



Community Update

Gold discovery translates into jobs

PC Gold is drilling intensely and intends to continue right through to the year end and beyond. This drilling translates into jobs for a number of people at Mishkeegogamang. "There's no let-up in sight," said PC Gold President and CEO Kevin Keough. "We're pushing hard for new discoveries and to advance the property in a way that will continue to generate jobs locally."

PC Gold currently has three drills turning on their property. All the drilling activity on the property is generating a lot of core to process and store. "Our core-cutters from Mish have been doing a great job, as has our core rack construction crew," said Keough.

One of the drills is following up on the high grade No. 19 and No. 21 vein discoveries achieved earlier this year. They are about 500 to 900 metres down.

"No. 19 vein is a really lovely discovery, as veins go," said Keough. He said this vein is similar in character to the historical No. 2 vein located nearby which accounted for more than 300,000 ounces of historical gold production. "We believe No. 19 has a similar future production potential," he said. "Almost every hole we put into the No. 19 has visible gold in it - it is certainly high grade."

Keough said the No. 21 vein, which was discovered in their drilling around the No. 19 vein, could also evolve into an excellent discovery. "We're busy trying to trace that vein into the Pickle Crow porphyry (a type of rock) to the east of where we presently are," said Keough. The company predicts the gold vein could be even sweeter in this area. "So wish us luck on that," he added.

The other two drills are "fly drills" (helicopter transportable) being used to test a series of "potentially exciting targets" beneath the muskeg about 750 metres north of the mine. Called the "Cohen-MacArthur" deformation zone, it spans an area over eight kilometres, which is a big target zone, geologically speaking.

"What's exciting about Cohen-Mac is that it is almost entirely covered by muskeg, and therefore almost entirely unexplored," said Keough. Using helicopters to lift the drills is an environmentally low-impact way of exploration since no roads are needed. Keough said there should be news from this area in the very near future.



Robert and Lester Masakeyash hunting during traditional break in September.

Creating Sustainable Financial Systems

Chief and Council have enlisted the services of Chartered Accountant Kevin Houghton to assist in bringing the band's finances in order and the reports up to date.

Houghton is the Chief Financial Officer for Northern Waterworks Inc. in Red Lake and has 16 years of experience in the financial field. "I pride myself on creating clear and easily traceable audit trails that clients find beneficial and informative," said Houghton. "I've been hired by the band to help restructure the finance and administration departments and to work on bringing the community finances back to a balanced budget."

Another part of his work is to work with each program manager to help them understand financial reports and to train them so they can make budget decisions that meet funding eligibility requirements. Since he began working with Mishkeegogamang, all reports have been brought up to date and cash flow has started again. Houghton said all programs

are in the process of budgeting for the year and managers are being trained to take financial ownership of their programs.

"The programs have very detailed reports that require a bit of training to understand and interpret. That's a standard within any agency that provides programming, not just for First Nations," he said.

Houghton said although a lot of work has been done, including getting the audit complete, "We still have a long way to go. We're still dealing with some old stuff, but all the skeletons are almost out of the closet."

Community's deficit getting smaller

Mishkeegogamang is currently in a deficit position of approximately \$600,000. That is down from the approximately \$2.3 million deficit in 2007.

"The goal is to have strong fiscal management in order to balance the First Nation's books," said Houghton. "This

is not only the finance department's responsibility. They are data processors and do not run the programs or make financial decisions for them. It is the responsibility of staff, managers and leadership. The community has to support the long term sustainability of their community's finances, as this will impact future leaders of the community and inevitably, its youth's ability to govern the community for years to come."

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Gold discovery translates into jobs. Left: Building core racks for PC Gold. Right: Several Mishkeegogamang band members have been hired by PC Gold.

World Champion has Mishkeegogamang roots

Charity Anne Keesic Gray (Eagle Woman) is a 15-year-old world champion dancer in jazz and tap, who recently defended her title in Germany. Erin Bottle wrote the following story on the young woman with Mishkeegogamang roots:

Coming from the Eagle Clan, Charity Anne Keesic Gray (Eagle Woman) is a young female artist who was born and raised in the north end of Winnipeg, Manitoba. She has an Ojibwe-Sioux heritage from Lac Seul and Mishkeegogamang First Nations. Charity got her spirit name from an elder long ago when an eagle sat on her shoulders when she was a toddler.

Slowly coming out from under a dark past and the cycle of abuse, Charity hopes to pursue her many interests and dreams and to show her creativity to the world. She stays connected to her culture

by learning the old ways her ancestors once lived. Because of the impact of residential schools which affect many First Nations, she struggles to find her way. Charity recently started dancing fancy shawl, singing women's backup, speaking the lost language, beading and hand drumming through a youth program. She continues learning more about her culture by participating in community events and meetings.

Her healing journey started with joining Manitoba Hydro's Building the Circle summer camp from 2001 to 2004. This is a four-year phase program where youth are introduced to the fields of engineering, technology and trades. Here Charity had an opportunity to explore non-traditional jobs and also traveled to Churchill. A story was published in *Say* magazine and a mini video was created to

show the program's success. In the same year Charity won the Most Improved Student Award in high school.

In 2008, Charity left home for Peterborough not knowing that she'd get connected with a small sewing group that has been supporting her community. Project NATWIN is a native twinning organization that was founded in 2000. They send toy donations and other goods to Mishkeegogamang for Christmas. Charity saw a story about NATWIN in the local newspaper, the Peterborough Examiner. She is now a board member of Project NATWIN to support her community. Charity also volunteers at Our Space Drop In Centre to work with the homeless and struggling. She stays in school to upgrade her skills and to be able to go to college after high school.

In 2009, Charity joined the Canadian

Roots Moosonee Exchange Program and got the opportunity to travel up north to Moosonee and Moose Factory. The trip was about learning how to break down stereotypes, open a dialogue, and build honest relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people living on this land. The story of this journey was shared in a *Sagatay* Magazine. In December of the same year, Charity connected with Project NATWIN to gather more toy donations to send up to Mishkeegogamang. Together with the Julia Project, a skate sharpening machine was donated to the community. Charity made the news again when the Peterborough Examiner, as well as CBC radio, interviewed her.

Months later, Charity was interviewed by the Winnipeg Sun to speak of her cousin, Hillary Angel Wilson, who passed away. She took the opportunity to also speak of two of her friends and a step sister, Felicia Solomon, who were also murdered. Charity believes all cases are linked to the same killer(s). She continues to seek justice.

When Charity won a contest through Health Nexus on how to prevent obesity in northern communities, she made yet another newspaper appearance. Her story was chosen as the winner of Telling Our Healthy Stories Contest. Her photo story will be shared with the world at a later date. A week later Charity auditioned for Epitome Pictures and Canada Films for a part in *Degrassi*. In 2010, Charity had another wild experience in Peterborough when she met D12 and was in the video shoot while Bizarre was recording his new video *I Love Canada*, which can be seen on YouTube.

Recently, Project NATWIN organized a trip to Mishkeegogamang. This gave Charity a chance to connect again with her extended family, along with Sheilah Nabigon-Howlett and Janet McCue. The purpose of the successful trip was to build a relationship between Project NATWIN and the reserve.

Drill program exciting

FROM A JIMINEX PRESS RELEASE

The Mischkow River property in Pickle Lake's gold region is now drill-ready. Results from an airborne electromagnetic survey have indicated five gold target zones, and drilling is scheduled to start in November. James Parres, president of mining company Jiminex Inc., which owns the drilling rights to the property, is highly positive about the mine's potential. "We are excited about getting our drill program at Mischkow River underway as these five target zones have never been drilled," Parres said. "The rocks and structures tell us that there is a very good opportunity here to locate another Pickle Crow, Central Patricia or Musselwhite-type of gold deposit."

Mishkeegogamang First Nation has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Jiminex Inc, and several local residents are employed by the company.

Preparations for the diamond-drilling program are already well underway. A camp, ATV trails, drill core racks, and helicopter pads for remote access points have all been completed. Fuel is currently being flown for the diamond drill units and helicopters that will lower the drills into place.

The five gold target zones are spaced across 30 kilometres of iron formation, which is a favourable gold host rock in the region. One reason this area has been under-explored for gold is because the iron formations are covered by material such as rock, soil, and ecosystem, called an "overburden." "Most of this extensive, favourable iron formation on the Mischkow River property is buried under overburden and can only be tested by drilling," said Parres. Colorado-based Condor Consulting, which conducted the electromagnetic survey and interpreted

the results, recommended a 3,000 metre, 16 drill-hole program.

This summer, Jiminex entered into a partnership agreement with Rivercrest Resources Inc., which is financing exploration costs at Mischkow River. In order to acquire a 50% stake in the Mischkow River property, Rivercrest Resources agreed to spend \$4.5 million on exploration, make \$400,000 in cash payments, and issue 1,000,000 common shares. "Rivercrest will have the opportunity to participate in an exciting and highly prospective gold project located in the Pickle Lake gold region, while Jiminex will have significant early exploration costs assumed by Rivercrest," said Parres. "I believe shareholders will greatly benefit from this partnership and we look forward to begin a drilling program on the property as soon as possible."

Experience of a lifetime for young photographer

As I sat in the councillor's office, I felt as if I had run out of options. I'd driven nine hours from southern Manitoba to photograph a moose hunt. I had been set to join Mervin Masakeyash at the Pashkokogan camp where there would be moose hunting along with sharing circles, healing work, and other traditional skill building. This was all going to happen alongside youth from Mishkeegogamang.

That event was unfortunately postponed because of a death in the community. As I sat in David Masakeyash's office, thinking to myself I might have to wait until next year to get the opportunity I was looking for, he told me that his cousin Ian Masakeyash was out in the bush with his family during the traditional break, and he was sure they would gladly take me in for a few days.

As generous an offer as it was, I found it hard to believe that a family, in the middle of enjoying their traditional break together, would accept a complete stranger into their space, not to mention to live with and photograph them for a few days. However, because this may have been my last opportunity, I tried not to show any scepticism.

An hour later I was unrolling my sleeping bag inside the Masakeyash's tent, in utter disbelief at how this family, without hesitation, agreed to let me stay and photograph them.

Derek Masakeyash stood beside me and asked, "So is this your first time staying with Indians?" "Yes it is," I replied. I then asked him, "Am I the first white guy that's stayed here?" "Yes," he answered. I explained that I wanted to photograph their way of hunting and to experience a way of life totally unfamiliar to me. I would do my best to blend in and record everything possible through my lens.

Whenever someone announced that they were going to search for tracks, I was right behind them, camera in hand. We would return and a couple more would

say they were going out on the lake to set up the fish nets. I followed, documenting everything I could.

Their pace was steady, easier than I had braced myself for. However, one morning while out with Lester and Robert Masakeyash, a moose was spotted and I had to decide whether to keep photographing and possibly get lost, or put the camera down and try my best to keep them in my sight. It was humbling to see these two move quickly and gracefully through thick webs of dense branches, all with loaded rifles in hand. I had a lot to learn.

One thing I realized while living in the bush is that the burden of time is lifted off of everyone. There are no appointments, no schedules, and no clocks. Decisions can be made instinctively and this adds to the richness of the family experience, as everyone lives in the moment with one another.

It seemed like a great time for bonding and learning for the children as nothing competes for their attention except for the natural world. Here, grandchildren get to spend time with their grandmother and parents teach their kids the same traditional skills that their family members passed down to them.

The Masakeyash family has lived and hunted on this land for many years. Robert and Ian Masakeyash said they used to stay with their grandparents there. I felt honoured that they would share a little bit of it with me too.

I stayed with them for three days, hoping to catch on camera the expert hunting and killing of a moose in the forest of the Canadian Shield. What I didn't expect or anticipate was that I would experience something far greater and far more rewarding. I found an extended family, living, in the truest sense, at home with one another and connecting with an ancient and traditional way of life.

CHRIS FRIESEN



Top: A grandmother preparing the heart of the moose while her grandchild watches from the safety of a tikinagan. Below: Calling the moose during the traditional break.

Creating Sustainable Financial Systems

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Deficit reduction is difficult and comes with the increased pressure to ensure programs don't go over budget. Sometimes layoffs are required and purchasing within budgets is limited. "It's very difficult to make these tough decisions due to political pressures, but it is important to have the resources and cash flows to keep programs running with adequate resources."

Even though they get a lot of pressure to spend, program managers "have to say 'no' to certain expenditures," said Houghton. In addition, the funding agencies have become very strict on how money is spent. "There's very little leeway or flexibility for leadership and management to spend dollars outside set parameters."

Houghton said it must also be

emphasised that funding for programs on the Reserve are based on on-reserve membership and that there is no funding for any band member living off-reserve. This is based on a yearly membership listing of reserve tribal members. Currently Mishkeegogamang has 1,594 band members with 1,025 living on reserve. That leaves 569 members listed as living off the reserve for which no funding is flowed to on-reserve programs.

Houghton said there are checks in place to minimize the misappropriation of funds. For one, all checks are signed by two signing authorities, one elected official and one non-elected official. "There is very little chance for Chief and Council to spend money inappropriately without it being reflected in the audit," he said.

Houghton spends about three days each month working in the community and his assistant, Charlene Chapman (CMA) is in the Administration office for two weeks each month. They are currently working with the Council on a governance project for Mishkeegogamang. Houghton will work with the community to obtain input, through interviews and questionnaires, on transparency and communication in regards to the band's finances and decision making processes. "We will be getting right into the electoral and financial codes to a higher level of governance that sets the priorities for chief and council," said Houghton. The governance project will be further outlined in the next edition of this newspaper.

Journey to Remember

Cross-Canada Cycling Trip 2010

It is hard to believe that several months have already passed since I completed my cross Canada cycling trip. It was a journey that will not easily be forgotten. I began the ride June 28, 2010. I left my teaching position at Mishkeegogamang early to prepare for the trip, said goodbyes and headed towards home. I had mixed emotions as I left the reserve and Pickle Lake, as I had met so many great people and loved the north. As much as it was hard to leave, I knew the adventure I had planned was a dream I had been waiting to make a reality for a long time.

My first stop was Vancouver. When I arrived at the airport I met a couple of men who could not believe what I was about to do. They thought I would stop even before I reached the mountains. When I finally started cycling, it was hard to believe that I was actually watching my dream come alive.

It took about 10 days to cycle through British Columbia and I met some fabulous people along the way. There were many mountains and some of them took as much as four hours to climb. Not only were there mountains that required my physical strength, but there were also many mental moments that felt like climbing a mountain. One of the mountains was 1,774 metres high and still had snow on the top. I saw some mountain goats on my way up to the summit of that mountain.

One day I cycled with a father and a son from Quebec City. The son, Simon, was also a teacher and he enjoyed working with children that had learning disabilities. Imagine my surprise, as well as theirs, when I was back home and saw them riding their bikes. They invited me to stay with them in Quebec City when I cycled back from the east coast.

Alberta had some great sights, but I flew through it fairly fast. While there, I stayed with some people that have relatives in Pickle Lake. This trip made me realize just how small our country is. Canada has a huge land mass, but I was surprised at the connections I made with people with respect to northern Ontario.

Saskatchewan was the hardest province to pedal through as there were few trees and it seemed that there was sky all around. Many people mentioned that Saskatchewan is flat, but from my perspective on a bike, it was hilly.

I was happy to reach Manitoba and be reunited with some trees. Knowing I was only one province away from Ontario certainly helped to keep me pedalling. While in Manitoba, I stayed with relatives of friends that live in Pickle Lake. I took a day off and we went to Hunt Fest which made me realize how close hunting season was. As I cycled out of Manitoba, I met up with friends from Pickle Lake and a cyclist from Calgary. We decided to stick together and made it to Kenora together. We rode about 220 km that day and it was great to celebrate crossing a provincial border with another cyclist.

The next day I pedalled to Dryden and



Ashley Tamlin, who taught at the Missabay Community school last year, did a cross-Canada bike ride this summer.

“Some of my past students could hardly believe that I had cycled that far. They saw that I was out there pursuing my dream – a dream I had talked about since I first began teaching on the reserve.”

stayed with a friend I met through trapping. As I pedalled out of Dryden, a vehicle pulled over in front of me. I was wondering who it could be and as I got closer, I heard a familiar voice. It was Diana Bottle, who was in Dryden with some of the members of her family. They were very surprised to see me. It was great to see familiar faces while I was in familiar territory. I spent some time in Pickle Lake on my way through and was able to visit some of the students that I taught during my two years in Mishkeegogamang.

I took three days of rest before riding 226 km to Thunder Bay from Ignace. During one of the days, I stopped at Eric Lake, Bottle Hill, the school, and main reserve. Some of my past students could hardly believe that I had cycled that far. They saw that I was out there pursuing my dream – a dream I had talked about since I first began teaching on the reserve.

I flew to Toronto July 26 and my Mom picked me up at the airport. After a quick visit at home I flew to Newfoundland to attend Tammy and Kenny's wedding. While out on “the rock,” I met up with Janet, Nick, Stacey, Lauren, Nicole, Lena, Lena's daughter, Sarah, Jack and Pearl, and Paula. We were all very happy to be reunited and had a wonderful time at the wedding. We were made honorary Newfies while we were out there, had codfish, Newfie moose meat, and took a boat ride on the ocean. It was hard to leave everyone behind to

catch a ferry from Argentia, Newfoundland to North Sydney, Nova Scotia. I met some great people on the ferry ride over that had just ridden across Newfoundland on their motorcycles. All of us agreed that most of Newfoundland was very similar to northern Ontario – very rugged.

As I cycled west I found out that there were a lot less campgrounds, so I resorted to introducing myself to people and pitching my tent on their lawn. I was able to meet a variety of people doing this and the folks were more than happy to have been a part of my trip. I made a stop in Prince Edward Island and met up with a friend from Pickle Lake. We cycled around the entire island. The people on PEI were great and the Confederation Bridge was definitely a sight to see. The island was truly full of red sand.

After finishing PEI, I cycled towards New Brunswick and Quebec, where I met up with some cyclists and another couple that I had met earlier on the trip. Both groups of people had invited me to stay with them when I reached their hometowns. In Quebec City, I stayed with the father and son that I had met in BC. Their family showed me around the city, exposed me to French culture, and we also attended a Cirque du Soleil production. Cirque du Soleil gymnasts perform a show that connects art and creativity with a story. It was a wonderful experience and I could not have asked for better people to stay with. I also stopped in Montreal where

I met up with the family I had met in PEI. They took me to a water fountain show at night in downtown Montreal that was choreographed to music and lights. It was fantastic.

After visiting Montreal I was Ontario bound. It was a long day of cycling; beginning with a flat tire that I had to change, but it was exciting to be back in my home province. I decided to go all the way back to Thunder Bay, although at the beginning of the trip I was not sure I would have enough time. Ontario was the hardest province to cycle through because of a lack of shoulders on the roads and I found the majority of drivers to not be very courteous. There were a few times where, if I reached my arm out, I would have been able to touch the transport truck/vehicle that was passing by. I did stay with some great people on my way and once I arrived in North Bay, I was able to meet up with one of my brothers. The next day I cycled to a town just outside of Sudbury called Coppercliff (Blair Fowler, one of the teachers in Mishkeegogamang used to reside close to this town) where I attended a trapper's convention. All of the trappers were glad to see that I arrived safely and wished me well on the rest of my journey. I stayed with the president of the Ontario Fur Managers Federation the next night in Blind River and I spoke with him and his wife about current issues that we are facing as trappers. CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Pursuing land claims takes time

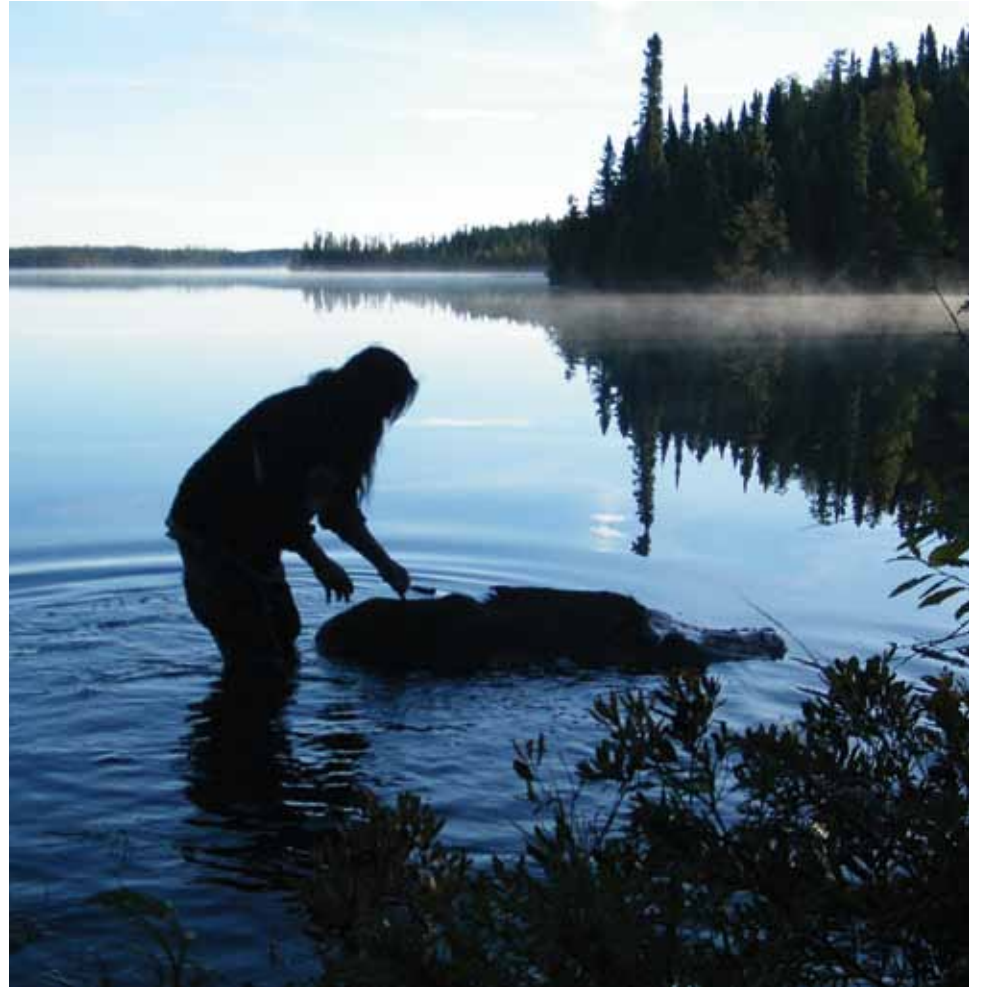
Mishkeegogamang's legal counsel continues to work on outstanding grievances with the Canadian government. In 1998 a settlement was reached with Ontario Hydro over Lake St. Joseph water rights, but issues are outstanding in regards to the failure of Canada to correctly survey the initial reserves, and the government's allowing various parcels of reserve land to be flooded and used for roads and other purposes. Indian Affairs admitted back in 1994 that the Crown had broken its treaty obligations and should compensate Mishkeegogamang for flooded lands.

Although this claim has been more than a decade in the works without a resolution, Chief Connie Gray-McKay says it is moving along. Mishkeegogamang's legal team has been reviewing all available information and using the facts to prove that Canada and Ontario failed to set aside the lands as requested by Mishkeegogamang as part of the treaty

process.

Chief Gray-McKay gave the following 2010 timeline, outlined by lawyer Tony Ross, as an example of how the process works and to show why it is taking so much time to come to a conclusion:

- all outstanding answers to written interrogatories and undertakings to be delivered by **May 31**;
- discovery motions to be brought on and argued by **June 30**;
- plaintiffs expert reports to be delivered by **August 15**;
- defendants expert reports to be delivered by **October 22**;
- plaintiff's reply reports to be delivered by **November 10**;
- pre-trial to be conducted by **November 17**.

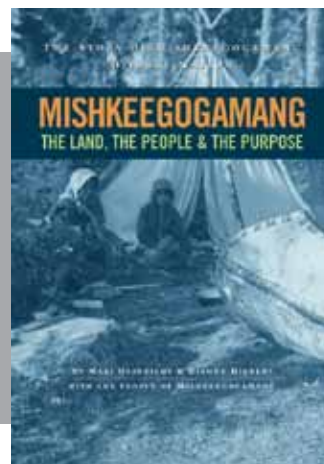


Ken Wavy gutted this bull moose in cold water early one morning during his traditional break. He said this huge animal was up for a fight and fell only about 15 feet from him. The sound of the calling and response of a "very angry bull" was "awesome" and a "rush," said Ken. While he gutted the moose, he could see a cow and a calf walking along the shore on the far point. Ken decided it would be too much to try and get them as well. Later in the week the pair were gunned down by Ken's brothers Leonard and Dale who were also on their traditional break.

Did you know?

Of the 1.2 million Aboriginal people in Canada, Ontario is home to 242,495, followed by British Columbia (with 196,000) and by Alberta (188,000) and Manitoba is fourth with 175,000.

Although Ontario has the largest Aboriginal population of all the provinces and territories, Aboriginal people represented only 2% of the province's total population. The Aboriginal identity population in 2006 represented 3.8% of the Canadian population. Aboriginal people represented 15.5% of Manitoba's provincial population, followed by Saskatchewan at 15% and Alberta at 6%. In the territories, Aboriginal people account for even larger shares: 85% in Nunavut - almost all Inuit, 50% in the Northwest Territories and 25% in the Yukon. (From Aboriginal Insight Summer 2010)



Mishkeegogamang: The Land, the People and the Purpose

Read all about the history of Mishkeegogamang; learn the wisdom of the elders.

Copies of our history book are now available at the band office.

\$40.00

“Life is far too short to put off your goals. There is nothing that can replace the experience gained by such a trip.”

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The following evening I was Sault Ste. Marie bound and once I arrived there I stayed with Lauren, a friend that I had taught with in my first year at Missabay School. We were able to catch up and I was happy to spend time with her family. From Sault Ste. Marie I cycled along the shores of Lake Superior which provided an amazing view of the lake and was a great workout for the legs. On my way to White River I heard a car honking its horn and a bit further up the road it pulled over. Much to my happiness, Stacey (a close friend from teacher's college and also the grade seven teacher in my first year up north) got out of her car and gave me a big hug. We had lunch and then we headed on our way - she much faster than I. That afternoon I encountered some harsh weather. The temperature dropped to around 10°C and the winds were blowing wildly enough to fell trees. The rain pelted down for five hours, and the hills did not get any less long or numerous. My goal was to make it to Marathon that evening. I made it, but not before losing the rain cover for my panniers (bags on the back of my bike)

and losing sensation in my hands and feet. When I checked in to the hotel that evening, all I wanted was a hot shower to warm me up. I called my mom that evening and told her I was not sure how I made it to where I did that day. It was the only day I had felt defeated on my trip, but I woke the next morning feeling rested and ready to tackle the last few days of my trip.

From Marathon, I had three days of cycling before I reached Thunder Bay. On the last day of my ride, a friend from Thunder Bay joined me and we rode the last 136 km together. I had met her and her family the previous summer at a wedding in North Bay and we found out that we both enjoyed cycling. When I mentioned that I was going to cycle across Canada, she said she would like to join me when I was close to Thunder Bay. We were blessed with a gorgeous day and a slight tail wind, making our ride quicker than we had expected. We stopped on the way for lunch and to visit some of her friends. It was great to have company on the last day of my ride. Together we celebrated the reality of making a dream come true, a dream that was five years and 7,293 km in the making.

I stayed in Thunder Bay for a few days, waiting for my flight. It felt odd to keep my feet planted for longer than a day and to not be wearing my cycling shorts and helmet. I have some great tan lines from the trip and at one point when I was in my bathing suit, they were a conversation starter. While I was in Thunder Bay, I was able to visit my relatives, friends, and also spend time with a family from Pickle Lake whose son was in the hospital.

At the moment I am buckling down, studying for my nursing degree. I will be finished this degree in December of 2012 and then I hope to work in remote settings. After gaining a few years of experience I will probably head back to school to obtain my nurse practitioners degree or complete my education to become a doctor. Time will tell where the next adventure will lead.

The most common question I get asked is, "What made you want to do a trip that was so extreme?" It had not occurred to me that such a trip was "extreme" or dangerous. The risks we perceive are not as large if we feel confident and trust that we will be surrounded by individuals who will only want the best for us.

I still cannot believe that the trip is complete and I wonder what will be next. The best lesson I have taken away from this trip is that anything is possible if you put your mind to it and most of all to not let the enormity of an adventure hold you back. Life is far too short to put off your goals. There is nothing that can replace the experience gained by such a trip. I will leave you with a smile and the hope that you, too, will go out there and achieve success with the passions that fuel you. Our days are numbered and you never know when they will end.

Roll on, laugh loudly, grab life by the handlebars and hang on for the ride.

p.s. As I write this article, I have just arrived back from the annual moose hunt. My friends, family, and I were successful this year, as a member in our group of hunters shot a bull. It was not a big moose, but the meat will surely be delicious.

Ashley Tamlin, former teacher at Missabay Community School

For more information on the trip, please visit <http://cyclecanadasummer2010.blogspot.com/>.

Back to School

The Missabay Community School is up and running for the 2010/2011 year. There are a few less students than last year, with about 145 attending compared to 163 last year. Principal Wayne Thorne is back and so are some of the teachers. The following stories are an introduction the teachers and their classes.



Junior Kindergarten Candace Panacheese

Candace Panacheese is in her sixth year at the Missabay School.

Candace Panacheese, a Mishkeegogamang band member, is working at the Missabay school for her sixth year. This year she is the Junior Kindergarten teacher. Candace was

used to working as a teacher's assistant, with one student at a time, so it is quite a change to have 11 students in the morning and seven in the afternoon. She took a course in North Bay during the summer months and this experience, she said, is giving her thoughts of going back to school to get her degree in teaching.



Senior Kindergarten Christina Murphy

Christine Murphy has 15 Senior Kindergarten students.

This is Christina Murphy's first year at Missabay school. She is teaching 15 Senior Kindergarten students after leaving the Red Rock Indian Band where she was Director

of Education for one year. She also taught Grades 4, 5 and 6 for four years. Christina considers this job "close to home" which is in Nipigon. Christina said this job is "definitely a challenge," but she is enjoying working in the beautiful surroundings of Mishkeegogamang.



Grade 1 Tammy Mulroney-Walsh

Tammy Mulroney-Walsh loves her "Munchkins."

She calls them her "Munchkins." Tammy Mulroney-Walsh loves her Grade 1 students. She has been teaching at Missabay for seven years, returning in September from a year off. Originally

from Newfoundland, Tammy says Mishkeegogamang reminds her of home with the lakes, the hunting and the fishing. "It's so beautiful, so peaceful. It's our second home for sure," said Tammy. She said she has seen very, very positive changes in the school in the last seven years, due in part, she thinks, to more teachers staying for longer periods of time.



Grade 2 Madeleine Oswald

Madeleine Oswald is back for a second year of teaching.

Madeleine Oswald said her students motivate her every single day. She is back in Missabay for the second year in a row, teaching Grade 2.

"You don't realize how attached you get," she said. "I feed off their energy." Madeleine grew up in Sault St. Marie where her dad was a conservation officer and taught her to love fishing and hiking and the outdoors. Madeleine is also a dancer. She has danced competitively and can teach ballet. Her experience here has been "really good" – she has learned a lot about the Anishinabe culture and is glad that Missabay is "first a culture school."



Grade 3 Amy Shapton

Amy Shapton says it was the students that drew her back to Mishkeegogamang.

Amy Shapton, the Grade 3 teacher, lives 23 hours from her home town near London, Ontario, but she said it was the students that brought

her back for a second year of teaching in the Missabay school. Besides, her last teaching job was "down under" in Australia, a much, much longer commute. Amy's students come to school every day, she said, and that makes a difference. "They're interested in learning," she said, adding that having a small class of 10 allows her to see the difference she is making in the kids' lives. She loves outdoor activities. That, combined with a welcoming community with "a lot of culture" has made teaching here an enjoyable experience. The atmosphere in the school is also encouraging, she said, with good morale, good manners and "everyone striving towards the same thing."



Grade 4 Harriet Visitor

Harriet Visitor has 13 students in Grade 4.

Harriet Visitor loves history and she especially loves teaching her 13 Grade 4 students about the history of Mishkeegogamang. "I enjoy teaching native children," said the

Sachigo band member. Harriet is using school materials developed for and about Mishkeegogamang and finds a lot of value for students learning about their community history. "It's important for them to have

a proud foundation of who they are," she said, adding that knowing their history will also encourage young people to learn and speak their language. Her students are inspiring. "I can teach them and also learn from them," she said. Harriet is in her second year of teaching at Missabay school, returning from maternity leave this September.



Grade 5 Amanda Kraft

Amanda Kraft was encouraged by a friend to come to the Missabay School.

Amanda Kraft is a new teacher, enjoying her first class of her own with nine Grade 5 students this year. A friend who had taught in Missabay school last

year encouraged her to apply for the job. "It's gorgeous," said Amanda, who grew up in Thunder Bay. "It's different, but not too different. I like being around lakes and trees." Amanda also likes to try various activities with her class, recently making a healthy dinner of homemade pizza. "That went over well," she said.



Grade 6 Stacey Cameron

Stacey Cameron loves helping kids.

"I love helping kids," said Stacey Cameron about why she came back to Mishkeegogamang to teach Grade 6. Her initial draw was simply to be "more North" of North Bay where she took her

schooling. Stacey is from Ottawa and loves to spend time outside, canoeing or snowshoeing. "I don't like the city," she said, preferring the community and great friends she has found since coming to work at Missabay school.



Grade 7/8 and Special Education Brent Labine and Nicole Howell

Brent Labine was inspired by Farley Mowat.

It was the books of Farley Mowat that inspired Brent Labine to seek work in the North. "I love the kids, I love the remoteness," he said. Brent comes from

the Sagamok First Nation and has a decade of teaching experience, four of them in native schools. Brent is teaching numeracy, science, geography, gym and health as well as sharing the job of special education with co-worker Nicole Howell.



Nicole Howell has been at the Missabay School for six years.

Nicole teaches literacy, history, art, computer and music. Together, the teachers are working to bring special education in Missabay to the Canadian standard. Nicole said working with another person with different expertise and ideas is not

as stressful as working alone and benefits the students. They are collecting baseline data for special needs and working with the Grade 7 and 8 students to prepare them for high school. Nicole comes from Newfoundland but had made Mishkeegogamang her home for the last six years. "The kids and the community bring me back," she said. "These kids engrain themselves into your heart." Nicole has noticed a change for the better in the school as stability improves and the staff works together. "The kids are getting better. They are more respectful," said Nicole.



Transition and KiHS with Blair Fowler, Tammy West and Lorne Goring

Tammy West teaches KiHS students.

Blair Fowler believes it is never too late for an education. He is the teacher responsible for the Wahsa Distance Education program on

the reserve. The radio education program has been operating for 16 years, providing secondary education services to northern communities.

He works with Tammy West and Lorne Goring to assist students who want to study without leaving the community. West is a teacher for KiHS students and Goring is a Subject Specialist, teaching three on-line courses. The 10-year-old program, which is available in 13 northern Ontario communities, including Mishkeegogamang, offers a full Grade 9 and 10 program as well as compulsory and elective courses in Grade 11 and 12, including university preparation courses. This is West's second year working with KiHS and her first year in Mishkeegogamang. She said five students come to the classroom on the main reserve to access computer courses and another five are working from home.

Michelle Kwanibens, 18, finished her Grade 8 and is working on Grades 9 and 10, intending to leave the community for her senior high school. She said she attends every day and finds the work really interesting, especially the Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition process (PLAR). PLAR helps adults to demonstrate and obtain recognition for learning that they acquire outside of formal education settings. It focuses on what adults know and can do. "It's easy," said Michelle. "I do five lessons and then do the test. I have a good memory." Michelle is attending with her brother and sister and often takes work home. "School work is keeping me busy right now. That's all I'm thinking about."

Morgan Kwandibens, 14, said he was "always in trouble" at the Missabay School and didn't attend regularly. Now that he's enrolled in the transitional program, he's "here to learn."



Blair Fowler gives a hand to Morgan Kwandibens at the Transitional School.



There was a lot of fun and games for children at the CH camp this summer.

Christian Horizons Expands Program

Mother Teresa once said, "let us always meet each other with a smile, for the smile is the beginning of love." During this 2010 summer, countless smiles were shared between the children and youth of Mishkeegogamang and the team of staff and volunteers from Christian Horizons (CH). The CH team was honoured to be invited to return and spend another summer with the Mishkeegogamang community. This August, the CH team expanded their involvement with the children to include teens and young adults. The group spent a total of three weeks in August interacting with people of all ages from the Ten Houses and Main Reserve areas. The friendships, connections, and bonds that were formed during this time will continue as we keep in touch over the year.

The team from Christian Horizons was thrilled to spend their mornings with the children, afternoons with adult community members, and evenings with teens and young adults. At different points in the programs, everyone from age 5 to 30 was able to enjoy a variety of activities and programming that included crafts, games, sports, fine art, singing, song writing, poetry, creative writing, and good times hanging out with new friends. The CH team was blessed by the positive response from the Mishkeegogamang community. Everyone welcomed the team with open arms, making us all feel at home with one another. Children and youth were not only able to interact and engage in these activities, but leadership skills were also developed during this time.

Several youth expressed that they had high hopes

for the future, and were interested in setting a good example for the younger children they are around. One young boy shared his desire to help the community in any way possible as he grows up. He was a great example of a leader as he participated in both the child and youth program. The staff and volunteers from CH are overjoyed at the thought of programs for next year. Next summer can't come soon enough! Christian Horizons thanks Mishkeegogamang for the amazing hospitality and wonderful participation during those three weeks. It is exciting to know that more smiles and laughs will be shared in the near future. Everyone from the CH team has a piece of Mishkeegogamang in their hearts.

CH became involved with Mishkeegogamang in 2006, providing inclusive summer programs for children, and shipments of a variety of items for community members to enjoy. CH is also part of Mamow Sha-way-gi-kay-win: The North-South Partnership for Children. This summer, CH was privileged to expand our past programs to include NationWares, a new division of Christian Horizons Global that engages youth while providing employment opportunities and individual and community development through micro enterprise. It is NationWares' pleasure to work with young artists, and people from the community that have business skills and ideas. Future opportunities are quickly expanding.

Submitted by Kerri-Jean Winteler

Far North Act passed into law

By Rick Garrick

This article is reprinted with permission from Wawatay News.

Thursday September 23, 2010

Nishnawbe Aski Nation will not recognize Bill 191, the Far North Act, despite being passed Sept. 23 in the Ontario legislature. Shortly after the bill was passed, NAN Deputy Grand Chief Mike Metatawabin said the Ontario government cares little for the concerns of First Nations and northern Ontarians.

"It is a disappointing day for all of us who spent tireless hours opposing Bill 191 as our opposition was obviously ignored," Metatawabin said. "As we have stated time and time again, NAN First Nations and tribal councils do not and will not recognize this legislation on our homelands. We will continue to uphold our Aboriginal and treaty rights and jurisdiction over our land. The real fight is just beginning."

Despite the opposition, the Ministry of Natural Resources touted the legislation saying First Nation approval of the land use plans is now required by law, a first in Ontario history. An MNR press release said First Nation communities can now identify and approve the areas in the Far North that require protection as well as those areas suitable for economic development.

"With the Far North Act, we have accomplished something ambitious, something exceptional," said Natural Resources Minister Linda Jeffrey. "Together we are entering a new era of

social prosperity, economic certainty and environmental protection in the Far North. It is our responsibility as global citizens to make wise land use decisions for this vast and unique part of the province and the world."

The government said land use plans are key to developing the Far North, including the region known as the Ring of Fire, which contains one of the world's largest deposits of chromite, a key ingredient in stainless steel.

The Ontario New Democratic Party voted against Bill 191, stating the Liberals' decision to "ram" the Far North Act through the Ontario legislature is a big step backward for relations between First Nations and the provincial government.

"The premier went back on his pledge to First Nations leaders that he wouldn't move ahead with the Far North Act without their consent," said NDP leader Andrea Horwath. "Despite committing to a new relationship, the McGuinty Liberals think they know better than the First Nations who have lived in the far north for thousands of years. The attitudes displayed in the passing of this bill were supposed to be the attitudes of the past."

Timmins-James Bay MPP Gilles Bisson said the Far North Act remains deeply flawed. "The act gives the government blanket powers to override local First Nations' land use decisions and does not respect Aboriginal rights to accommodation," Bisson said.

'All the NDP MPPs voted against the

bill, but it passed with the support of the Liberal majority. Notably absent from the vote were Premier Dalton McGuinty and Thunder Bay Liberal MPP Bill Mauro.

Bisson said the problems with Bill 191 go beyond the issues with First Nations.

"Chambers of Commerce, prospectors and developers, mayors,...and business owners have all spoken out against the Far North Planning Act. So if everyone is against it, why are they proceeding with it?"

Metatawabin said in a Sept. 22 press release that NAN communities will not compromise their rights as treaty people.

"The law can be passed by the province of Ontario, but this does not promise industry free access to our lands," Metatawabin said, noting that NAN will maintain its former statements that uncertainty and unrest are imminent.

"This is not what we want, but given the province of Ontario and the premier's refusal to honor their commitments to the people of NAN, we have no other choice. First Nations in the Far North have voiced their concerns over and over again regarding this Bill, and yet the premier of Ontario remains unmoved. If there is conflict, it will be up to the province to answer as to why. This government has been given ample opportunity to work with us, but chooses otherwise."

NAN said its First Nations have not been properly consulted on Bill 191, despite the province of Ontario's continued attempts to state otherwise.

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Letter from Tom Wassaykeesic to Amnesty International

Aug 30, 2010

Craig Benjamin

Amnesty International

312 Laurier Avenue East

Ottawa, Ontario

K1N 1H9

Dear Craig,

The purpose of this letter is to bring to Amnesty International's attention a long standing practice of the Pickle Lake detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police to deny blankets to prisoners lodged overnight or for long periods at the detachment.

In response to complaints and/or concerns, the typical response is that prisoners might attempt suicide. I've never heard of anyone committing suicide under a blanket.

We've had many people complain to the Chief and Council over the years that when prisoners ask for a blanket they wake

up in the middle of the night because they are cold, the response from the guards or the police officers themselves is No.

This practice seems to be aimed primarily at the First Nations as they are usually the ones ending up in the cells for public intoxication.

The denial of blankets is a violation of Human Rights. Canada being a signatory to UN conventions on the treatment of prisoners, the province of Ontario is bound by the same UN conventions. The provincial government through the Ministry of Community Safety is responsible for the Provincial Police force.

I'm asking that Amnesty International investigate this practice of the Pickle Lake detachment. Is it just the Pickle Lake detachment or is it province wide? Either way, it's discriminatory and should be stopped immediately.

Thank you,

Tom Wassaykeesic, Band Councillor



Waiting for snow?

An introduction to the newest Mishkeegogamang NAPS officer

Hello, my name is Constable Allan Giba. I have been working with the Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service since January 2007. I am a First Nation person born and raised in Thunder Bay, with family coming from The Pas, Manitoba. I began my policing career in Cat Lake First Nation. After Cat Lake I took a transfer to Eabametoong First Nation where I worked for approximately two years. In July of 2009 I took a position at Thunder Bay Headquarters as the Community Initiatives Coordinator and Media Relations Officer. I am looking forward to bringing my knowledge and abilities to Mishkeegogamang First Nation.

Community Update

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Contribute to the Newspaper

Everyone is welcome to submit an article, photo or write a letter to the Mishkeegogamang Community Update. Share your opinion or idea with other readers. Editors reserve the right to edit for clarity and length.

The Silent Treatment

A man and his wife were having some problems at home and were giving each other the silent treatment. Suddenly, the man realized that the next day, he would need his wife to wake him at 5:00 a.m. for an early morning business flight. Not wanting to be the first to break the silence (and LOSE), he wrote on a piece of paper, "Please wake me at 5:00 a.m." He left it where he knew she would find it. The next morning, the man woke up, only to discover it was 9:00 a.m. and he had missed his flight. Furious, he was about to go and see as to why his wife hadn't woken him, when he noticed a piece of paper by the bed. The paper said, "It is 5:00 a.m. Wake up."