



MISHKEEGOGAMANG Community Update

Veteran Elder Traces Roots to Mish

Activist elder Isabelle Mercier of Thunder Bay traces her ancestral roots to Mishkeegogamang. It was the home of her grandfather Edward Lawson, who left there in the late 1800s and eventually settled in Schreiber on the North Shore of Lake Superior. Isabelle herself was raised in Thunder Bay but spent summers with her grandparents in Schreiber.

She describes her grandfather as a “very traditional” man who “never said a bad word about anybody.” He had eight children, of whom five became



professionals and three others were respected tradespeople. He himself was a foreman for the CPR, but was also a hunter and taught his grandchildren respect for the environment and all the teachings of the Seven Grandfathers. He made handmade things like skis for the children, and a cutter they could use in the winter. His granddaughter

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It looked liked Christmas but felt more like spring in late November for Tameeka Roundhead, Ishmael Roundhead, and Salvatore Masakeyash

Broadband Internet Project Moving on to Second Phase

By the end of November, installation of the broadband transmission line from Ignace to Musselwhite was about 95% complete. The overhead lines on the east side of Highway 599 will disappear when the broadband line moves into Phase 2, where it will be buried underground as it moves north past Pickle Lake.

Mishkeegogamang has benefited from the jobs generated by this project. At the busiest point in the first phase of the project, up to 20 locals were employed on line and brush-cutting crews.

The broadband internet connections are scheduled to be activated sometime in 2012. There are currently some legal issues to be resolved with Bell Aliant relating to the broadband project. One of the main issues involves the addition of a hydro transmission line to the poles that were originally planned to carry only a broadband line. The decision to place an electricity line at the top of the pole meant that more trees beside the lines would need to be cut down. Bell Aliant apparently failed to consult properly with First Nations communities regarding this decision.

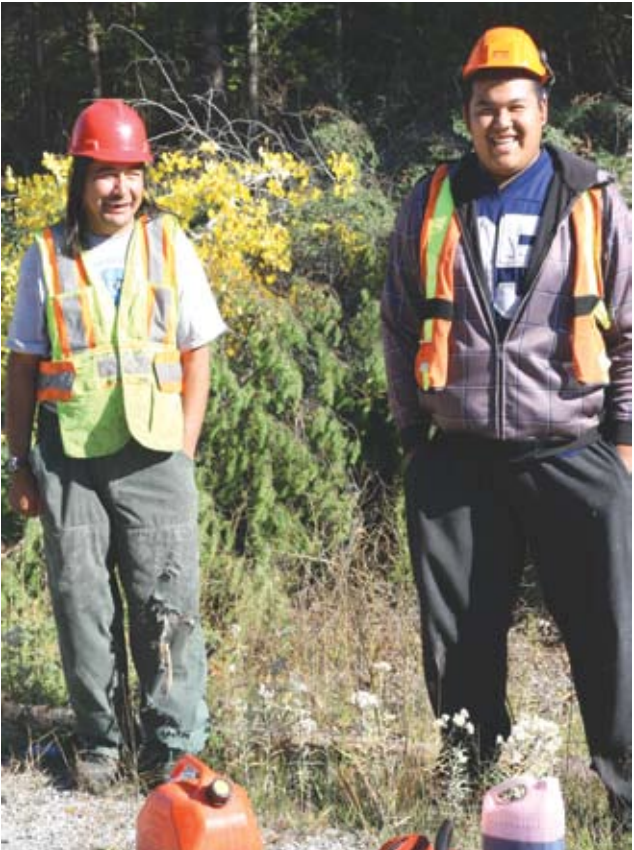
“The band’s position on this outstanding legal issue is that we have serious concerns regarding how this whole business with the electricity line was handled,” siad Councillor David Maskakeyash. Transparency on the

part of Bell Aliant is one issue. Originally, it was supposed to be only a fiber-optic broadband line, and the project was cleared for that. Then they wanted to add a hydro line, which requires more trees be removed. We will continue to work at it until we’re satisfied with a resolution. There are proper channels that need to be followed, including obtaining ministerial approval, which we believe may not have been completed properly.”

The Northern Ontario Broadband Expansion Project will eventually connect 26 remote First Nation communities in the north along a network of 2,300 kilometres of fibre optic cable. Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Grand Chief Stan Beardy said it will “open up a new world” for people in NAN communities, bringing e-health, telemedicine and online education to young and old alike.

High-speed internet lines are now stretching north from Red Lake towards Pikangikum; between Ignace

and Mishkeegogamang; and connecting Big Trout Lake (KI) and Wapekeka. By 2014, if all goes according to plan, all 26 communities will be connected by a loop running from Red Lake to KI in the north, Ogoki River in the east and back south to Ignace.



Timothy Bottle said he liked his job on the broadband cutline this fall

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Around the Community

Christmas Treats For Kids

Destani Skunk from the Brighter Futures program would like to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and send out a big thank-you to all the people who supported our events and fundraisers over the years. The annual Christmas Candy Giveaway is taking place this year on December 23. There's a new location, so bring your kids over to the Youth Centre on the main reserve from 6pm-9pm. Destani and her aunt Morene Mishenene are carrying on the tradition of the candy giveaway, which their grandmothers, great-grandmothers, and aunties used to host at the Anglican church. Once again, we are asking for donations from community members to buy more treats for the candy giveaway this year. Donations will be accepted until Dec. 20, when we have to start organizing the event. Thanks also to everyone who has helped make the annual candy giveaway a success, and for keeping our children happy with their treats!

Community Centre Update

Planning on the new community centre is ongoing, and construction will likely begin in spring. All contractors who bid on the project were well over the proposed budget, so project manager Brian Feherty is now meeting with the low bidder to see what adjustments can be made so Phase 1 – the multi-purpose community hall – can go forward. The centre is to be jointly funded by the band, the province of Ontario and the federal government.

Save Your Power Cord's Life

Operations Manager Jeff Loon mentioned that a lot of extension cords are getting destroyed when people leave them on snowy driveways. Make sure your driveway is clear before the snow plow shows up!



Having your photo taken while wiping out is a good way to get in the newspaper! Below: Kurri “Santa” Kakegamic hands out treats and Philmin Keesickquayash gives peace a chance. Check page 7 for more Christmas photos with a possibly intriguing twist.

PHOTOS BY DESTANI SKUNK



Merry Christmas and Best Wishes in the New Year From the Crew at PC Gold!



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Phone 807-928-2414

Researched and written by Rosetta Projects

rosettaprojects@telus.net

Phone 250-764-0472

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 ideas with other readers. Editors reserve the right to edit for clarity and length.

ArtsCan Circle Creates Music with Missabay



Four artists from the Toronto area were in Mish for a week in November to make art and music with students from Missabay School. The group is part of an organization called ArtsCan Circle, which sends teams of musicians and artists to northern communities.

“The whole purpose of ArtsCan Circle is to link various types of artists with kids in remote communities in the north,” said musician David Joyce. “We get artists and kids together to help them to create unique arts and crafts, play music, write songs and express themselves.”

ArtsCan Circle has been coming to Mishkeegogamang for six years now, and the group is already planning to come back again before the summer holidays. “A lot of the kids here at Missabay really seem to look forward to us coming,” Joyce said. “The teenagers can tend to be ‘teenagerish’ some of the time, but once they warm up to us they’re really happy to be involved. It’s pretty positive – the kids remember us and we remember them. They always ask us when we’re coming up again.”

Mr. Joyce was joined by fellow musician David Newland for sing-a-longs and songwriting, where they encourage kids to put their own words to music. The kindergarten class, for example, composed a delightful tune named “The Banana Peel Song,” while the Grade Fours wrote a song called “Winter time.” ArtsCan Circle has set up a musical instrument lending library at the school that includes ukuleles, guitars, keyboards, harmonicas, and percussion instruments.

Megan Newland and Rosemary Kotze helped the kids make some cool art and craft projects. The students created some beautiful items including lino-cut prints, jingle sticks and unique animals and figures using needle-felting.

Even as they were packing up their equipment, the artists were already looking forward to coming back. “We’ll be coming out one more time this school year,” said Joyce. “We’re always thankful the way we’re welcomed – it’s nice to feel liked and welcomed.”



Left:
The two Davids and Daisy rock out during a sing-along
Above:
Ukeleles are easy to learn and cool too
Right:
Guess Hooo created this awesome owl



New Trapping Pickup Schedule

There have been some changes to the pick-up schedule for the trappers of Mishkeegogamang this season. This year Fur Harvesters has decided not to pick up on the Northern Route to Pickle Lake, which includes Mishkeegogamang and its outlying settlements. If you would like to express any concerns you may contact Fur Harvester at 1-705-495-4688 or e-mail to comments@furharvesters.com

A truck will be in Sioux Lookout to pick up furs on December 5, January 9, and April 2, from 12:00-12:30. Trappers are also able to drop off

their fur (advances available) at Victor’s any time before these pickup dates.

Victor Cieurko Res.
22-7th Ave
Sioux Lookout, On
P8T 1K8
737-7504

“I would like to take this opportunity to wish my fellow trappers a safe and prosperous trapping season,” said Victor. “May your traps be full, Meegwetch.”

Ring of Fire Road Planned North of Pickle



David Masakeyash stresses the importance of being mindful of the impacts to traditional lands that come along with economic activities

PHOTO BY DESTANI SKUNK

A new all-season road running northeast of Pickle Lake is being planned for the Ring of Fire mining area. Neskantaga, Webequie, Eabametoong and Nibinamik signed a collaborative agreement on Aug. 31 to develop, own and operate a 230-240 kilometre east-west corridor from the Pickle Lake area to the Ring of Fire area in the James Bay lowlands with connections to the communities.

The new road will run off of Highway 808 north of Pickle Lake and crosses some of Mishkeegogamang’s traditional territory. The plan is to move product from different mines in the Ring of Fire by ground, 24/7, with tandem trailer trucks. The project was first proposed by Noront, which wants to truck nickel, copper, and chromite from mines around the area of Esker Camp. The final point on the route would be the Savant Lake railway, which could take mining products to Sudbury and other points.

“Various impacts from this project will be realized, obviously, both good and bad,” said Councillor David Masakeyash. “Jobs, economic opportunities, and training come along with the project, but it also impacts the land; people hunting on those territories will be negatively impacted all the way down the route of the road. 24/7 trucking will also disturb animal movements and migration patterns. We are examining the economic opportunities now, how we can benefit from the project. The band is taking a community-based approach to the project. The council wants to hear from community members and get their perspectives.”

Construction on the all-weather road could begin as early as 2013, and no later than 2015. Mishkeegogamang has been communicating with Webequie and Fort Hope First Nations throughout the process.

Hydro Supply Opportunities for Mish in Ring of Fire

In addition to the all-season road, a new railway is another big project being planned for the Ring of Fire. As well, Mishkeegogamang council will be involved with supplying electricity for the mines in the Ring of Fire. Councillor David Maskeyash explains the First Nation’s involvement:

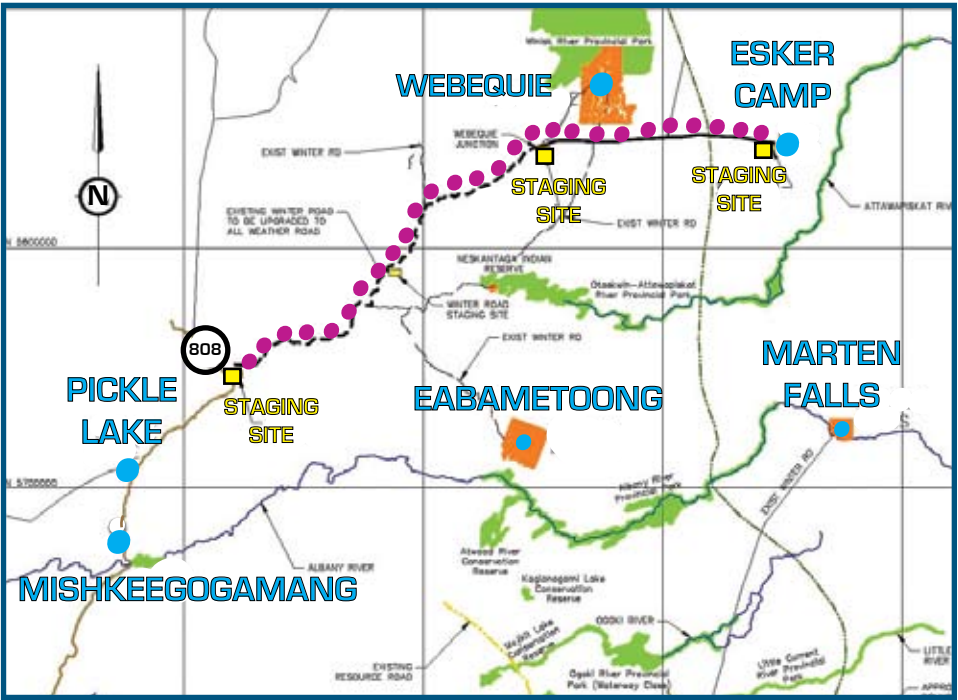
“In connection to the proposed railway project, a large amount of electric power will be required. Mish has taken the lead to bring in this resource to the Ring of Fire as a major economic opportunity for the future. This could be a very big deal decades down the road.”

There’s a process that’s being followed, and a lot of it is downtime and waiting, applying, protocol, etc. But the most important thing is that the community has got to be behind

the project to make it a reality. This is stepping into the new millennium for us. It’s a new era, and it’s uncharted territory for the band, but exciting as well. Council is focusing on more community consultation about Ring of Fire issues, more discussions with outside organizations like governments and mining companies, as well as internally in the community.

There’s no doubt that the Ring of Fire is going forward, one way or the other. We just don’t know how fast, and where and when. We’re making preparations and trying to get in on the ground floor of this mining rush to ensure future prosperity for the community. The youth in general here could be looking at a very different economic picture than the one their parents had.”

The new all-season road will be built on the route of the existing winter road from Pickle Lake to Webequie. An entirely new all-weather road will then be built from Webequie to Esker Camp.



Wishing You a Very Merry Christmas from Everyone at the Health Centre!



Sixteen Houses Arrive, Ten More Due in Spring



One of the new house trailers on a lot in the main reserve; Right: Dan Sabko was happy to see the homes being prepared for occupancy after a series of problems with contractors on the project

Sixteen new double-wide house trailers are now in place at various locations, including Ten Houses, Bottle Hill and Eric Lake. A housing and elders committee will review applicants and allot housing on the basis of merit. Both working people and those who need social assistance will be equally considered, on the basis of a proven record of responsibility.

Another ten housing units will be in place in spring, and septic fields will be installed next year.

Electrical inspections of all 17 were being finished during the last week in November, and they should all be

completely hooked up for electricity, water, and sanitation before Christmas. The first trailers arrived at the end of October, and the last one came on Nov. 21.

There was open-house meeting on Nov. 11 to discuss the application process for the new trailers. “Unlike the old system of putting band members’ names on a general housing list, people will now have to apply for a specific trailer,” said Technical Services manager Dan Sabko. “The band will be acting as more of a ‘landlord’ in regards to the new trailers.”

Applications for trailers will be carefully assessed to determine:

- 1) The applicant’s ability to pay rent.
 - 2) Past rental history, such as the ability to take care of homes and the amount of damage in past homes.
- The monthly rent on a 2-bedroom trailer will be \$600, \$700 for a 3-bedroom and \$800 for a 4-bedroom.
- Come to band office or maintenance garage to pick up an application to apply for the specific house you want to rent.
- The band is also taking a new approach to dealing with damage to houses on the reserve. “People have been destroying houses for years with no repercussions, and therefore we have no choice but to clamp

down in terms of evictions,” said Sabko.

Reporting damage and pursuing criminal charges is going to be a priority. “If any intentional damage happens to a home, whether it’s broken windows, doors, or other something else, the band encourages people to call the police and report the incident so charges can be laid. Or, they can let me know at the band office and we’ll take it to the authorities. Either way, people need to know that there will be serious consequences for damaging homes, which is the only way this senseless, and expensive, problem will get better.”



Jobs at Sawmill in Ignace

There are jobs available in Ignace with the re-opening of the sawmill there. AbitibiBowater (now called Resolute Forest Products) is investing \$32 million to restart and upgrade the mill. They’ll be adding an energy system and kilns to dry lumber, and a planer and packaging system to produce finished lumber ready for market. Engineering, design and construction activities will occur over the next two years, with a return to production forecast for 2014.

Ignace Community Development Officer Doug Pronger says there are definitely job opportunities for Mishkeegogamang people. The mayor of Ignace, Lee Kennard, is very interested in developing a relationship with the people of Mishkeegogamang. He recently visited the community and met with Chief Connie Gray-McKay. Confederation College will have training opportunities as needed for the new jobs and there is lots of housing available in Ignace, if those who are hired at the mill choose to re-locate to Ignace.

If interested, you can call Rick Groves, Resolute’s Forestry Manager at 807-475-2112 or email groves@resolutefp.com. You can also contact Jesse Traer from Human Resources for details about the specific jobs that they will be looking to fill – jesse.traer@resolutefp.com.

Become a Foster Parent for Tikinagan Child & Family Services

Tikinagan Child and Family Services is looking for foster parents to provide stable foster homes. Open your heart and home to a child during a time of crisis and change.

As a foster parent, you will guide and support your foster child every day. By your actions, you can help children and their families cope with the challenges that life brings.

You will receive training and payment based on the child’s needs. You can meet and get to know other foster parents, and agency staff will give you support.

You can make a difference in a child’s life!

Qualifications:

We are looking for people who are patient, loving and able to provide a safe, nurturing home. You must be willing to learn about the needs of the child and receive training. Most important is being able to open your heart and home to a child who may need special attention and guidance.

For additional information please contact Tikinagan Child and Family Services at 1-800-465-3624 or (807)737-3466





Elder Mercier Served in Canada’s Army, Navy, and Reserves

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Isabelle says, “He was a fantastic individual.”

Isabelle’s own father was an immigrant from Scotland, a union man, and Isabelle followed in his footsteps, with her activism first apparent when she walked a picket line in 1957. After high school she served in the military, in both the army and the navy, doing everything from office work to driving two and a half ton trucks. She worked with the Canadian Women’s Corp, the Service Corps, and finally retired as a lieutenant in the Canadian Reserves. Throughout her life she has worked to advance causes important to her people, in particular First Nations women and war veterans.

She has great respect for the many aboriginal men and women who served in the world wars – service that was often not recognized. “From codebreakers to nurses in battlefield positions to transport drivers to airforce photographers doing cartography, they did it,” she said. In a documentary called “Trailblazers: Honouring Our Veterans,” she relates how First Nations people felt obligated to fight to maintain the terms of their treaties: “When an aboriginal person goes in and makes a contract, they will do everything they can to fulfill that contract, and many of our veterans stepped up to ensure that our treaties were secure. Because if the other side won, the other signatory would no longer be able to commit to those treaties and the treaties would be non-existent. This was talked about in my family many, many times.”

Mercier only really began to embrace her heritage later in her life. As a child, she says, “I hated to go to school in September

because I was brown and everyone else was white.” Her cultural learning curve began when she left school. “I learned [about my culture] by picking up my responsibilities as a drum carrier and a pipe carrier – I was comfortable in doing so because it put me back in a safe spot with my grandfather. I see it as blood memory. All our teachings – the grandfather teachings – came from him.”

Since her retirement from the military, she worked for the government of Ontario for 22 years and has held many public roles, such as a seat on the Elders Advisory Council for Thunder Bay City Council 2010, working with NAN in many capacities, and serving for three years as an elder for native student nurses at Lakehead University, a job she found both exciting and rewarding. Mercier has never visited Mishkeegogamang but has worked with many of its members at conferences and on committees.

When asked what issues she feels are most important for First Nations people to fight for, she says without hesitation: “The dominant society needs to realize the finality of the signature on the treaty – that once you sign and agree to a treaty your honour stands there. Our people are honourable people who have walked a very difficult life. We have walked through much adversity that is not necessary. The government needs to be accountable for everything they say and do.”

Although she is retired from holding a regular job, Isabelle Mercier actively continues to fight for the causes she believes in. “Sometimes you get a little tired,” she says, “but I keep doing what I can do.”

Mishkeegogamang Close to Agreement with Musselwhite

According to Councillor David Masakeyash, negotiations between the band and GoldCorp in Musselwhite are about 99% complete on a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). An agreement has been worked out that includes items like compensation for the mine’s impacts to land, training programs and community programs to be funded by GoldCorp, impacts related to the mine’s electricity transmission corridor, and compensation for trappers. The next step of the process is community consultation about the specifics of the MOU, which is scheduled to take place in December.

Musselwhite has a longstanding agreement with the surrounding communities about the mine as a

whole. But Mishkeegogamang is not a signatory to that agreement, so the two parties are now working towards their own agreement. Since the mine itself is outside of Mish’s traditional territory, the negotiations are only about the use of the land that the transmission line runs over.

One of the main issues involved in the MOU is the 180 km-long hydro transmission line, called M1M, that is owned by Musselwhite and was built in 1997. It starts in Pickle Lake and runs parallel to the North Road, bringing power to the mine site. In addition to land impact compensation, a key part of the MOU includes a contract for Mishkeegogamang to handle brush control along the transmission line.



Missabay’s Grade Eights had a chance to try out some of the new hockey equipment brought up by a group from Burlington. Organizer Linsay Webb and a number of OPP officers came up to deliver the gear, and their was lots of it. As the hockey stuff piled up, it was obvious to see how successful their equipment drive was. The group came in late November and it was definitely a welcome early Christmas present for the community.



Buy-a-Book Share-a-Book Benefits Missabay School

On October 13, Bradford Coats for Kids hosted a Book Fair for Missabay Community School. Coats for Kids works with Christian Horizons in support of the children in Mishkeegogamang. Thanks to the generosity of the community, Missabay School will soon be receiving a load of new books, school supplies and other items.

The response to the Buy-a-Book Share-a-Book event at Holy Trinity Catholic High School was great. Cash donations were raised to purchase books requested by Missabay School teachers. Textbook publisher McGraw-Hill Ryerson also donated a significant number of books.

Missabay School staff Brent Labine, Anastasia Muckuck, Ida Muckuck, Tammy Walsh, and bus driver Kenny Walsh attended the event. They explained the

importance of having class sets of various books to improve the literacy rate for children. The books will be sent up north at the beginning of December along with other items currently being collected for the community to support the Mamo-Ombiggi-Owsowin program as well as the school.



2011 Year End Report

Chief and Council's Summary of the Year and Initiatives for 2012

Mishkeegogamang Ojibway Nation has come through a challenging year, but Chief Connie Gray-McKay sees the challenges as stepping stones, not obstacles. The Chief feels that the Council has done a good job of addressing issues and solving problems this year. Here's what happened in some key areas in 2011:

Governance

The problem: Council has not always been operating well. It has been difficult to set meetings, and meetings have been poorly attended. Every day, routine decisions about programs were being funneled towards Chief and Council, creating a bottleneck.

The solution: New governance policy is in place. A document called Roles and Responsibilities outlines what council members are required to do. Members not fulfilling their roles and responsibilities can be disciplined or removed from office.

Managers are being trained to be problem solvers, goal-minded, and focused forward. "We need good captains of the ship," says Chief Connie, "who treat everyone fairly." A personnel policy has been put forward to create a positive working environment for all band employees. There is more communication between programs to reduce overlapping services. More all-department activities (like a band employee Christmas party) would promote teamwork and unity.

Leaders are urgently needed to head up economic development and administration.

Councillor Update

Councillor Mike Bottle is teaching at Saugeen but is being reimbursed for his duties as a councillor according to time spent. He is a great asset to the Council.

Councillor Laureen Wassaykeesic was convicted of fraud by the Ontario Court of Justice in Sioux Lookout on November 2. Since the conviction is an indictable offense, Indian Affairs automatically assumes responsibility for the case, and the councillor's resignation will be required.

Finances

Key internal controls are in place. Every staff member who



has purchase order authority has a spending level, beyond which they need the signature of one council member.

The whole council must agree on expenditures over \$10,000.

Advances or loans will not be made to anybody from band funds.

Managers are learning to control their budgets.

Managers are ensuring that reports are done, to keep money flowing.

Budget

Six years ago, the band had a \$2.9 million deficit. As of April 1 of this year, Mishkeegogamang is working in the black for the first time. Chief and Council are determined to stay there.

Financial advisor Kevin Houghton is overseeing the budget management.

Community Spirit

Council has promoted sports activities and gatherings such as the summer gathering after the fires.

The yard beautification contest had to be put on hold because of the fires and evacuation, but it will continue next summer.

Christmas lighting contest is in full swing, with healthy rivalries creating some fun.

The community newspaper continues to bring people together and keep them informed.

A school bus has been donated for community activities.

The band is encouraging more social, sports, and traditional activities for children and youth. One goal is to work together across programs to generate more youth activities, as well as bring in outside people, such as staff from Beaver Lake Camp who will be coming for some Saturday activities.

Chief and Council and staff have strengthened ties with Beaver Lake, Speroway, Christian Horizons, the North-South Partnership and other organizations to promote and support the children and youth of the community.

Hydro Funds and Land Claims Case

Payouts of hydro funds will continue to honour the elders who have suffered directly, with the remaining funds used to resource the Land Claims lawsuit.

Although some community members would like regular payouts, there is also widespread support, especially among the younger people, for using the hydro funds to support the land claims.

Once a settlement is received the government of Canada requires that a professional trust manage the money. Three band members, lawyers and an investment advisor will form the interim trust committee until the trust can fully be established.

The band is contesting four areas:

1. Bad faith on Canada's part. "The government's been playing around with us for too long, like a cat playing with a mouse," says Chief Connie. "They have assigned ten separate lawyers, and every time there's a new lawyer there are month-long delays."
2. Kitchiminnis Island. This was part of the treaty when it was signed in 1905. The band is saying half of 63A is missing and is claiming ownership of the island.
3. Flooding. Timber, fish, and wildlife were lost when the lands were flooded. The government did not protect the interests of the First Nation.
4. Erosion. The flooding caused a loss of land.

Mishkeegogamang has four lawyers and has brought elders, leaders and experts to the court to testify. It has also teamed up with Slate Falls to strengthen the case.

Agreements with Mining Companies

All mining companies working in Mishkeegogamang's traditional territory must sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Mishkeegogamang.

The First Nation is negotiating and close to an agreement with Goldcorp, which owns Musselwhite

Mine (see full story on next page). Musselwhite itself is not on Mishkeegogamang's traditional territory, but the transmission line which brings power to the mine crosses traditional territory.

Health



Chief and Council is encouraging healthy living and a greater use of the resources and support available at Pashkokogan. Donna Roundhead has left her job there, leaving a gap. However, 40 – 50 people attended a recent workshop, and medical drivers are working on licensing to be able to use the First Response vehicle which was donated to the community this summer.

Strengthening Family Responsibility

Chief and Council is encouraging members to plan community or work Christmas gatherings for before December 25th so that families can be together on Christmas Day.

The band will deliver a total of 100 cords of wood to those who can't get wood for themselves, but wood for elders will now be delivered in four-foot lengths, giving family members the responsibility to split it.

Council has traditionally helped families in exceptional circumstances, for example if they need to attend a family funeral in another community. Chief Connie would like to see extended families taking more responsibility for these costs, but says Council will continue to try to balance

traditional cultures and beliefs with budgetary constraints.



Operations and Maintenance

Mishkeegogamang has been upgrading equipment and now has a really good grader and front-end loader. Dan Sabkooversees Technical Services while Jeff Loon manages operations on the ground, leading a team that the Chief says "work hard and are willing to work."

The Chief's Summary

Strategic planning is slowly replacing day-to-day, on-the-fly decisions. Social change is happening in the community little by little. I see people taking pride in their work. Leaders can plan for positive changes, but it is up to the people to act on these initiatives. If we want social change, our members need to support initiatives that promote change –Pashkokogan, youth conferences, homecoming, community meetings, community clean-ups, events at the school.

A positive group of Mishkeegogamang youth (and also older adults) are not only supporting the community but initiating change themselves. One youth said recently, "When I look at the reserve I see a lot of good things. It's some of the people who don't change." Let's make 2012 the year of working together to make our community a better place to live.

Mishkeegogamang Taking Interest in Transmission Line

An investment company named Morgan Geare is partnering with Mishkeegogamang and Saugeen First Nations to build a power line from Ignace to Pickle Lake. The three groups have formed a company called Sagatay Transmission LP. If the route for the line is approved to run through the territories of the two First Nations, the plan is for Mishkeegogamang and Saugeen to own 50% of the line and Morgan Geare the other 50%.

The building hasn't yet started.

What's in process right now:

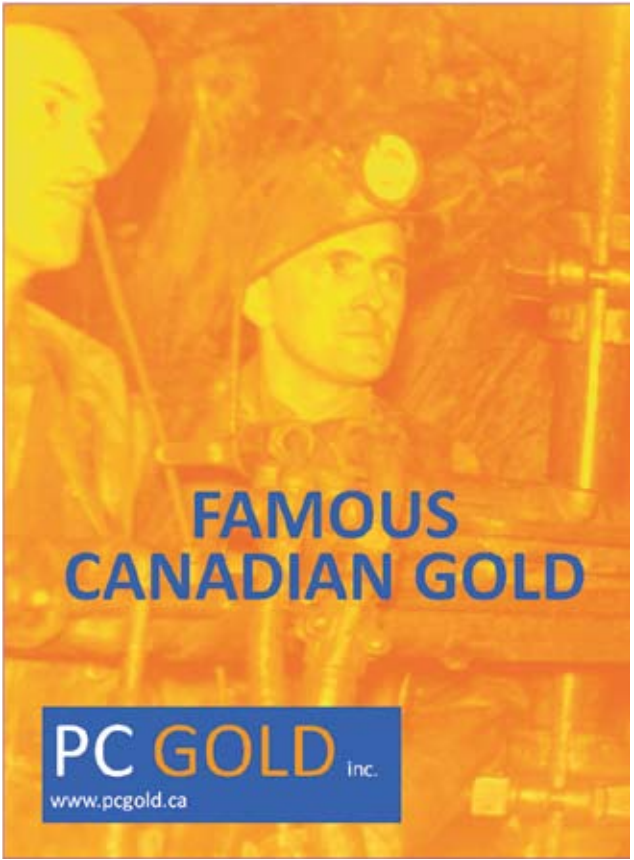
- 1. Regulatory applications
- 2. Environmental studies
- 3. Community consultations



The Ontario Energy Board regulates transmission lines. This is one of five transmission lines that the government of Ontario has identified as a priority, so Sagatay isn't anticipating any major roadblocks in the approval process.

What's in all this for the investment company and the First Nations? The Energy Board allows for recovery of cost of building lines and also for a return on capital investment. So once the line is done, the owners will sell power and eventually make a profit from the venture.

Wherever it's practical to do so, Mishkeegogamang and Saugeen people will be hired to build and maintain the line. Construction could begin in 2013.



Christmas Wishes From PC Gold

I appreciate the help and goodwill that the many individual band members, band councillors and Chief Connie have shown us. You have all helped PC Gold succeed since we first started working at Pickle Crow in 2008. I'd like to extend my personal best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a positive, hopeful and healthy 2012 to everybody in Mishkeegogomang.

Kevin Keough, President and CEO



Memories of Coming Home

Karen Kaminawaish was “scooped” as a baby in the “Sixties Scoop” adoption wave. She has since reunited with her family in Mish and has been working as a community liaison officer for Mishkeegogamang. She has been studying for a doctorate in Sociology at the Oklahoma State University. Karen prefers not to capitalize references to herself when she writes. This is the third in a series of four.

When i first came back to Mishkeegogamang, my late brother Roy welcomed me home, cried and hugged me, while talking to me in Ojibway when we first met. After awhile, he broke the hug and started laughing and interpreted what he had said. My other late big brother, Frank, told me that i never was suppose to have been adopted and that I was stolen. He said when he found out, he went to the orphanage in Sioux to get me, but i was already gone, adopted out. Hearing his words was like a huge weight was lifted and many questions were answered. Knowing the circumstances of my adoption dramatically changed my outlook on life. I have worked with a therapist to overcome my anger about the white woman that stole me that day long time ago. Today though, i am not angry about being adopted, i accept it as just something that happened.

This past summer at Beaver Lake, i had the opportunity to give my testimony and i told how both of my worlds came together that weekend, my white Mennonite world and my Native world. The same weekend i was honored at the Eagle Lake Powwow and welcomed home from Native people from all over. Checotah and i were busy going back and forth that weekend.

I sincerely love coming back and living around Mish and my son, Checotah does as well. He loves Beaver Lake and his new friends he has made there. He especially

likes hanging with Donald Wesley and Tommy Fox, and teasing Leanne, while he is at Mish.

Just doing everyday activities with various people taught me some things about my heritage, especially driving up and down the North Road working with Erin, she was able to tell me a lot of our history and culture. I most certainly liked being able to do a variety of things to serve my people and not being in an office all day long.



My daughter, Octivia “Michelle” is all over the States; i never know where exactly she is. She has not pursued any of her Oji-Cree connections, while my other daughter Tammy has and is in contact with her Aunt Lena Fiddler. My son truly loves the north and i believe he talks about it daily. Besides Beaver Lake, his favorite memory is blueberry picking and he has saved ice cream and popcorn buckets this past year to fill this summer.

Just getting to know as many of the Mishkeegogamang people that i can, i feel will help me give me a sense of gaining my heritage. Each band member contributes something and i am grateful for the opportunity to serve my people, whether it is picking people up going to or coming from Pickle Lake, or sitting over coffee. Going out on the boat to check the fish net with Edna and Romeo Skunk is one way they were able to share our heritage.



Be sure to look for the new calendar at the band office or check out the News link on the homepage of www.mishkeegogamang.ca