



Community Update

An Inspirational Friend Passes On

“What a woman — larger than life, a force of nature and the master of laughter. An inspiration too, in so many areas of life — someone who wasn’t afraid to buck the trends and forge her own path.”

<http://headspacejblog.blogspot.com/2010/11/ezra-marj-laughing.html>

Marj Heinrichs, a good friend of the Mishkeegogamang community, passed away suddenly in a vehicle accident on November 9, 2010.

Marj was well known in Mishkeegogamang as one of the authors of the community’s history book: *Mishkeegogamang: The Land, the People and the Purpose*, and also since 2009 as the producer of the community newspaper. Her cheerful presence will be greatly missed here.

Chief Connie Gray-McKay attended the wake and funeral in Marj’s hometown of Rosenort, Manitoba, along with her daughters Hannah and Savannah McKay, and her mother Sarah Gray as well as oldest daughter Raquel who used to travel with Marj to and from Winnipeg. Edna Skunk and Erin Bottle also attended, as did Carol Ferguson of Pickle Lake (a friend Marj made while working in Mish) and David Masakeyash and Mervin Masakeyash, who both worked with Marj on newspaper projects. About 1,200 people attended the funeral, a testimony to the many people who knew and loved Marj.

At the funeral, her life was honoured by many speeches from family and friends, including heart-warming speeches at the wake by Chief Connie Gray-McKay and Chief Terry Nelson of Roseau. Drumming and singing by Roseau members in the Rosenort Fellowship Chapel and the Rosenort EMC church were moving tributes to Marj, who had always tried to bridge the gap between those of her own heritage and the First Nations people. At the funeral, Marj’s spiritual mentor and friend Charlie Nelson conferred on her the

Anishinabe name Golden Eagle Woman.

Marj was listed in the Winnipeg Free Press at the end of the year as one of 100 prominent Manitobans who had passed on in 2010. “I am constantly moved beyond words to hear how many people are grieving for her and missing her. Her impact reached far and wide,” wrote Marj’s sister Daryl recently. Marj’s story also appeared in *The End*, the back page of Maclean’s magazine, in December. <http://www2.macleans.ca/2010/12/16/marjorie-anne-heinrichs/>

In the year 2000, because of a history she produced for Red Sucker Lake, Marj was asked to work on school materials and a history book for Mishkeegogamang. In the course of her work, she became friends with many community members, including Roy Kaminawaish, whose passing she greatly mourned.

Mishkeegogamang teacher Blair Fowler said, “I first met Marj over 10 years ago, when she was writing the book for the history of Mishkeegogamang. I was taken with her right away – her dedication, her professionalism. I think society in general and this community have lost a really valuable asset. She was taken way too early.”

Marj is survived by her husband Jim and four children: Jennifer, Katie, Sara and Bill, along with their families. Marj and Jim lost their son Tom, also in a vehicle accident, in 1994, just days before he would have turned 18.

A memorial service and combing of hair in the Anishinabe healing tradition will be held for Marj on her birthday, March 2, 2011 at Roseau River.



Marjorie Anne Heinrichs, 1956–2010 PHOTO BY ELLA HIEBERT

Three people offer glimpses into what Marj meant to them

Mishkeegogamang friend Edna Skunk:

She was a very good listener. She listened to the issues, to what had happened. Sometimes with the job we do, and the issues we face in this community, sometimes I found myself feeling like I was alone, and I thought about Marj, and it gave me hope to keep on going and not to give up. There was something about her – she was a very powerful woman. She was so unconditional to anybody, no matter who. She never judged anybody. She made people very comfortable – that’s what I know about Marj. When we went to that funeral, I think I witnessed history. She

made a bridge from her community to our culture, and that was the most powerful funeral I ever went to, because of that woman. I really miss Marj; sometimes I wish she would come walking through the door. And we think about her family too. We were so fortunate to have Marj here. She was a very good woman.

Her sister Kim Kroeker:

She was someone I went to for so many things. She was the one who came and rocked my baby. My third baby was colicky. One day I felt overwhelmed and fled to the garden, crying and hacking at some weeds. Right then Marj drove onto the yard with her station wagon, saw me and asked what was wrong. “I can’t do this!”
CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Misheegogamang Fur Pickup on April 2

The new agent for the Fur Harvesters is hoping to build contacts in Mishkeegogamang and other northern communities. Victor Cieurko says that the passing of Mr. Eluik has left “much confusion all around” but he hopes to “build relationships to keep the industry supplied and for some, maintain the good life.” Cieurko is also a qualified instructor

who can run the 40-hour Fur Harvest, Management and Conservation course or a portion of it as a workshop. “The pelt prep portion of the course is quite specific in what the industry demands,” he says, “and can definitely affect the bottom line.”

Cieurko will be in the Mishkeegogamang area on April 2 to pick up fur. He will be at the Crolancia Public School in Pickle

Lake at 11:00-11:30 a.m., at the Mish band office at 12:15-12:45 and at Savant Lake Public School @1:30-1:45. Advances are available. The fur truck will leave Sioux Lookout at 12:30 Mon. April 4, 2011. Fur should be dropped off in advance. You can email Victor at Victor.Cieurko@kpdsb.on.ca or call 807 737-7504. Please leave a message.

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Around the Community

■ Hockey tournament season is here. The Thomas Ashe Memorial Hockey tournament will be held in Pickle Lake Feb. 11, 12, and 13. Mishkeegogamang will enter at least one or more men's teams. The team or teams will include the best players from the various teams – Sidewinders, Falcons, Oldtimers – that have formed over the years. The teams sometimes practise in Pickle Lake, but ice-time is expensive, so some hardy players have been practising on outdoor rinks in Mishkeegogamang. Come on out to Pickle Lake and support your team!

■ There's another big hockey tournament in Sioux Lookout in March and four tournaments in April, including the Goodwill tournament in Thunder Bay.

■ Pashkokogan Lodge is holding a series of retreats this winter. A children's retreat was held in January, and a men's retreat is planned for February. Watch for a family retreat planned for March.

■ Canadian Roots Exchange – Eight university students will come to Mishkeegogamang for a few weeks this summer and in exchange, eight youth from Mishkeegogamang will be selected to spend some time in Toronto. If interested, contact Erin Bottle. Erin would like to be sure everyone gets equal consideration for this opportunity.

■ Arts and crafts: PC Gold Inc is interested in sponsoring and encouraging the work of Mishkeegogamang artists and crafters. If you have work that you'd like to advertise and sell online, call the band office or email rosettaprojects@telus.net.

■ An informal survey shows that 65% of Mishkeegogamang youth are abusing drugs. A Memorial Walk was held in November to raise awareness of the damage done by prescription drug and alcohol abuse. The chief, councillors and interested community members joined the chief and some councillors from Fort Hope who came out to express their concern for the issue. Mishkeegogamang members will go to Fort Hope to participate in a similar walk in 2011.

■ All 26 of the planned trailer lots should be finished this summer. Expensive mistakes made on the lot preparations delayed the project, but work is underway to resolve that.

■ A Community Foot Patrol has been patrolling the roads to ensure the safety and protection of the people of Mishkeegogamang. Four groups of two people each are patrolling in Ten Houses and six groups on the Main Reserve. Members of the foot patrol are trained in indigenous dispute resolution and are often the first on hand at a situation that will be attended by medical or police personnel. The patrol is a SLAAMB (Sioux Lookout Area Aboriginal Management Board) project. SLAAMB was formed in 1991 to address employment and training needs in the area. The Foot Patrol project ends March 11.

■ Chief Connie Gray McKay, Erin Bottle and another community member took



Sunday meetings will now start at 11 a.m. at the Bible Baptist Church.

Change of Sunday Meeting Time at Bible Baptist Church

The Sunday service at the Bible Baptist Church is being held at a new time. The church will no longer meet at 2:00 p.m. Instead, the service now starts at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday at Rat Rapids.

In other news, Bible Baptist is anticipating a building project as soon as the necessary funds can be gathered. This would enable the church to have Sunday school.

Special meetings will be held in April with Ken Hess from Six Nations as the speaker. Watch for announcements about exact dates and times.



First Annual Toy Drive. Pickle Lake OPP, NAPS and Tikinagan teamed up to collect about 133 donated toys, which were delivered to children in Mishkeegogamang a few days before Christmas. In this photo: OPP Cst. Josh Debock, OPP Auxillary Cst. Tom Lockwood, Leslie Mathe (Tikinagan) Sr. Cst. Mel Coles (NAPS). PHOTO BY CONSTABLE DIANNA DAUPHINEE

up their post at the Liquor Store in Pickle Lake on Child Tax Credit day. They were startled to find that 364 members of the Mishkeegogamang community came to the store in a 4-hour period that day. "It was pretty cold out there," said Erin Bottle, "and we got yelled at, but our concern is for them and for the children. We want them to be safe."

■ NAPS and OPP are teaming up for 24/7 police coverage in Mishkeegogamang over the next month or two. NAPS has been left short of officers because two of its officers had to be stationed farther north where there is a serious police shortage.

■ Snow clearing has been difficult this year because the loader broke down before Christmas and the garages at Pickle Lake and Thunder Bay weren't able to fix it.

■ Levis Loon is available to give one-on-one pastoring to interested residents in Mishkeegogamang. Levis is affiliated with the Christian Evangelical Church in Swan River and has been a pastor for many years. "If I happen to talk to anybody, I'll talk to them and I'll tell them what I know," says Pastor Loon. "I want people to hold on to the one true God – if you believe the truth, the truth sets you free." He can be reached at 928-0069.

Schedule of AA Meetings

All regular meetings at the trailer. Sandwiches and soup will be served.

Feb 14 6:00 p.m.
Feb 21 6:00 p.m.
Feb 28 6:00 p.m.

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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.

An Intense Battle of Lights

Mishkeegogamang First Nation had a whole different look this Christmas, with a great display of sparkling Christmas lights. Chief Connie Gray-McKay called the First Annual Mishkeegogamang Christmas Light Decorating Contest “an intense battle of lights.” The focus, said the chief, was to “get everyone into healthy competition and initiate creative minds and the spirit of Christmas.”

The lights were judged on December 27th by NAPS Sergeant Merle Loon and Pickle Lake OPP Constable Dianna Dauphinee. The judges said it was hard to choose a winner because of the time and effort people had dedicated to decorating their houses.

In the end, Theodore Mishenene and Angelina Kwandibens were declared the grand prize winners. They won a snowblower valued at \$1,000, donated by Mystic North of Pickle Lake. Stephen Lawson and Bessie Chickakoo won second prize – a 50” flatscreen TV donated by Northern Waterworks. Third prize went to Frank and Maryanne Kwandibens. They won a chainsaw valued at \$500, donated by Dave Lockwood.

Other prizes were a \$200 gift certificate donated by the Northern Store, a Mishkeegogamang flag donated by Chief and Council, a \$50 gift certificate donated by Frontier Mini Mart, a coupon for 5 gallons of gas donated by Patricia Auto, and pizza and 3 movie rentals donated by Casuals. The prizewinners in fourth – eighth places:

4. David Masakeyash & Gina Neekan
5. Chris & Maureen Skunk
6. Jeff Loon & Destani Skunk
7. Morene Mishenene
8. Robert & Dianna Bottle

Chief Connie Gray-McKay did the behind-the-scenes work to solicit the excellent prizes and Destiny Skunk helped to publicize the event.



FROM TOP: Theodore Mishenene and Angelina Kwandibens won first prize for this amazing light display, Stephen Lawson and Bessie Chickakoo – second prize, Frank and Maryanne Kwandibens – third prize.

PHOTOS BY SERGEANT MERLE LOON

Constable Dauphinee said it meant a lot to her to be included. “It was really neat to drive by on Highway 599,” she said, “and see the houses lit up from the road! I was truly impressed!” Sergeant Merle Loon said that community members used to put up lights at Christmas but for some reason that tradition had faded away in recent years. He was excited to see people getting out and decorating their houses this year. “I haven’t seen that in a long time on the reserve,” he said. “It got people out and about, and got us into the spirit of Christmas.”



Marj Heinrichs, 1956–2010

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

I’m a terrible mom,” I wailed. She said, “Where’s your baby?” “She’s screaming in her crib,” I answered. Marj turned around and walked right into the house, rocked the baby, calmed her down, came back out and said comfortably, “There you go.” Before she drove away, she assured me that I was a great mom. She always made me feel that I was doing just fine. She was such an encourager. I miss that so much. My kids will miss her as a mentor – she was their biggest fan, always showering them with love and gifts and praise. She spent all the money she made on everyone else. If you look in her home – she didn’t own a lot of magnificent pieces of anything. What they had was for everybody to enjoy.

Former Chief and friend Ronald Roundhead:

Ka-ks-ka means forever, and Taashikawin is the land itself, which is part of every person, and so this is where I believe that all our friends go and Marj has gone – Ka-ks-ka Taashikawin. Myself and Marj, one

time we took a trip up north, to the very tip end of our traditional territory, and I was very surprised at the way she approached things, the way she approached the Elders over there, with total respect. [Marj’s death] made me think twice about how precious life is. I want to advise the young people to have a full commitment and cherish what is given to us, which is life...and to think positive all the time. And as for my friend Marj, travel well to Ka-ks-ka Taashikawin.

Chief Connie Gray-McKay

I thought about what it was about her that made [what she did in the community] work so well. Even for the most controversial issues, she took a can of worms and sorted them out to come up with the facts that represented the story in the fairest way possible. More importantly, through the newspaper and through her work, a long-lost voice of individuals and a people was starting to have a place to talk. I miss her positive attitude and outlook and the variety of stories that she did.



Drummers from Roseau River Anishinabe First Nation at the graveside.

PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER FRIESEN



A PC Gold drilling rig in the bush near Pickle Lake.

Working for PC Gold

Mishkeegogamang residents working at PC Gold in Pickle Lake have received training for numerous positions over the years, including diamond drill core cutting, line cutting, chainsaw operation and construction. These workers have also taken mineral prospecting courses, received training for brush saw operation, and learned how to run heavy equipment like forklifts and zoom-booms.

Michael Russell, senior geologist at PC Gold, says that a key job First Nations people have been training for recently involves handling core samples obtained

from the drillers. "This is a very important part of our business that involves technical measurements done on the core to determine how good the mineral recovery is on the core," Russell said. "They also deal with rock quality, inspecting the fractures within the rock to find out how badly the rock was fractured underground. It's a pretty important job because the information collected is later used in the construction of the mine itself."

There are currently three people from Mishkeegogamang working at PC Gold, and that number can go up to 10 or

more during the busier summer months.

"During the summertime there is a lot of field work we need to get done and we hire more people. We don't have enough guys with chainsaw tickets, and we have people here on staff who are certified to give chainsaw training," Russell said. "We would also love to have some university-trained First Nations geologists - that would be awesome. Northern College has some geology programs, and if you don't want to be a full-fledged geologist, but rather a geo-tech or some other position, there are colleges with various programs

available."

PC Gold employees need a high school diploma, professional attitude, clean driving record, and the ability to work well with a team. Good overall bush knowledge is a big asset as well, since being at home in the woods and able to navigate are extremely valuable skills to have when working around the mine site. Anyone from Mishkeegogamang who is looking for more information about training opportunities at PC Gold can contact David Masakeyash at the band office.



Ann Marie Loon, Musselwhite employee and Mishkeegogamang band member who is certified to drive a 45 ton underground truck.

Training and Jobs Available at Musselwhite Mine

"Stay in School." That's the most important piece of advice Adele Faubert, Manager of Aboriginal Affairs at Musselwhite Mine, has for anyone interested in a job in mining. For underground jobs, Grade 10 is required, while for surface entry level positions you need Grade 12.

There are jobs available. Goldcorp, which runs the Musselwhite mine, employs more than 800 employees at the minesite. Musselwhite is expected to be in operation until 2029. Jobs at Musselwhite pay well and Musselwhite employees get full health and dental benefits as well as a pension plan and the opportunity to buy stock in the company. Employees work for two weeks and then get two weeks off.

Musselwhite Mine runs an underground common core training program three times a year, for five people each time. Applicants have to first pass a medical fitness test which includes drug and alcohol testing. Successful candidates are

most often enthusiastic, reliable, curious, willing to learn new things, and they take safety seriously. The training is open to both men and women. About 10 - 15% of Musselwhite's current employees are women. Musselwhite attracts workers from across Canada and from other countries.

First options for entry level positions go to signatory communities: North Caribou Lake, Cat Lake, Wunnumin Lake, and Kingfisher Lake, but applications from Mishkeegogamang are also accepted. A special relationship exists between Musselwhite and Mishkeegogamang as most of the transmission line crosses Mishkeegogamang's traditional territory. The two parties are currently negotiating for a Collaboration Agreement which could lead to more employment opportunities for the people of Mishkeegogamang.

Sons and daughters of current Musselwhite employees are also given priority as trainees.

The Mystery of the Missing Pickle Crow Gold

Between 1935 and 1966, the Pickle Crow gold mine produced nearly 1.5 million ounces of gold. Incredibly, the last 120 pounds of gold mined before Pickle Crow closed down never made it to the Royal Canadian Mint. A group of thieves had different plans for the gold and pulled off a sophisticated robbery in 1966 that has never been solved. At today's sky-high price for gold, the loot would be worth over \$2.5 million. The following excerpt from the Fort William Daily Times Journal describes how the burglars made off with Pickle Crow's last three gold bars, and how they covered their tracks on the way out the door.

September 6, 1966

The search for clues in a gold bullion robbery at Pickle Crow Gold Mines in Northwestern Ontario continues. Late Friday or early Saturday, thieves broke into the mine office in the small community 230 miles north of Fort William and stole three gold bars, variously valued at between \$78,000 - \$94,000. An unofficial source reports the robbers carefully drilled a small hole in the door of the vault next to the combination dial. A punch was then used to neutralize the combination. A metal strong box inside the safe containing the gold was opened with heavy metal cutters of some kind. After removing the three gold bars, weighing an estimated 120 pounds, the thieves carefully removed all signs of the break-in. Metal drill shavings were swept up and small wooden plugs were fitted into the hole near the combination dial. Shoe polish or some similar substance was used to cover the plug so it would blend with the colour of the safe door. In addition to the gold, about \$500.00 in cash was taken, however, there is an unconfirmed report that about 18 pounds of gold in unrefined buttons were left behind. Speculation about the escape of the robbers is rife in the three small communities of Pickle Lake, Central Patricia and Pickle Crow. The favourite theory is that the robbers got away by air. However, it was pointed out that they could have had enough time before the theft was discovered to reach the main Trans Canada Highway, 200 miles south by car. Or, they may have simply cached the loot in the bush nearby for later recovery.

Canada Claim could be Settled this Summer

After 17 years of negotiations and legal manoeuvring, the Canada Claim litigation process finally appears to be drawing to a close. Mishkeegogamang is claiming damages resulting from a hydro plant at Rat Rapids and a dam at Cedar Rapids that were built between 1934 and 1935. Water levels began to rise in March of 1935, washing away homes and gardens on the reserve and gravesites along the shores of Lake St. Joseph. Major changes in water levels caused severe beaver and muskrat population declines that deprived many trappers of their main source of income. Hunting, fishing, and wild rice cultivation were also affected. Band members were given no notice of the flooding, and the community had to be moved three times because of changing water levels.

In 1994, the band filed a lawsuit against the federal government for breach of fiduciary duty, damages, inadequate compensation, timber loss, and trespass of about 650 acres of reserve land. This Canada Claim lawsuit is separate from Mishkeegogamang's claim against Ontario Hydro, which built the hydro plant and

dam with the blessing of the federal government. That claim was settled in 1998 when Ontario Hydro agreed to a \$17.25 million settlement with Mishkeegogamang to be paid out over 20 years.

This year, no later than March, there will be a per-capita hydro settlement payout for Elders who are 65 and over. The remaining hydro settlement funds will be used for litigation expenses on the Canada Claim. Negotiations are also underway to secure additional money from financial institutions in Toronto, if necessary, for Canada Claim litigation costs.

"We're at the point now where the Canada Claim has to come through a litigation stage, where all parties come together to argue the case," said Councillor David Masakeyash, who is Mishkeegogamang's point man on the Canada Claim. "The case itself had been accepted into negotiations many years ago, and things got intertwined with other neighbouring First Nations, and that kind of tossed things into a different spin, which caused great delay and expenses too. So, in order to put things into a proper spin again

and make things go forward more rapidly, we got into the litigation arena."

Mishkeegogamang's litigation team is made up of three lead lawyers and one junior lawyer. The Canada Claim trial will move forward in mid-May and is expected to take no longer than three to four months.

Community Involvement Needed for Establishing Trust

A Trust is being established for funds Mishkeegogamang will receive from the Canada Claim litigation. Planning for the Trust began in December and Band Council is hoping have it established by July. There will be two to three Mishkeegogamang community meetings to discuss the Trust, with the first meeting taking place in late February or early March. Other meetings will also be held in Thunder Bay and Sioux Lookout.

"Mishkeegogamang community members will be requested to be actively involved in deciding on the best structure for the Mishkeegogamang Trust," said Councillor David Masakeyash. "In the beginning there will be questionnaires which community members will be asked to answer and give their opinions. Out of those questionnaires we will establish a very preliminary Trust Document from that feedback. For every draft of the document we'll give various updates and have meetings where questions and suggestions can be put on the table."

A Trust Committee has been established to lead the community consultation process. The committee consists of three Band Councillors, David Masakeyash, Tom Wassaykeesik, and Bob Briskett. Lawyer Etienne Esquesa and Royal Bank investment advisor Gord Keesic are also on the committee.



This fox is a very friendly fellow who follows everyone around the PC Gold site at Pickle Crow, says CEO Kevin Keogh, who took this photo. Unfortunately he wants to eat the cat which controls mice in the exploration office!



This moose was in no hurry to leave when it met up with Ronald Roundhead in the bush last summer.



Christmas baby Lynane was born at 8:47 on Christmas morning to proud parents Wanda and Lionel Skunk. She weighed 6 lb 8 oz.

Telemedicine at the Nursing Station

Telemedicine has become a popular way for patients in Mishkeegogamang to connect with their doctors without having to drive long distances to do so. The idea behind telemedicine is to use two-way videoconferencing that allows doctors to “see” their patients face to face. Doctors are able to control tele-diagnostic instruments like digital stethoscopes and patient examination cameras, and they use the telemedicine link to treat a wide variety of health problems.

Edna Skunk, Interim Health Director at the Nursing Station, says the telehealth system is getting a lot of use. “Our patients visit their doctors through a video link and we use it almost every day,” Edna said. “We use it for video conference meetings with other communities as well. We’ve been having these meetings lately about prescription drugs and finding solutions

for drug addicts and how we can help them.”

Mishkeegogamang got involved in telemedicine through the Keewaytinook Okimakanak Telemedicine (KOTM) program, which is owned by the communities it serves. The KOTM service has been able to provide many different health care options, including cardiology, mental health, home care, physical therapy, and emergency care – it has even been used to deliver babies!

Telemedicine reduces the high cost of travel and the stress that community members often feel when they travel to a foreign environment where the culture and language are different. First Nations also benefit from telemedicine during the flu season, when they can use it to share updates and keep informed of outbreaks.



Participants at the Lateral Violence seminar held at the school.

Learning about Lateral Violence

Missabay School hosted a workshop on Lateral Violence on January 19 which was attended by community members and school staff. The workshop was put on by Marilyn Lewis and Shirley Anderson, who is a crisis counsellor with Nodin Counselling Services. Lateral violence involves a range of destructive behaviours, including gossip, shaming, blaming, putting down others, and family feuds. Workshop participants learned that lateral violence is a result of past oppression, and occurs when oppressed groups turn on each other and act out with rage, anger, or frustration that is directed at one’s own people. Lateral violence can be seen as

a dark cloud that has loomed over First Nations communities for many years. Ways that people can break free of this negative cycle include letting go of past grudges, moving away from jealousy, greed, money and control while moving toward respect, harmony, equality and happiness.

One community leader commented: “It is sad to know that we’ve become contributors to our own oppression, yet it is freeing to know that once we are aware, we can stop hurting each other. We can use the angry energy we have directed toward each other to create solutions rather than further oppression. It will take time but it can be done.”

Youths Make Sense of Dollars & Cents

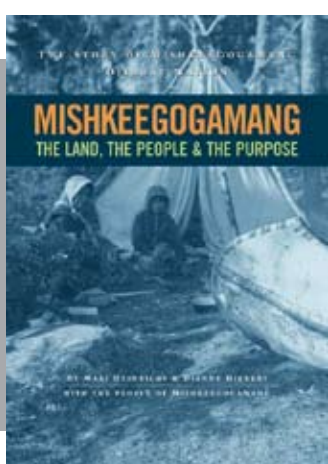
Whether you have a lot of money or a little, knowing how to manage it is a good skill. It’s a skill two young people from Mishkeegogamang learned at a recent weeklong workshop organized by Tikinagan Child and Family Services and held at beautiful Mahkwa Lodge on Lac Seul. Corey Masakeyash and Nathan Wassaykeesic of Mishkeegogamang, along with six other young people from Bearskin Lake, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug, Eabametoong, Sachigo Lake and Lac Seul, enjoyed a week of evening entertainment, games, a bonfire, smores, hot chocolate and – oh, yes, classes to learn about finances.

In some cases the games, such “The Price is Right,” were part of the classes, helping students with practical learning about the cost of living. Guest presenters

from Lac Seul, Madsen GM and CIBC talked about personal budgeting, saving and investing, credit and debt, and making major purchases.

Corey Masakeyash said he learned a lot about banking, credit, getting a mortgage for a house or a loan to buy a car, and he enjoyed playing pool too, when classes were done. His immediate goal is to finish high school.

Every one of the eight participants passed the final test, and their instructor commended them for showing up, being respectful, paying attention and sitting through long hours. On Friday, some of the youth who participated in the workshop opened bank accounts for the first time, in Sioux Lookout, before heading home.



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

New Trail to Pashkokogan Lodge



Erin Bottle with frosty eyelashes after walking the new trail.



Dieter Roundhead and Franklin Lawson on the new Pashkokogan trail.

Work is well underway on the new trail to Pashkokogan Lodge. The 6 km trail begins just off of the highway, 3 km south of the band office and will provide the shortest route possible to the healing lodge. The new trail will eventually become an all-season road, making the lodge accessible by more than just boat and snowmobile. This will reduce the costs of transporting clients and workers to and from the lodge and make transportation dependable in spring and fall when the ice is breaking up or forming. Jackie Lawson and Frank Kwandibens are overseeing the project, with more from the community hired on to assist. The project is funded by SLAAMB (Sioux Lookout Area Aboriginal Management Board) to provide employment in the area.

New Transmission Line to Pickle Lake and Beyond

A new hydro transmission line will run between Ignace and Pickle Lake to supply power for the Musselwhite gold mine and other mining operations around Pickle Lake. The line could eventually be extended further north in a loop that connects ten communities and ends up in Red Lake. "Band Council is exploring the new Pickle Lake hydro line project to determine if it is feasible and beneficial to the community," said Councillor David Wasakeyash. "The project has been approved by the Ontario government and it appears to be moving forward this year. So we're working on that and hoping to make some progress in these discussions."

The Pickle Lake hydro project was announced on January 13th by the Ontario government as part of its Long-Term Energy Plan. Provincial Energy Minister Brad Duguid said the transmission line to Pickle Lake is one of the plan's five priority projects. "It will help to service the new mining load and help to enable future connections north of Pickle Lake," Duguid said.

Expanding the energy grid beyond Pickle Lake will require the participation of the federal government, which is responsible for supplying power to remote First Nations. Both

the provincial and federal governments are also looking at renewable energy sources like wind and solar energy to replace the diesel generators that many northern communities rely on. "The federal government has an interest in moving those communities off diesel for environmental reasons, but also for economic reasons," Duguid said. "It's cumbersome, challenging to transport, and it's not clean. But the first step is getting the Pickle Lake line built."

Mishkeegogamang Council is currently discussing long-term jobs the hydro line project might supply. "We're looking at options like maintaining the line and clearing the ground the powerlines will be stationed on," said Councillor Masakeyash. "We would need to have qualified linemen to repair any lines that may be down, and we're looking to get some good training for our folks in the long run." Council is encouraging band members to take this type of training as early as possible and the plan is to provide the training right here in the community. "This is a long-term project," Masakeyash said. "If they can get the training early, they have the opportunity to be part of this hydro project as the group of 10 communities is connected over the coming years."

More Gold at Pickle Crow

There's been more good news coming out of the Pickle Crow gold mine. In early January, PC Gold Inc. rang in the New Year by reporting the discovery of an entirely new, large scale gold-arsenic system. The deposits were found using near-surface drilling in Central Pat East. Shares of PC Gold Inc. immediately jumped up 12% after investors heard about the promising gold-arsenic find.

"We're really excited by this discovery as it's unlike anything we - or any previous operators - have ever drilled on the Pickle Crow property," said Kevin Keough, President and CEO of PC Gold Inc. "It's a very attractive gold target: large, wide open for expansion, near surface, and offering plenty of potential for generating a substantial resource."

The Central Pat East discovery is located approximately 2 km northwest of the Pickle

Crow mine, and 6 km northeast from the high grade Central Patricia Mine. The discovery indicates that there could be a considerable amount of gold in the area. The Central Pat East gold-arsenic system is open for expansion in all directions and may be suitable for both underground and open pit mining methods.

PC Gold Inc. is also excited about the discovery because it is close to existing operations at Pickle Crow. "It's just 2 km northwest and within easy reach of our Pickle Crowmine, and would be highly complementary to our development of that asset," Mr. Keough said. "We're continuing to aggressively drill the Central Pat East discovery, supported by our strong balance sheet, including the proceeds of the \$10 million financing we closed in December."

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High Speed Internet Access Coming

Broadband Internet access is coming to Mishkeegogamang and 25 other communities in northern Ontario. A state-of-the-art fibre optics network will be installed with the capacity to deliver a minimum of 1.5 megabits per second to every household in the communities. The new high-speed internet connections will be up to 50 times faster than current systems.

The Mishkeegogamang Band Council is considering a number of options relating to the new broadband project. "One possibility is branching out and owning a distribution centre here in Mishkeegogamang and selling broadband access per household," said Councillor David Masakeyash. "That's being discussed and there's a strong possibility that could happen. We have heard no real objections about going that route, so that could be a real benefit for the community if we could charge monthly rents for user fees on those lines."

Jobs could become available for maintaining the broadband line. Contracts for brush clearing and maintaining the broadband line itself could provide long-term benefits for Mishkeegogamang.

The broadband project is part of the Northwestern Ontario Broadband Expansion Initiative, which will span more than 2,300 kilometres when complete. The Ontario government is investing \$32 million, the federal government will kick in \$23 million, and internet provider Bell Aliant will invest \$26 million over four years to build and operate the network.

Most of northwestern Ontario now relies on outdated satellite and microwave technology, which sometimes cuts out in thunderstorms or heavy snow. The fibre optics network will be faster and more reliable, especially given the harsh weather conditions in the area.

NAN Grand Chief Stan Beardy is excited about the broadband project. But he also expressed concern about the environmental impact of the construction. The fibre optic network will be laid over land community members hold as "very sacred." Beardy stressed that all partners involved in the project must work together to ensure the environment is protected.



Internet connection will be up to 50 times faster with the new broadband network.

"We have strong fear, but at the same time our young people, we understand, must move forward, they must have better service," said Beardy. "When First Nations

people, the government, the companies and industry work together, it's for the benefit of not only First Nations people, but all people in this land."

Iceworm Festival 2011

FEBRUARY 18TH TO 21ST

Friday	Time	Location
Euchre	7:00 - 9:00 pm	Community Hall
Sliding	6:30 - 8:00 pm	Behind the Winston
Saturday	Time	Location
Breakfast	8:00 - 11:00 am	Community Hall
Poker Run	10:00am - 3:00pm	Starts at Community Hall
Chili Cookoff	12:00	Winston - Restaurant
Spaghetti Dinner & Silent Auction	6:00 - 8:00 pm	Community Hall
Square Dancing - Tentative	8:00 - 10:00 pm	Crolancia School
Sunday	Time	Location
Hockey Game	1:00 - 3:00pm	Pickle Lake Arena
Family Skate	3:30 - 5:00 pm	Pickle Lake Arena
Movie	7:00 pm	Community Hall
Monday	Time	Location
Family Bonspiel	Time to be Determined	Pickle Lake Curling Rink
Amazing Race	10 am Start (16 and up)	
	12:00 Start (16 & under)	Place to Be Determined

If you need more information please contact Jessica Allen @ 928-2621.

** FIRST PLACE PRIZE for the POKER RUN is a New 14ft LUND BOAT

with 15 Horse Mercury Motor with Trailer and Annual Trophy**

\$50.00 for the first regular hand \$20.00 for additional hands

Community Speaks up on how Mishkeegogamang is Governed

For Mishkeegogamang residents who are interested in how the community is run, the governance project now underway is a golden opportunity to have your say in the decision-making process.

Community input from Mishkeegogamang residents will be a big part of the governance project. Information gathered from the community will be used to create a new set of policies that will set priorities for Mishkeegogamang's chief and council. Currently, many policies can be changed by Band Council Resolution, and those changes don't need to be approved by the community. The new governance project will create a higher level of community-led policy that doesn't exist today. Kevin Houghton, a financial advisor

hired by Mishkeegogamang, says that the new governance policy will be a "higher level policy driven by the community, and if those codes need to be changed, the changes would need to be ratified by the community."

Right now, the governance project has three main aspects: a vision and mission statement for governance, a governance strategic plan, and a governance capacity assessment. When the paperwork on these three aspects is completed in March, a consultant will go into the community and ask people what is most important to them for the future direction of Mishkeegogamang. "Heather Ross has been hired to work with families and community members in order to develop

questionnaires and information gathering devices that will need to be created," said Houghton. "This consultant has worked with the community before and will speak with different groups such as youth, elders, and families."

The questionnaires that are developed from the initial round of consultations will be fine-tuned in order to work on a strategic governance plan over the next five years. The information gathering process allows community members to prioritize what is most important to them. All aspects of governance are on the table, including band administration, membership and election rules, and financial codes.

Mishkeegogamang Ojibway Nation Chief and Council Emergency Contact Numbers

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Just for Fun

■ Once upon a time, a genie appeared to a man and offered him one wish.

"Well," said the man, "I've always wanted to go to Fiji, but plane tickets are so expensive, and boats are so slow. Can you build a bridge from Los Angeles to Fiji?"

"I'm sorry, man," the genie said. "You're pretty much asking for the impossible. That's six thousand miles of bridge. Plus, you'll need fuel stations and motels on the way. I'm sorry, but you're going to have to ask for something else."

"Oh," said the disappointed man. "Well, can you grant me the ability to understand women?"

The genie cleared his throat. "How many lanes did you want on that bridge?"

■ A Cree man and a Ojibway woman who had never met before found themselves assigned to the same sleeping room on a transcontinental train. After the initial embarrassment and uneasiness, they both went to sleep, the Cree man in the upper berth, and the Ojibway woman in the lower berth.

In the middle of the night the Cree man leaned over, woke the Ojibway woman and said, "I'm sorry to bother you, but I'm awfully cold and I was wondering if you could possibly reach over and get me another blanket." The Ojibway woman leaned out and, with a glint in her eye said, "I have better idea. Just for tonight let's pretend that we are married." The Cree man happily said, "OK! AWESOME!" Then the Ojibway woman said, "GOOD... Get your own blanket."