we Learning?
- Math
  - Fractions
  - Adding and Subtracting double digits
  - Data Literacy
- Literacy
  - Double sounds (ll, ss, zz, tt)
  - Diagraph (th, sh, ch, wh, ph)
  - Making connections to stories.

**Social Studies**
- Harvesting and preserving fish skins.
- Teacher, Grade 1/2
  Erin Fairbairn

**Nmebine Giziis (Sucker Moon)**
Grade 5/6 Adventures
What we’ve been up to:
- Sucker fishing
- Making corn soup
- Learning how fish spawn
- Investigating bugs
- Harvesting gaak quills
- Cultural teachings with Mr. Dan
- Outdoor math and language activities

- Teacher, Grade 5/6
  Emily Kozachanko

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**Save the Date!**
Friday, May 31, 2024
9:00am to 1:00pm

Shawanosowe School & Maamwe Kendaasing Early Learning Centre
**Jiingtamok**
Honouring our Ancestors “Chinshinaahek”
Supporting the Revitalization of Traditional Knowledge! Fish Skin Tanner, Revivalist & Artist, Janey Chang brought displays of Fish Leather to showcase to Shownosowe School Students and Staff on April 19, 2024.

Parents, Guardians and Shownosowe Staff were invited to make feather cases with facilitator Joanne Charette.

A school-wide game of NDN Ball on Earth Day!
WRFN Member, Dominique Van Es offered a Vinyasa Flow yoga class to the community on April 13, 2024. Meditate. Nwesidoon gdi-nendimoowin.

The Maamwe Kendaasing Early Learning & Innovation Centre and WRFN Library represent at the AGM.

Council Secretary, Brianna McGregor at the AGM. Smile often. Zhoomingwenin naa’aapii


Trust Secretariat/Rainbow Lodge Manager, Leslie Manitowabi-Recollet at the WRFN AGM.

Principal Valerie O’Leary at the Shawanosowe booth.

WRFN Member, and First Nations Engineering Services Ltd. EIT John Haaland was a facilitator during the Land Stewardship sessions.

(l-r) Tenant Relations Worker, Kendra McGregor, Housing Assistant, Becky Belton, Housing Navigator, Tina Rowe, & Housing Manager, Georgina Recollet.
Believe in yourself. Debwe'endizan.


Pane gwa nga-mkwendaan. I will always remember.

Listen to understand. Bizan ji-nsastaman.

Mr. Dan offers Shkode (Fire) Teachings.

Be kind. Mina-waangozin.

University of Waterloo Geoscience student, Liam Blaquire presented “Graphlite” to the Grade 5/6 class.

Congratulations on your retirement Rose & Jake! ❤️
From the Desk of the Band Manager Murray McGregor

Excitement is in the air, as spring approaches the change in the seasons also signifies a change in our community. Many plans that have been in place and new ones presented will slowly unfold in the coming months. The managers have been working diligently to prepare and present to Chief & Council this year’s upcoming budgets and work plans. This is a very important exercise as programming and services reflect the strategies outlined and prepared by leadership in the strategic plan. The plan is in the final stages of completion with the final draft expected to be ready and submitted to leadership for final approval. This plan is based on input from the community as to what we see our community and leadership doing moving forward. Once completed and approved the plan will be available for members.

The Annual General Membership Open House was another success from the Management Team. The 2022/23 audit was presented with Whitefish River still showing our continued progress, program managers also got to show case their respective programs, an overwhelming pride was shown as important information was presented and shown in their respective displays.

The continued growth of our community is shown with all the new housing, the near completion of the 15 lot subdivision (expected to be complete end of June 2024) and projects out gathering information from members to set our direction into the future. Most recently the first of 3 engagement sessions for our Capital Planning Study & Land Stewardship Study. This is important, as it helps shape our direction for the 5 to 10 years. When completed many funding requests require us to share our CPS to funding agencies to show that this is the direction the community is moving to. I encourage members to come out to the engagement session to give your input. A second session will be planned for the summer where we will be presenting what we heard and an opportunity for more input. The third engagement session in the fall will be the draft plan presentation before going the leadership for final approval.

Whitefish River has always been a progressive community, it is shown with what we see and do, the state of our infrastructures, the programming for our members and the volunteerism of our members.

Jake Pakosigan is retiring from the WRFN Minor Sports & Recreation. Jake took on this challenge many years ago to ensure our youth were given added opportunity to enjoy the sports they love. Jake’s dedication to running the weekly bingos with his staff of volunteers helped ensure funds were available for supporting our youth. Good job Jake!

“Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable. Every step toward the goals requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals.”

Martin Luther King

For questions or for more information regarding the information presented in this article, I can be reached at Administration at 705-285-4335 ext. 2223, by email at murray.mcgregor@whitefishriver.ca or by cell at 705-863-3294.

Migwech
Nahaaw baamaa pii M’daawsi M’kwag

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**Anishinabek Student Excellence Awards**

Five (5) scholarships in the amount of $1,500.00 each will be awarded to Anishinabek First Nation students at the post-secondary level

**ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS**

**Eligibility:**
Applicant must be a registered full-time student at an accredited post-secondary college or university. Students who are currently enrolled as well as those who have completed studies, and are graduating in 2024 are eligible.

Applicant must be a registered member of one of the 39 Anishinabek First Nations (See list on page 2).

**To Apply:**
Eligible students are asked to submit:
- a short bio (tell us a little about yourself);
- a letter outlining academic achievements, community involvement and future aspirations;
- support letters from (2) academic references;
- a copy of your transcript of your current 2023/24 grades;
- a copy of your status card; and
- contact information including complete mailing address, email address, and phone number.

*Incomplete applications will not be considered.

**CLOSING DATE**
for scholarship applications is
**Friday, May 31, 2024**

Applications can be submitted by email (preferred), mail, or fax to:
Anishinabek Nation 7th Generation Charity
Attn: Jason Resloule, Manager
1 Mgiizi Milikan, P.O. Box 711, North Bay, ON P1B 8J8
P. (705) 497-9127 or 1-877-702-5200—F. (705) 497-9135
E. an7gc@anishinabek.ca
W. www.an7gc.ca

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**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Manitoulin Treaty Gathering:**

A Gathering of Pipes & Pipe Carriers

**Date:** Wednesday May 22 & Thursday May 23, 2024

**Location:** Manitowaning **

**Treaty Signing Site**

**More Information to be announced**
Finance Manager - Melanie LeClair

Hello everyone,

I hope this message finds you well. For those who may not know me yet, I’m thrilled to introduce myself as your new Finance Manager. While some of you may have seen me around, I’ve been part of this wonderful team for the past three years, initially starting as a finance assistant. I’ve had the pleasure of working alongside remarkable individuals like Zachariah and Diane, and I am very excited to work with them in this new position.

Since stepping through these doors back in 2021, I’ve been fortunate to experience a warm welcome and continuous support from each of my colleagues and you, the community members.

It’s this sense of camaraderie and collaboration that motivates me to strive for excellence in my new role.

Born and raised in Espanola, alongside my husband, I’ve developed a deep appreciation for this community and its stunning northern environment. Over the years, we’ve enjoyed countless biking trips and camping adventures, immersing ourselves in the beauty of our surroundings.

As I embark on this new journey as your Finance Manager, I’m committed to upholding the highest standards of integrity and transparency. My goal is to ensure that this community’s best interests are always at the forefront of our financial decisions.

I’m incredibly grateful for the opportunity to serve in this capacity and look forward to working hard to achieve our collective goals. If you have any questions I can be reached at the WRFN Administration office at 705-285-4335 ext. 2205 or at melaniel@whitefish-river.ca

Thank you for your ongoing support and trust.
Warm regards,
Melanie LeClair
I would like to welcome a new housing staff member to our team. Rebecca Belton, Housing Manager Assistant will be working with the Housing Department with administrative assistance. She will introduce herself in this edition of the newsletter.

We had a great turn out at the Housing Forum on May 2, 2024. We received good feedback on the information provided and requests for more information. We are planning to host another session in October 2024, which gives people the time to begin planning or working on their credit ratings. Please note that any information given out at the forum will be available by contacting our office and electronically forward to you. Scott Flaman, Flaman Financial Services will be in our office on May 17, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. You can contact Kendra to set up an appointment.

The Housing Committee has been working on amendments to the Housing Policy the past six months. We anticipate an updated format by next month for review. In the meantime here are some upcoming changes that have been approved recently by the Whitefish River First Nation Chief and Council to the Whitefish River First Nation Housing Policy:

MOTION
(i) 02-05-24: That the Whitefish River First Nation Chief and Council approve the amendments and recommendations for the Housing Policy Section 3.2 Criteria for Rental Housing and Eligibility. Moved by Leona Nahwegahbow; Seconded by Leslie McGregor.

One of the issues that was not anticipated during the Housing Policy development was that we have over housed band members. To be fair the Housing Committee has made recommendation to be fair to band members/citizens that need housing. This recommendation will clarify what is our CMHC Operating Agreements.

Glossary of Terms to be included in the Housing Policy; as per the CMHC Operating agreement:
Definition: Household – means a group or groups of persons who have a need of a dwelling in a location, following move in, do not have a principal place of residence elsewhere in Canada.
Section -Criteria for Rental Housing:
• Include in Housing Policy that Applicant/household member has no other owned dwelling in North America.
• Eligibility requirements should state that Parents/Guardians can only apply with dependents under 18 for a full-size unit unless special circumstances. (i.e. Until 26 years of age if dependent is in Post-Secondary, or dependent has specific needs.)
• Any Special circumstances to be reviewed by WRFN Housing Committee. Supporting documents must be given by medical professional for caregiv.
Section -Criteria for Rental Housing:
• Bedroom for each adult or couple
• Bedroom for children sixteen (16 years) of age, or older.
• Bedroom for two (2) children of the same sex up to 16 years of age.
• Bedroom for two (2) children of opposite sex up to five (5) years of age.
• If those listed in the application meet the eligibility requirements as band membership and “need” requirements under Housing Policy deemed as student criteria or disability.
• If a family is applying with Dependents over 18 years of age, they could apply for Housing on their own.
• Applicant/Tenant must not have another Housing unit on/off reserve. If tenant has acquired housing/ alternative housing; tenant must vacate the on-reserve housing within 90 days.

MOTION
(ii) 02-06-24: That the Whitefish River First Nation Chief and Council approve the increase of the New Construction and Purchase of Existing Home Schedule “C” to the amount of $500,000.00. Further, that the Housing Policy be amended to reflect this change. Moved by: Leslie McGregor; Seconded by: Jeffrey McGregor.

Whitefish River First Nation had a limit to the First Nation Market Based Housing Schedule “C” –Eligibility Criteria dated May 11, 2021.
Whitefish River First Nation demonstrated its commitment to market-based housing by way of it’s application to the Fund for the Credit Enhancement facility dated January 20, 2011.
Whitefish River First Nation has been advised by the First Nation Market Based Housing that we are now eligible to participate in the Fund for the Credit Enhancement.
• This Credit Enhancement for homeowners (i) to purchase an existing home on WRFN reserve lands up to a maximum loan amount of $200,000.00 and (ii) to build a new home of WRFN reserve lands up to a maximum loan amount of $200,000.00 is outdated is not feasible at this time unless the applicant provide more equity.
• Therefore the Chief and Council has increased this amount to $500,000.00 for new housing construction or purchase of an existing residential home on reserve.

MOTION
(iii) 03-05-24: That the Whitefish River First Nation Chief and Council approve the eligibility criteria and process for the Housing Forgivable Contribution program from the 2023 Spend Plan for the three non-repayable loans for $25,000.00 each. Moved by: Richard Shawanda; Seconded by: Brian McGregor. Chief and Council also request that the purchase of an existing home be included in the document. The funds were identified for purchasing or constructing a home.

The Whitefish River First Nation new Nigan Naabidaa Trust Spend Plan 2023 is a one-time funding initiative to empower individuals and foster a sense of ownership and community pride. Careful planning sustainability measures, and consideration for potential unintended consequences are important to ensure its effectiveness. The purpose of this initiative is to provide financial assistance in the amount of $25,000.00 for three band members for the construction of a new house ON OR OFF the Whitefish River First Nation as a one-time non-repayable program. This is for principal permanent residence only. The amount identified by the Nigan Naabidaa Trust Spend Plan 2023 is $75,000.00 and available until this fund is exhausted.

Good News Story:
Our good news story of the month is Whitefish River First Nation housing staff contributing the community Earth Day activity on April 22, 2024. Transplanting 10 cedar trees from the side road to the Elders Residence. This will act as barrier for outside environments such as wind, heat, and noise. The next few weeks they will be working on the outdoor maintenance around the Elders Residence and triplex units.

Upcoming Activities:
John Cockburn, Sudbury Community Services will be available Thursday, June 27, 2024 between the hours 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm in Council Chambers. This services is available for individuals that need assistance with income tax, identification and one on one budgeting services. For any information regarding the above information or to make appointments with any of the services please contact the Housing Office.

Housing Contact:
• Georgina Recollet, Housing Manager 705-285-4335 ext. 2214 or cell: 705 863 2261
• Kendra McGregor, Tenant Relations Worker 705-285-4335 ext.2213
• Becky Belton, Housing Manager Assistant 705 285 0070 – Elders Residence Office
Housing Manager Assistant - Becky Belton

My name is Becky, and I’m your new Housing Assistant. I’m so happy to be here and to have been given the opportunity to work for WRFN!

I’ve worn a lot of different hats during my career history, with the past decade and a half focused mostly within the event and food service industries. This has made me extraordinarily adaptable, and I consider my versatility one of my biggest assets. I have strong conflict resolution skills developed through my work as a union steward, as well as through local community organizations. My performance career has included theatrical productions, roaming characters, MC, improv, and perhaps most suited to my personality, clown. I hope to bring a little of that sense of playfulness to my role here.

It’s been a pleasure to meet so many new people over the past few weeks. Everyone has been so open and welcoming - chi migwetch for that! I’m looking forward to being a useful and productive member of the community.

You can reach me by email at: rebeckab@whitefishriver.ca, or by phone at 705-285-0070.

Economic Development Officer - Stuart Wilson

As we embrace the warmth and renewal that May brings to our community, I am thrilled to share some exciting updates and opportunities with you in this month’s edition of The Rezound! Keep an eye out for upcoming postings for Summer Student positions within various WRFN departments, offering valuable work experience and meaningful connections right here at home.

We recognize that applying for jobs can be a daunting task, especially for students entering the workforce for the first time. That’s why we’re committed to offering assistance and resources to support students throughout the application process. Whether it’s crafting a standout resume, writing a compelling cover letter, or mastering the art of job interviews, our doors are open to provide guidance and tips to ensure every applicant feels confident in their pursuit of employment.

Furthermore, I am excited to announce that the Mniidoob Missing Employment & Training (MMET) board hosted their Annual General Meeting right here in WRFN, at the community centre on May 8th. This was a fantastic opportunity for community members to come together, enjoy a meal, and learn more about the important work of the MMET board. It provided the opportunity to engage with key stakeholders, voice opinions, and stay informed about initiatives aimed at enhancing employment and training opportunities within our community.

Any questions or for more information regarding any upcoming workshops or events, I can be reached at the administration office at 705-285-4335x2216 or at edo@whitefishriver.ca
Lands, Estates & Membership Clerk/IRA - Louanne Megwanabe

Registrations
Do you have children that are not yet registered as Status Indians? Are you expecting? or do you know of family members that are not yet registered? If so, please contact the Membership Office for more information and to assist with completing the required forms.

REGISTRATION AS A STATUS INDIAN IN CANADA – REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:
- Child or Adult Application for Registration on the Indian Register and for the Secure Certificate of Indian Status (SCIS)
- Original long form Birth Certificate (also known as statement of Live Birth)
- Photo-copy of identification for applying parent or legal guardian
- Guarantor Form or “in Lieu of Guarantor Form”

The Indian Registrar is the sole authority in the determination of which individuals shall be added to, deleted or omitted from the Indian Registrar. It can take anywhere between six months and two years for registration to be completed. Indigenous Services Canada will send a letter stating that registration is complete and you/children/dependent(s) have been added to the Indian Registrar.

Bill C-38 Amendment
In 1985, Bill C-31 eliminated the process of enfranchisement from the Indian Act. Individuals who had been enfranchised by application had their entitlement restored under the 61(1)(d) registration provision. This means these individuals and their direct descendants were able to be registered. Individuals who were enfranchised as part of a collective did not have their entitlement restored and many are still unable to be registered. Today people with a family history of enfranchisement are not able to access registration to the same extent as people without that family history.

We’d like to remind individuals that you can apply now if you were/are impacted by Bill C-38. There is absolutely no need to wait until the Bill passes to do so.

Please contact the Membership Office to pick-up your category amendment form or a form can be sent to you via email, mail or fax. Completed applications can be sent to: Application Processing Unit, Indigenous Services Canada, Box 6700, Winnipeg, MB, R3C 5R5

If you were affected by the 1951 cut-off date and your application for registration was denied, between 2011 & 2017 you need to re-apply.

Training
I will be attending the Ontario Aboriginal Land Associations’ Indian Land Registry System – A Guide for First Nations Training Session from May 13-16, 2024 in Port Perry.

Indian Day-School Update - There are still many claim forms that were submitted that have missing information and cannot be further processed. Also, if you have moved or changed your contact information and have not updated it then this could “pause” the process and they may be trying to reach out to you.

If you submitted a claim to the Indian School Settlement and have not heard a response yet, please contact the Deloitte Administrator at 1-888-221-2898 to inquire about the status of your claim.

Estates News
Wills, Estates & Power of Attorney information sessions will be held on:
May 9th – Elders Info Session (1-4pm) (lunch @ noon) @ Rainbow Lodge
May 9th – Community Info Session (6-9pm)(dinner at 6pm)@7 Fires Youth & Elders Centre

Wills Creation Clinics:
May 29th – one hour appointment, 6 time slots available
June 12th - one hour appointment, 6 time slots available
June 26th - one hour appointment, 6 time slots available

If you need to reschedule your appointment, please call the Membership Office and alternate arrangements can be made

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.

MEMBERSHIP
WHITEFISH RIVER FIRST NATION CITIZENSHIP
Whitefish River First Nation is a section 10 Band that determines its’ own membership. Registration for Citizenship is not automatic, and you will need to complete an application for either full citizenship application or probationary citizenship in order to start the process to be added to the WRFN Citizenship List. Applications can be picked up, emailed to or mailed to you. Applications must be fully completed and returned to the Membership Office for processing and review by the Citizenship Advisory Committee. Any changes (additions/deletions) to the Citizenship Register are posted in the Band Change Report for 30 days.

Request for Amendment Forms
Please be advised that all life events require the “Request for an Amendment form” to be completed and one-piece of government issued I.D. that contains a name, date of birth, photo and signature. *if the applicant does not have an ID containing the 4 data elements then a completed Guarantor Declaration is required

Original documents may need to be include, certifed copies not always acceptable.

Status Card General Info
Please be advised that we can only issue 2-paper laminate cards in a 12-month period as per rules set out by Indigenous Services Canada. Should you exceed the limit, you are advised to apply for a SCIS card (Secure Certificate of Indian Status) or you can request a stamped letter from your regional office.

Certificate of Indian Status (CIS) cards with no expiration date are valid, and can continue to be used.

If you live off-reserve and you need to renew your CIS card, you can call a First Nation nearby and check for availability as other Indian Registration Officers can issue CIS cards for other First Nation Members. You must call their office and check with them first as most are by appointment only.

Forms available at the Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) website or available upon request from the Membership Office. [link]

Please contact the Membership Office to schedule an appointment for your status card or for the following services to ensure availability:
1) renew your Certificate of Indian Status (CIS) card
2) assistance when applying for the newer Secure Certificate of Indian Status (SCIS)
3) assistance when applying for registration with Canada
4) registering life events or amendments;
5) applying for Full or Probationary Citizenship with WRFN
6) assistance when completing the Estates Process
7) Band transfer requests
8) assistance when completing the Treaty Payment Re-request form
9) general assistance with Lands, Estates or Membership inquiries
10) Assistance with the Website Membership Portal

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

CIS card renewals – make arrangements ahead of time for the renewal of your CIS card to ensure that you are carrying a valid card and have no issues.

SCIS card renewals – start the renewal process 12 months in advance (the waiting time can be up to 12 months)

Status Cards
The cost for the Certificate of Indian Status Card (CIS) fee is $5.00. Non-members fee is $25.00. No charge for our elders.

Office Closures:
May 20th – Victoria Day
June 6th – Anishinaabe Giizhigaad
June 21st – Aboriginal Day

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Louanne Megwanabe,
Lands, Estates & Membership Clerk/IRA
705-285-4335 ext. 2204
lands.ira@whitefishriver.ca
2024/2025 clinic dates:
May 29th
June 12th
June 26th

TREATY ANNUITY PAYMENTS
WHITEFISH RIVER FIRST NATION
Community Centre
6 Rainbow Valley Rd., Birch Island, ON
Wednesday May 15, 2024
3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

REMINDER
Payments are for the Annual Treaty Annuity of $4.00
- Stay home if not feeling well
- Bring your status card or other ID for yourself
- Must have ID for children and your spouse
- No third party pickups
- Third party notes are not accepted

THE WRFN APP & WRFN MEMBERSHIP PORTAL
Is the WRFN App the same thing as the WRFN Membership Portal?
No. The WRFN Membership Portal is a private location on the Internet, accessible with a unique username and password, accessible only to WRFN Band Members.

How to register for the WRFN Membership Portal:
- Fill out your required information, click “Consent,” click “I agree to these terms”
- Click “Register”
- After you register, your request will be sent to the Site Administrator for approval.
- You will then be sent an email with further instructions. Remember to check Junk Mail.

Stay home if not feeling well
Bring your status card or other ID for yourself
Must have ID for children and your spouse

Lands, Estates & Membership Clerk/IRA, Louanne Megwanabe and Councillor Esther Osiche at the WRFN AGM held April 12, 2024.

Work is now complete on the new mural located within WRFN Administration, designed by Nevada Anwahtin and completed with Artist Assistant Rachel Tompkins. The mural depicts Whitefish River’s sacred sites including: Dreamer’s Rock, Bell Rocks, and the Potholes.
### WRFN Population Stats as of March 31, 2024

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**Note:** The table shows the number of males (M) and females (F) for each year from 2000 to 2024. The number of on-reserve (ON Reserve) and on-reservation (On-RES. Total: Reg. + Deceased) are also provided.
### WRFN Population Stats as of March 31, 2024

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>Total</th>
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**On Reserve**

- Males: 212
- Females: 206
- Total: 418

**Total Population**

- Total: 1571

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

- Males: 54
- Females: 56
- Total: 266

**Deceased**

- Males: 24
- Females: 19
- Total: 43

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### On Reserve Population

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>On Reserve</th>
<th>Off Reserve</th>
<th>Total Population</th>
<th>Total On -Reserve Pop.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On Reserve</td>
<td>418</td>
<td>1153</td>
<td>1571</td>
<td>528</td>
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**REGISTERED CITIZENS**

- Total: 864

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**NOTE:** On-Reserve Stats include people who are deceased and have not yet been removed from the Indian Registry System (45) **Other Resident stats include members who are: not yet registered, non-status, another band, and non-Indigenous**
Infrastructure and Emergency Services Manager - Richard Shawanda

There will be many things happening with this department in the next few months. Many preventative maintenance items as well as spring duties must be completed. The following is a brief outlook of some of these activities. I have been busy at the Water Plant over the last couple of months overseeing daily operations and maintenance. My focus will be shifting to the Emergency Services side of things now such as the Fire and Coast Guard as well as getting Infrastructure Projects underway.

Emergency Services/Fire

Work continues on updating procedures and protocols with respect to our community Emergency Response Plans. There are many items that need to be taken into consideration with updating and adding to the current plan. There are a few training sessions that I will be attending regarding the Planning and Preparation of the plan. I am also looking at participating in Wildfire Training with the Ministry as well as Fire Arson and Investigation. As with all training sessions I attend, my focus will be on the overall benefit to both the department and the community. A Fire Safety session geared towards the Elders in the community is now in the planning stages. The topics of Fire and Electrical Safety will be covered as well as the development of Household Fire Safety Plans. There will be a limited amount of Fire Safety Gear available for distribution with the priority being the elders and community members that are in need. If you think there are issues or concerns with your current equipment please give me a call and I can set up a time for a site visit. Be on the look out for a call out looking for Community Emergency Plan Committee members; together we can get anything done!

Water Operations

I would first like to commend Darin on obtaining his Water Treatment Class 1 Operator License. Our plant is classified as a Class 2 plant, meaning our operators strive to continue their training to obtain certification to the level of the plant. Next, I would like to welcome Amy Waboose back to the team after her year away on maternity leave. Welcome Back Amy! The plant continues to produce safe potable water for our community with high-level testing still taking place to make sure we continue on the path. The department will start to test water holding tanks once again for our community members not on the distribution system. Contact will be made and a poster sent out to highlight the testing dates in the near future. Hydrant flushing will also take place in the month of May. Preventative maintenance took place at the water plant with the assist of the Circuit Rider Training Program. Gerry McGregor was on site to help update the Standard Operating Procedures and provide hands-on training with respect to upwashing roughing filters and also slow sand beds. This is done to ensure the filters are running as designed and working at 100% efficiency. On another note it was decided at the Chief and Council meeting held April 30th that all user fees moving forward will now be halted. That means no more water bills. With Indigenous Services Canada now funding water operations at 100% the decision was made to cease collection of water fees (user fees), which is just awesome.

WRFN Auxiliary Coast Guard

Meetings have been completed and we are nearing the final draft design and brief for the addition of the boat shelter to the existing fire hall. Recruiting is still ongoing and we are still looking for community members that are interested in joining the WRFN Auxiliary Coast Guard to reach out and apply. You can contact me on my cell or send me an email if interested as there are prerequisites in order to join. Be a part of a team that has the safety of the community in the forefront. Be part of the family.

Infrastructure

There are plans in the works for some proposed upcoming infrastructure projects in the next little while. Some of these projects are:

- Solar Panel Microf - Shawanosowe School
- Septic Bed Replacements
- Ductile Iron Watermain Replacement - Old Village Site
- Ozone Replacement — Water Treatment Plant
- Low Lift Pump Replacements — Low Lift Building
- Heat Trace Line Upgrading — Elevated Storage Reservoir
- Clear Well Cleaning — Water Treatment Plant
- GAC – Granular Activate Carbon replacement — Water Treatment Plant

For questions or for more information regarding the information presented in this article, I can be reached by email at ies@whitefishriver.ca or by cell at 705-562-3583.
Nmebine Gizis moon is a fitting tribute to the creatures in this case the Sucker Fish who in the selfless gesture offered themselves to be the food source for the Anishinabek people following a lean and hard winter when food was scarce. The Creator was so satisfied with this selfless gesture of the Sucker Fish that the Sucker Fish were gifted with the ability to have many young in the spring of each year to further increase their abundance. The way I see this situation playing out in modern times is remembering how we as Anishinaabe people must never take for granted the gifts offered by our Creator. Once we learn the teachings offered by our ancestors we can begin the healing journey required to help our community.

On the 12th of April 2024 I had the honour to be gifted a traditional Chief’s bonnet along with all the United Chiefs of Mnidoo Mnisini Chiefs at the 4 Directions Building in Aundreck Omni Kaning. This was a ceremony provided by Cheyenne Kitchikake of Wikwemikong. I was pleased to have members of my immediate family and the members of the Whitefish River Council join me on this special day. I respect the role I have been chosen for and the traditional teachings that accompany it. This Ogimaa Bonnet has now become part of my journey in leadership.

Whitefish River First Nation has partnered with 9 North Shore First Nations under the banner of Waasmowin Energy Inc. This is a project that will see the construction and operation of a 205 Kilometer 500 – kilovolt transmission line which will run from the Hamner Transmission Station in Greater Sudbury to the Mississauga Transformer Station east of Sault Ste Marie. Additionally, this partnership will provide funding for community engagement and a full-time Energy Manager position for each of the 9 participating First Nations. There will also be numerous construction positions throughout the span of the 5-year construction contract that will provide skills in the various trades. Especially significant will be the oversight the First Nations will have in ensuring complete and proper environmental studies occur as well as the safe use of our traditional lands within the vicinity of this project. More information regarding community consultation and information on this project will be announced.

On the topic of Economic Development, I have recently returned from a Waubetek funded tour that was organized for the Chiefs in Waubetek’s service area. What I learned from this economic tour is that Ontario First Nations have been very limited their ability to move Ontario’s Addition to Reserve (ATR) Process forward within an acceptable time frame. This problem appears to be caused by the Federal Government in Ontario Region, that they are not in alignment with ATR processes currently existing in other provinces such as Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Nova Scotia. In those provinces English River FN, Membertou FN, and others were able to purchase and/or acquire non-FN lands and complete an ATR quickly. The advantage that provides any FN is the ability to explore business opportunities on a scale equal to municipalities. Once these lands in the city are returned they are called urban reserves.

On the 29th of April 2024 I joined our Council in a Team Building workshop at the 7 Fires Elders Centre. We were led through a series of exercises relevant to our roles in governance. Additionally, we were able to receive teachings on the use of the clan system and how it can improve our roles in governance. It was nice to see the participation of our Council and their commitment demonstrated throughout session. Miigwech to our elected Council for their dedication.

I’m always glad to be asked to welcome agencies to Whitefish River First Nation, especially those whose purpose is mandated to improve the quality of life and treatment of our people.

I was invited to welcome the Staff and Lawyers from the Ministry of the Attorney General Indigenous Services Division to Rainbow Lodge. Art Jacko and myself attended for this formality on the 29th of April 2024. The lead from the Ministry was Marion Jacko, Assistant Deputy Attorney General of the Indigenous Justice Division. They oversee improvements within the justice ministry in areas of access to services, intimate partner violence, overrepresentation of indigenous people incarcerated just to name a few. Art Jacko provided a teaching on the fire to this large group consisting of 40 participants.

Thank you for those who attended the recent Land Stewardship session held on the 18th, 19th, and 20th held respectively in Toronto, Sudbury and Whitefish River First Nation. This was a great time to ensure ongoing community engagement and land visioning and capital planning for our future.

The following represents the dates scheduled for our next RHT tour and hope to see you there:

May 11th – Birch Island
May 13th – Zoom
May 15 – Toronto
May 16th Sudbury
May 22nd Sault Ste Marie

For more accurate information please see the Whitefish River Face Book Page and/or the Members portal for more details.

Lastly I’d like to wish a Happy Mother’s Day to all the incredible mothers out there! We celebrate and appreciate your strength and resiliency as the heartbeat of our nations.

I can be reached via email at chief@whitefishriver.ca or through Administration at 705-285-4335 ext. 2202.

Ogimaa Rodney Nahwegahbow

As part of updating the Capital Plan, Whitefish River First Nation held a series of Land Stewardship Community Engagement Sessions in Toronto (April 18), Sudbury (April 19) and in Birch Island (April 20). The sessions were facilitated by First Nations Engineering Services Ltd., and Narratives Inc.
Pet Care & Tips

Hello everyone, like I always say another month has come and gone. It is nice to see all the spring flowers blooming this time of the year. I remember when I was young, I would go into the woods to pick all the different wild flowers and bring them to my mother. As I write this, it is pouring rain outside, “April Showers bring May flowers”, as the saying goes. I hope all of you who have fur babies are taking care of and having playtime with them. Luka and She-Pet Elizabeth always have a playtime before going to bed. They are carrying their winter weight, but will soon start losing it.

Some Cat Facts:
• Feliformia is a suborder within the order Carnivora consisting of “cat-like” carnivores, which not only includes cats, but also hyenas, mongooses, civets, and meerkats to name a few.
• Spot was the pet cat of Lt. Commander Data on the show Star Trek, the Next Generation (1987-1994), living on board the U.S.S. Enterprise and appearing in several episodes as well as in the films Star Trek Generations (1994), and Star Trek: Nemesis (2002).
• Calico cats are usually female.

Well, that is it for now. I want to extend my condolences to all the families who have lost their loved ones within the last year and a half. Quite a lot of community members have left us. Take the time to visit our elderly and the ones who are not feeling well. I am sure this would brighten up their day.

Remember to be kind to our pets and make sure to get them fixed to help keep the pet population down in our community.

Bye from:
Luka and She-Pett Elizabeth (the cats)
And Me:
The Big Cat
-Dennis L. McGregor

Happy Birthday to my niece
Hunter that celebrates on May 15
I hope your day is just as amazing as you are.
Love Aunty Diane

Happiest 1st Birthday to my grand-
daughter Mia on May 25th.
Time sure flies by, and I am happy to see how much you have grown.
Love always,
Grandma Diane

In memory of Wayne -ba,
May 1, 2023
You left us way too soon, you were an
awesome chef and made sure everyone
was fed.
You told it like it was, and cared for
your family and friends.
You were brave, stubborn, and I will
remember you with a smile.
I know that you are happy, and free
from pain.
We will love you always Wayne.
Forever missed and always loved.
Love you always,
Aunty Diane,
Happy Heavenly Birthday Dad
on May 13th
Love you always,
Diane

Happy Birthday Kiddo
You never cease to amaze me with all
the accomplishments that you continue
to succeed at. 25 years sure flew by
and I will be waiting to see what the
next steps on your journey in life will be
so that I can be a part of that as well.
Keep on being awesome Kiddo
Love PAPA

Happy Birthday to my Grandchildren
Ira on May 23rd
& Lila on May 25th
Love Mishomis

Tammy,
our children are so lucky to have such a
loving, kind, comforting, understanding,
patient, protective, engaging, funny
and super smart mother.
I love that you embrace
motherhood in all its
beauty and challenges.
Mino Gashi Gighagad my Love

Dear Mom,
Migwetch for being such an amazing
to me and Nakia and I am very
grateful for all the love you give us.
I am very grateful to have such a hard
working mom. You are funny, super
smart and just an amazing, outgoing
person and one of the most
kind people I’ve seen.

Hugs and kisses from your favourite
daughter

Dear, Mom
Mino Gaashii Gighagad
Thank you for for being an
outstanding, caring, thoughtful, loving
mother that was always there for us
whenever we were down, always found
a way to make us smile and laugh
even after crying, always found new
restaurants wherever we went, provided
for us if we were feeling sick or unwell,
stayed up late if I had a unit test and
needed a study buddy, showed us
fascinating books and
encouraged us to read more, always
kept me on top of my grades and
always succeeded at making unique
meals and
homemade classics.
I learned from my mom that with
perseverance and determination you
can succeed in anything as long as you
always put 100% in anything that you
do.
Have the best mothers day ever.
Hugs and love and kisses from your
favourite Son Nakia
(not Ash)

Happy 12th Birthday to
Lila Wawasay Garcia
Bezhiigizhgo-kwe
our bright light in creation.

The family of Landon Pickersgill (Basawa) wish to thank WRFN Minor Sports and Recreation for their sponsorship at the 2024 National Aborigi-
nal Hockey Championships in Grande Prairie.
Congratualtions to Team Ontario for capturing the gold!