



# MISHKEEGOGAMANG Community Update

## A Fight To Honour the Spirits of our Ancestors

Chief Connie Gray McKay uses strong language when she talks about the treaty violations. “Prove to me that someone wasn’t trying to kill us,” she says of the night in 1934 when the band’s homes were flooded. “Everything they had made that meant a lot to them—gardens, rice fields, homes, all gone and the compensation was hardly more than a joke.”

The Chief calls the treaty violations a crime against her ancestors, and the community’s response to this crime has been to fight it. Since the government will not fund such a fight, the band has had to finance it themselves, with part of the Hydro Settlement funds.

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## A Better Future Ahead

John Thomas Fox is optimistic about his community and supports Chief and Council. Regarding hydro payments, he says, “I think the chief and council have the right direction. They have the community in mind. If they give me a bunch of money I’m going to spend it all in one place – there’s a big liquor store here eh!”



Fox was born in 1956 at the Pickle Crow minesite. His parents were the late Thomas and Lizzie Fox. Thomas came from Lac Seul. When he met John’s mom in the Mishkeegogamang traditional territory, he decided to stay. His son says, “My dad was a pretty good hunter too. He trapped. He knew everything, that guy, just how to raise us, and he taught us kids everything he knew. He was a good man—a working man all his life, at Hookers Store, then MNR in Metcalfe.” CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



*It’s happening at last! Karen Kaminawaish looks out from the landing of her new modular home on moving-in day.*

## Sod-Turning Ceremony set for Mishkeegogamang Community Centre

Construction of the new community centre is set to begin on May 22, 2012 and be substantially completed by July, 2013. A sod turning ceremony is planned for June 12, 2012.

A contract to build the Centre has been awarded to Finn Way General Contractor Inc. The project began with a feasibility study in 2006. The design of the centre was awarded to Habib Architects Inc in 2009 and the design was completed in the fall of 2011. Brian Feherty of Feherty and Associates Ltd. has been the project manager since the start of the feasibility study.

The Centre is a 1420 sq metre (15,200 sq ft) building. The main floor area is a basketball court size with a stage which opens to the hall and outside. There are changing rooms, a fitness room, offices, meeting rooms and a kitchen. The building has been designed for the addition of a full-size ice arena in a future second phase.

The total budget for the project is \$7,350,000. Funding is being provided by Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corp. (\$1 million) and Ontario Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs (\$500,000), with the

balance (\$5,850,000) from First Nation financing through a bank loan with Royal Bank of Canada.

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*All kinds of artistry was created at Missabay School when the ArtsCan team came in April, including these colourful tie-dye t-shirts.*



# Honouring the Spirits of our Ancestors

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The decision to fund the lawsuit internally has been a controversial one, but Chief Connie Gray-McKay hopes people can take a bigger view. “Let’s try to understand what the big picture is,” the Chief said. “The battle continues over hydro payments; however, there’s a wider war going on. And [victory] is so close you can almost taste it. We’re asking people to have a little more patience and be united over this.”

The Canada Claim is in its last stages. Final oral arguments will commence on May 28, and will likely last a few weeks. “We’re quite satisfied with our position,” said Councillor David Masakeyash. At one point, the Ontario part of the claim had been pretty much settled, with Kitchi Miniss and other lands being given back to Mishkeegogamang, along with \$3 million to defer costs of transferring those lands. However, Ontario and Canada are still going back and forth on that issue, with Canada wanting Ontario to be 100% liable for the land aspect.

One aspect of the case that is extremely significant is that of water. Mishkeegogamang is arguing that when the water of Lake St Joseph was diverted many years ago to generate power downstream, that water was sold for a profit. The water was diverted illegally, without proper notice, so in essence some of the profits, which have been estimated at over a billion dollars, should belong to Mishkeegogamang.

This same type of scenario has also affected many other First Nations in the past. “If we win,” says Councilor

Masakeyash, “ it opens floodgates.” This is likely one of the reasons the federal government is taking so much care with this case. If Mishkeegogamang is successful, other First Nations may jump on board and make a similar claim.

Slate Falls has been a participant in the Canada Claim because originally Slate Falls members were members of Mishkeegogamang. They hunted and

*“This battle has fed my spirit and given me boldness. One has to believe in what they’re fighting for, and I believe in this fight—honouring the spirits of our ancestors who have suffered greatly, and securing the future for our grandchildren and generations to come. It’s not about us today, it’s about our ancestors and those who will come after us.”*

trapped in their family areas, but always came back to Mishkeegogamang as their home base. But eventually in the 60s they were joined by people from Lac Seul, Fort Hope and different areas, and through marriages between the groups, a community formed which was officially recognized as separate in the 1980s. Their claim now is that back in the 1930s when

the flooding occurred, it affected their ancestors, who were members of Mish at the time. They are seeking damages for traditional land use under treaty rights. However, Councilor Masakeyash says “their case is more difficult than ours” simply by the fact that they separated from Mishkeegogamang years ago.

Councilor Masakeyash also thinks the time may be coming when the treaty itself will be challenged in court. Even in this case, the judge has questioned the elders closely as to whether there’s any tradition that the treaty discussions included explanations of how the land would be used. The elders say no. Very little detail was discussed at the time the treaty was made, except to give assurances that hunting privileges would not be disturbed. Yet just a few years later,

Ontario came in and set a great number of restrictive hunting, fishing and trapping laws. Cree groups are doing some in-depth research on this topic, and, says Councilor Masakeyash, “I think we’re all going to be dragged in there.”

As for the current battle, Chief Connie says, “It has fed my spirit and given me boldness, knowing that there’s finally positive progress being made in our legal fight and the end of this phase is in sight. One has to believe in what they’re fighting for, and I believe in this fight—honouring the spirits of our ancestors who have suffered greatly, and securing the future for our grandchildren and generations to come. It’s not about us today, it’s about our ancestors and those who will come after us.”



Susan Oombash and Jackie Ash enjoy a traditional community cookout held May 15 and 16 on the shores of Lake St. Joseph. Both helped out to make this event a success. (Photo by Ken Wavy.)

## Lawsuit Costs of the Canada Negotiations

In the interests of transparency and community dialogue, the costs of the Canada Claim lawsuits are available for any community member to study. Besides the table below which summarizes costs up to February 2012, detailed lists of who was paid what and who travelled are available as well.

“All battles cost something,” said Councilor David Masakeyash, addressing the cost of the legal proceedings. “We don’t have the education that the experts have. We need the input of professionals in various fields to fight this battle. It’s expensive, but we believe this is an important battle. If you’re going to shoot a moose, you need a bullet in your gun. Everything costs.”

	Travel Costs	Consultant Fees, Experts etc.	Legal Costs	Total
2002/03	-	-	100,000.00	100,000.00
2003/04	-	-	125,837.00	125,837.00
2004/05	-	-	-	-
2005/06	1,258.90	-	139,709.43	140,962.33
2006/07	578.15	-	399,595.00	400,173.95
2007/08	7,646.09	-	188,048.24	195,694.33
2008/09	15,463.33	-	168,888.77	184,352.10
2009/10	6,847.15	-	146,184.18	153,031.33
2010/11	9,971.01	338,409.15	164,289.57	512,699.73
2011/12	129,665.43	259,068.47	1,396,085.16	1,784,819.06
Total	171,430.06	597,477.62	2,828,632.15	3,597,539.83

## A Better Future

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Fox has experienced his own battles with alcohol. At one point he spent 30 days at the Migisi Treatment Centre in Kenora, but “it didn’t work,” he said. “By the time I got out, I had lots of money from a disability cheque. I had a hard time cashing it with no ID, but one guy helped me out. I was sober for about four hours, then started drinking again. They knew I had money; they wanted me to buy booze for them. That was in 1987.”

John Thomas used to watch his friend’s grandfather, James Masakeyash, work with local plants to make medicine, and credits him with saving his life.

“He gave me this medicine for my heart problems. [It came from] red and white plants. After one spoonful, I could feel my heart going really fast. But they gave me five spoons, and then they just laughed at me, and said, ‘John Thomas, you can go to bed now, nothing will happen to you.’ That was strong, strong stuff. And after that my heart was just fine. The reason why I got the ceremony was that I worried too much. I lost my brothers, Eddie, Leslie, Joe—they died three in a row in short period of time. My heart was broken, and the medicine healed my heart. Right now, I’m still alive because of it.”

Fox feels things are better in Mish, especially compared to the 80s. But he sees alcoholism as a serious problem in Pickle Lake right now, and believes that a lot of the kids have lost their way and that they need to get out on the land and learn the traditional ways again.

He remains optimistic, believing that there’s a better future ahead for Mishkeegogamang.

TIMELINE OF HISTORIC CAUSES	1612	1659	1763
	Sir Thomas Button becomes the first white man known to have set foot in what is now Manitoba, landing on the shores of Hudson Bay	The <i>Nonsuch</i> sails from Hudson Bay to England with the first shipment of Manitoba furs to reach the Old World. European involvement in Manitoba and Northern Ontario slowly increases in subsequent decades.	The Proclamation Act (commonly called the Royal Proclamation of 1763) is passed by the British Government. The Act is viewed by some as the Magna Carta of Aboriginal rights. Though the Act assumes the colonial right to take over the continent, it also assumes that the indigenous inhabitants are autonomous political bodies with basic rights. The Act establishes a colonization pattern in which settlers cannot simply take over indigenous lands without first obtaining some form of surrender or cession of the land.



# Canada Claim Summary of Events

The evidence in our case against Canada and Ontario has been completed. The legal teams are all preparing for closing submission and final argument, and will be back in court to start oral presentations on May 15.

The trial began with a trip by Justice Gans and the lawyers from all of the parties to the communities last May. The site visit allowed the judge to see the reserves and dams firsthand.

Former Chief Ronald, Councillor David, Councillor Mary Anne, Elder Eva, Elder Levius, Elder Elizabeth, Elder Ida and Chief Connie Gray-McKay gave evidence for Mishkeegogamang. Our side also called Dr. Lytwyn, Dallas Maynard, Dr. Carl Beal, Greg Scheifele, Andy Miles, Andrew Schell and Thomas Lavender to give expert evidence to support our case. As well, several other persons, including Ken Wavy, Kevin Houghton and Gerry Schaus assisted by giving evidence.

Chief Loraine Crane, former Chief Stanley Carpenter, Josie Cook, Norman Wesley and Gordon Carpenter gave evidence for Slate Falls. Video evidence of other Slate Falls elders, which was previously recorded, was also played for Justice Gans.

Canada, Ontario and OPG called a total of 18 witnesses, most of whom were experts, and were intensely cross-examined by Mishkeegogamang’s lawyers, resulting in many admissions that were helpful to our case.

The last witnesses testified on March 1, 2012, and there were two additional days in court later in the month. In total, there have been 103 formal days in court. Over and above that, the parties have had many meetings with the mediation judge, Justice Campbell, throughout the trial. The meetings and discussions with Justice Campbell are ongoing, and the Mishkeegogamang

litigation team continues to push Canada to reach a resolution that will address Mishkeegogamang’s historical grievances, as well as establish a mutually agreeable path in terms of water and resource management, into the future.

For those who do not recall the history of our legal struggles, Mishkeegogamang initially took its grievances to Canada to be dealt with under the Specific Claims Process. It entered the process in 1990 in good faith, and incurred expenses in an effort to find a resolution to the issues. Although four specific claims were filed in 1990, as of March 1994 Canada had not as much as acknowledged the filing of our claims. On March 29, 1994, Mishkeegogamang commenced an action against Canada in the Federal Court of Canada.

In December 1994, having reviewed the flooding aspects of the specific claims filed by Mishkeegogamang and having done its own counter-research, Canada confirmed to Mishkeegogamang in writing that it was prepared to recommend negotiations aimed at a settlement based upon Canada’s acceptance that in 1934/36, “... the Crown breached an obligation owed to the band in failing to obtain adequate compensation for flooding in relation to the valid expropriation of the band’s reserve lands up to elevation 1227’6”.

However, a review of the documentary record by counsel for Mishkeegogamang established that there never was an “expropriation.”

In the summer of 1996, discussions with Ontario Hydro advanced and an accommodation was reached between Mishkeegogamang and Hydro. This was finalized by an agreement in November, 1998. That is the source of the annual payments to Mishkeegogamang.

In March of 2001, the Assistant Deputy Minister of Indian Affairs officially



Dr. Koval and healthy young client. The Canada Claim is being fought for past and future generations.

accepted the Mishkeegogamang specific claims for negotiation. The details of an all-inclusive negotiation protocol were in the process of being finalized and funding was provided by Canada for the 2000/2001 and 2001/2002 fiscal years.

In June of 2001, however, the Slate Falls Band commenced its action against Canada and Hydro for flooding and resulting damages. In 2002, Canada used the Slate Falls claim as an excuse to discontinue its negotiation with Mishkeegogamang on the basis of a “beneficiary issue,” meaning that there was a dispute as to which band should advance the claim. To remove this roadblock to settlement, Mishkeegogamang and Slate Falls recently reached an agreement amongst themselves, which has removed the beneficiary issue as claimed by Canada and could assist in having Canada return to the discussion table. Although the lawyers

for Canada still do not have a mandate to negotiate or settle, its lead lawyer has advised that there has been some progress and that Canada may be closer to having a mandate in a few weeks.

The upcoming submission to the court on the Canada Claim will cover specific time periods, mainly 1905, 1911 and 1912, 1934 and 1935, 1936, 1957 and from 1985 to the present, including bad faith claims. The assembly of facts to support claims for these sections is near completion. The lawyers are now putting together the legal arguments. Our lawyers will carefully review each section, which will eventually be combined to create one final submission reflecting the joint positions of Mishkeegogamang and Slate Falls. The final closing submissions are due to be filed this month.



The flooding and diversion of Lake St. Joseph caused terrible losses to the people of Mishkeegogamang in the 1930s and 1950s. No notice was given and little or no compensation ever paid.

1867	1873	1875	1876	1880	1880s-1996	1905	1930
Canadian Confederation	The North West Mounted Police are created. In 1905 they become the Royal Canadian Mounted Police	Treaty #5 in LakeWinnipeg/Keewatin Area	The Indian Act is passed by the Government of Canada	The Department of Indian Affairs is created by the Government of Canada	More than 140 church-run Indian Residential Schools operate across Canada. (While most schools were closed in the 1970s, the last one remained open until 1996)	Treaty #9 signed at Mishkeegogamang	Control of Crown Lands is transferred from federal to provincial governments by means of the Natural Resources Transfer Act



TIMELINE OF HISTORIC CAUSES <i>(cont')</i>	1935	1950s	1957	1960	1969
	Rat Rapids Hydro Development floods Mishkeegogamang lands. Compensation to the band is set at \$845	Aboriginal people finally get the right to leave reserves without the permission of the Indian agent	Ontario Hydro diverts water from Lake St. Joseph, causing wildly fluctuating water levels and devastating fisheries and all kinds of shoreline activities	Aboriginal people finally gain the right to vote	Pierre Trudeau's Minister of Indian Affairs, Jean Chretien, releases a White Paper that proposes to abolish the Department of Indian Affairs, and eliminate special status for Indian peoples and lands. It is vehemently opposed by Aboriginal leaders who say its language of equality masks a sinister assimilation agenda.

# Community Works Out Terms of Settlement Trust

Community meetings have been held and will continue to be held in the ongoing effort to draft the terms of the Trust that will be set up to manage the Canada Claims settlement. Chief Connie Gray-McKay says the meetings were good, but further meetings are required because it's a lot of information, and it takes people time to think on it and come up with ideas. It's important to all concerned that it's an inclusive process, and the Chief doesn't want people to be rushed into a decision about the trust. She would like the band to do more to facilitate gathering of opinions and information in all the different areas where members live.

Councilor David Masakeyash says aspects of the Trust have been misunderstood, with people not fully trusting Chief and Council regarding how the settlement money is spent. The trust is a completely private financial vehicle run by a board of elected members, none of whom are members of chief and council.

Etienne Esquesa is the legal counsel drafting the trust document. He is very experienced in this type of law, and will maintain the utmost confidentiality while the trust is being structured and after it is done. His services on this project are for the members of Mishkeegogamang only.

Some questions people are discussing: What sort of programs should be considered a priority in spending the interest from the fund? If there are individual disbursements,



Former Chief Ronald Roundhead speaking at community meeting on Settlement Trust and Land Claim.

should the children's portions be held in a separate trust, invested specifically for their future? Would a one-time payout be your

preference? Or would you prefer a smaller amount every year for a certain number of years?

Many people have already spoken on these issues in community meetings in Pickle Lake, Mishkeegogamang, Sioux Lookout and Thunder Bay. But understandably, people didn't all agree, so a second round of meetings will be held, incorporating ideas from the first, and Chief and Council are hoping to have a document by the end of May that will indicate how the Trust is shaping up.

The following are some of the ideas for how the Trust could be structured. These were presented and discussed at the community meetings and are still in "idea" format.

### Why is a trust needed?

- A trust is a separate legal entity that is recognized by the law. It is separate from the band
- Trustees administer it and are legally responsible
- When you settle with the crown they generally require you to put some or all the funds into a trust fund.
- To honour the past and benefit the future of the community
- A trust creates income from the investment

### Purpose of the Trust

- To receive the settlement funds
- To receive and disburse per capita distributions



Chief Connie Gray McKay speaking at community meeting.

TIMELINE OF HISTORIC CAUSES <i>(cont')</i>	1999	2005	2012
	Ontario Hydro and Mishkeegogamang finally reach agreement on compensation for 1930s and later flood damages of \$17.25 million.	With the Kelowna Accord, the minority Liberal government commits \$5 billion over 10 years to improve education, employment and living standards for Aboriginal people. The subsequent Conservative government chooses a different path.	Canada and Mishkeegogamang in court over land claims and Canada's failure of fiduciary duty



<b>1975</b> The Inter Church Task Force on Northern Flooding holds a public inquiry into hydro development in northern Manitoba	<b>1982</b> Patriation of the Canadian Constitution, which includes the Charter of Rights and Freedoms that recognizes Aboriginal and treaty rights	<b>1990</b> Prime Minister Mulroney's Meech Lake Accord is defeated, in part by Elijah Harper's famous stand in the Manitoba Legislature	<b>1991 -1996</b> The federally created Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples becomes the longest and most expensive royal commission in Canadian history	<b>1992</b> Prime Minister Mulroney's national referendum on the Charlottetown Accord is defeated. The Accord promises to recognize the "inherent right to self government" of Aboriginal people.
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- To preserve the capital of the fund for long term use
- To generate income to assist the community
- To minimize taxes

**Capital and Revenue**

The capital is the initial amount put into the trust fund – the amount of the settlement

The revenue is the income that's earned from investing the capital

The settlement funds will be distributed in three ways:

- 1) Per capita distribution of capital and replenishment of Hydro funds
- 2) Investments in stocks, bonds, GICS to generate the revenue
- 3) Revenue generated from investments goes to administration costs and distributions, such as health, infrastructure, cultural and education projects

exercise skill and care of a reasonable, prudent person

- Always consider the best interest of the beneficiary first
- Fulfill the terms of the trust
- Act independently
- Perform certain specific administrative duties
  - Keep track of investments and capital

investment portfolio

**Who will the Trustees Be?**

*Proposed:*

5 elected community members

1 corporate administrative Trustee, e.g. Royal Trust, appointed by council

*Option:*

Ex-officio (non-voting) members could be

- Must not have been charged, convicted or incarcerated within the past 5 years
- Three-year term
- Cannot be a member of Chief and Council

**Criteria for Administrative Trustee**

- Only 1 such trustee
- Has to be a licensed Trust Company
- Appointed by Chief and Council
  - Five-year term

### An Idea of How it could Work

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graph TD; Trust[Trust] --> Elected[Elected by membership]; Trust --> Board[Board of Trustees]; Trust --> Appointed[Appointed by Council]; Elected --> 1((1)); Elected --> 2((2)); Elected --> 3((3)); Elected --> 4((4)); Elected --> 5((5)); Appointed --> Corporate([Corporate Trustee]); NonVoting[Non-voting, ex-officio members, e.g. rep from council, youth, elders] --> Trust;
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**Why an Administrative Trustee?**

- Independent and impartial
- Experts
- Insured
- Will take care of administrative tasks
  - Educate other trustees
  - Take care of all the paperwork
  - Maintain records
  - Prepare cheques

**How to Spend the Income?**

- Education – post-secondary education, special needs
- Cultural events
- Funerals
- Health costs (to offset government cutbacks)
- Recreational and sporting events
- Infrastructure costs

**Per Capita distributions**

- Will each member receive a one-time payment?
- Separate account would limit potential for losses
- Interest would grow
- Would be disbursed when child turns 18

**Duty of Trustees**

- To be honest, act in good faith and

- Financial accounting and record-keeping
- Report to community and band council
- Retain professional help as necessary
- Have the same powers as if they own the trust
- Invest the funds and maintain the

part of the trust representing:

- Chief and Council
- Youth
- Elders
- Women

**Criteria for Elected Trustees**

- 18 years old (or older?)
- Not a bankrupt

- Business loans and grants
- Economic development
- Band support

Please get involved in establishing the terms of the trust. Once the trust is established it's very hard to change. We want it to last as long as possible for the community as a whole, so your input is very important.



General discussion at Settlement Trust/Land Claim meeting. People had lots of ideas and the process is moving towards consensus.



Councillor David Masakeyash holds up a map of the new lands that are part of the Canada Claim negotiations.



# Personal Story: Fred Wesley-Mac

Fred Wesley-Mac was born in Osnaburgh in 1976 to Charlie Bottle and the late Evelyn Wesley. A Mennonite family adopted him when he was seven months old and he lived with them until he was 16. “I did not like authority at that age,” he said, “and I had a falling out with my family as a result.” He doesn’t mind having been raised white, saying that it gave him a different outlook on life coming into his native family.

Wesley-Mac is a labourer who likes to work with his hands; currently a meat cutter, he’s on compensation for his shoulder. He is honest about his relationship with alcohol. He started drinking heavily with his mom’s passing. In his own words:

“I drink lots. It’s a daily thing for me. At 5 in the morning, if there’s a [drink] there, I’ll drink it. In the morning with my coffee, I feel like I need it. My buddies show up, I can’t say no. And it sucks, man.

When I think about whisky, she’s a bitch, but she’ll always be there. It’s like clockwork: the liquor store opens, people show up. Closes, they go away.”

Wesley-Mac has tried to get jobs on the reserve, but says there seems to be a language barrier, and it depends who you know, so for now he’s staying in Pickle Lake.

# Governance Project Update

The Mishkeegogamang Governance Project is putting new codes in place to define how Chief and Council are governed and how the band administration operates.

As part of the Governance Project, a Financial Management and Accountability Code has been developed to improve the administration of the band, and to streamline core functions of Chief and Council and its administrative senior managers.

The new code will regulate the receipts, management and expenditures of First Nation funds and will establish a solid administration organization.

The Financial Management and Accountability Code identifies:

- Roles and responsibilities
- Lines of authority
- How expenditures are handled
- Rules about social assistance
- How investment and banking are handled
- Dispute resolution, and what to do if the code is breached
- How amendments are made

# Help Available for Drug Dependence

A drug called Suboxone is helping people in Mishkeegogamang battle addictions to prescription painkillers. Dr. Ashok Krishnamurthy, an addictions specialist, has been invited by Dr. Koval to visit the community to implement and monitor the Suboxone program.

So far two people have started Suboxone and are following up regularly with another six people interested in starting. There’s generally a week to ten-day period of adjustment to get used to Suboxone, however the patient is under the doctor’s care and those who go through with it generally do quite well. The program is completely free to those who are eligible—Health Canada covers the costs of the treatment for six months, and this can be extended if the patient is doing well.

Dr. Krishnamurthy is encouraging anyone with a drug dependency to come and get checked out. “Any chronic addiction

requires ongoing care,” he said. “People should definitely come and inquire. Even if

## What are Opioids?

Suboxone treats opioid dependence. Opioids include drugs like Oxycontin, Percocet, morphine, codeine, street methadone, and Fentanyl patches. Opioids are used medically as painkillers. Side effects include sedation, respiratory depression and a strong sense of euphoria. Repeated use can lead to dependence.

Suboxone isn’t the right thing, we’ll point you in the right direction.”

Oxycontin is one of the most frequently misused opioids in Mish. “People are getting Oxy and snorting it,” said Krishnamurthy. “Quick and easy.” But it’s a very expensive habit since the drug supply is limited and this keeps prices high. And misusing drugs is dangerous to a person’s health and wellbeing.

Krishnamurthy points out that Suboxone is just one tool to get people away from their daily Oxycontin habit—there are other serious challenges involved, but patients will be freed from the daily grind of getting and using. Once they are drug free, they can deal with the underlying issues with a clear mind. The first step is removing the physical link to the drug, and then working on the personal and emotional issues that drove the addiction in the first place.

If you’re interested in Suboxone, come to the health centre or phone 928-2298 for an appointment.



# Discussing Police Business

Open police meetings are being held regularly again. Monthly meetings have been held this spring at the band office or in Pickle Lake. The meetings are an avenue to bring up any police issues people may have. Often people aren’t comfortable putting their grievance into writing, so Chief and Council can ask police about issues people have brought to them. Those who attend go over statistics, discuss police business and plan for more effective policing. The next open police meeting will be held June 11 at 9 a.m. Call the band office for details.

***Canine Drug Unit officer gives a demonstration after community policing meeting.***

# Mishkeegogamang Landfill

In 2003 A Waste Management Plan Study by Feherty and Associates Ltd. identified the need to upgrade the existing landfill site between Eric Lake and Ace Lake. In conjunction with this, proper environmental closures of the two old dump sites in the Main Community are also needed.

The total cost is estimated at \$425,500. Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada has approved funding under its First Nation Infrastructure Fund to do this work in two phases. The first phase is the updating of the 2003 report, the design and landfill upgrade and the preparation of closure procedures for the two old dumps. Feherty and Associates Ltd are doing this work, with completion estimated in early summer 2012.

The second phase is the actual upgrade and closure work which will be carried out by the First Nation workforce and heavy equipment in 2012 and 2013.

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





## Ceramic Mural Project for new Community Centre

The new Community Centre could be the setting for a beautiful ceramic mural. Pat Keesickquayash and ceramic artists Carol Teal and Ed Keith have begun to look into the possibility of the ceramic installation, to be designed this year and installed in 2013, as the building itself is being completed.

Carol Teal has been facilitating art and music workshops for the youth of Mishkeegogamang since 2005 through the ArtsCan Circle program. ArtsCan has been bringing a team of artists and musicians to Mishkeegogamang once or twice a year since 2002.

If funds for the project can be obtained from the Ontario Arts Council, Canada Arts Council and/or other sources, there would be no cost to Mishkeegogamang First Nation. If funding is not secured, the project will not go forward.

Anyone interested in participating in this project should contact Pat at the resource centre.

## A Powerful Experience

*James Kakekaskung describes an experience he had with a shaking tent when he was 15 or 16 years old:*

He built it, then walked around twice—made two circles counter-clockwise, didn't say anything to the people, then went inside, sat down in the tent, closed the door, and started talking with the spirits. He was talking inside, and the thing started moving—that's how powerful he was.

He used to be a good trapper that guy, so was my dad. We used to go together on their trap line when I was small. They were pretty good trappers and hunters—Charlie, James's brother—all those guys were good.

The day that happened, most of the community came out to see. I was kind of surprised when I saw the walls of the tent shaking and I thought it was going to fall. I heard animal noises. I guess he was just sitting in there and talking, not singing or drumming. The people there that hadn't seen it before were surprised like me. The old people that used to do that, they're almost all passed away right now.

## ArtsCan at Missabay School

An ArtsCan Circle team of volunteer artists & musicians (Carol Teal, Bruce Good, Jean Becker and Ed Keith) were at Missabay Community School for the week of April 23 - 27 and had a wonderful time creating art and music with the students. Grade 3/4 created a shadow play from a story in the Mishkeegogamang book, "Gifts to the Anishinaabe," and did a great job performing the play for the rest of the school. Several classes played harmonicas with Bruce and learned new tunes on the ukuleles. Students made leather bracelets with Jean and she sang a traditional "Water Song" while students played drums made by older students during a previous ArtsCan visit. Other activities included painting with water colors, making stamp art, hats and beautiful tie-dyed t-shirts! The Grade 2 class wrote a song about going fishing.

ArtsCan Circle has been coming to Missabay School since 2002. The ArtsCan team would like to express their thanks to all the staff and teachers at the school. Carol Teal, ArtsCan's Director, said, "We had a great time with these creative kids and look forward to our next visit. It's always a joy to see all our friends again and see how the kids have grown! Thanks to all the kids for making us welcome and sharing their talents."

## Missabay Teachers Attend Cultural Conference

Ever wonder what teachers learn when they have "professional development" days? Get a great idea here from the reviews written by Nerina Facca after she and the other Missabay teachers attended a three-day cultural conference in Winnipeg in February.

### Recovery and Self Expression: Fostering Creativity and Resilience in Traumatized Young People

*Gabor Mate*

Gabor Mate demonstrated how trauma affects individuals, especially children. He provided useful insight on how to use effective strategies and tactics to deal with traumatized individuals. The presentation looked at what we can do, rather than focusing on what has been done, because the past cannot be changed. Mate was very empathetic and compassionate towards those who endure trauma, but focused more on how we can embrace these events and move forward, while still acknowledging how difficult this would be. I gained a deeper understanding of my students as well as other individuals who have been subjected to traumatic experiences. I will take what I learned from this presentation and incorporate it from both a professional standpoint as well as a personal one.



### Teaching in a Digital World

*Linda Johnson, Lorne Goring, Ana Krneta, Eli Pivnik, Melissa Black*

Technological skills are so important for students, and this workshop was a great way to strengthen my understanding of new technologies. The first digital tool we learned about was Digital Storytelling with Flip Cameras. This is a very neat program that I'll be able to incorporate into my teaching. Secondly, we learned about Jing which allows you to easily capture and share what you see on your computer screen in still or video and add audio as well. Jing would be very effective with the Smart Board. I have been playing around with this feature since I learned about and find it very useful. Thirdly we learned about online animations that can enhance both mathematics and science. This was my favourite component of the workshop as it directly applies to my grade level and I fully intend to use it. The interactive learning activities match up well with the Ontario curriculum. I signed on for a 30-day trial. Lastly, we learned about Wikis which is a web-based collaborative learning program in which the students and teachers create a website together. This would take a great deal of organization and would be more effective to start in the beginning of the year, but would be great for teachers who thoroughly enjoy technology-based instruction.

### Smart Board Training

*Ayn Harris*

I really enjoyed this workshop as it directly applies to what I do in my teaching. I have a Smart Board in my classroom and am using it on a daily basis. I learned countless new tools, features, and techniques. The very knowledgeable presenter also taught numerous troubleshooting strategies which were EXTREMELY useful. This was an absolutely fantastic presentation.

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# Changes at Wawatay Radio

Wawatay is renewing its commitment to the work that was given them by the Elders, the leadership and the communities – to help keep languages strong, promote the languages and the way of life the Creator has given, and to help people with their communication needs.

Some new programming has been added in Cree, Oji-Cree and Ojibway.

“Legends from the Land” is a new series of stories from the people in the north about life out on the land. People are telling the radio station they love hearing these stories. These stories air Wednesdays at 6 p.m. and are rebroadcast.

Wawatay has been working at improving Sunday programming. They now have regular gospel music on Sundays and are including new programming from churches and organizations that have made programming material available. Tabernacle of Praise from Thunder Bay with Pastor Clifton Bedaysie will be on regularly on Sundays at 12. Also listen for Church of the Rock out of Winnipeg on Sundays at 9 a.m.



Chief Connie Gray McKay prepares for a live radio broadcast with Wawatay radio announcer Bill Morris and Mary Anne Panacheese.

# Financial Summary, March 31, 2012

Funding from the government is coming with more strings attached. The government wants more accountability – that means more reports, which are more complicated and have to be done more often than they used to be. If reports aren’t sent to the government, funding doesn’t come back to Mishkeegogamang, and if the money isn’t flowing in, bills can’t be paid on time, jeopardizing Mishkeegogamang’s financial status.

Our community’s leadership has taken and continues to take serious steps to ensure that this won’t be the case in Mishkeegogamang. Starting in 2010, costs and debts were reduced. Up-to-date financial statements were reviewed with managers and budgets were set for each program. Program managers have learned about budgeting and have taken responsibility for monitoring and reporting on their program’s finances and sticking to their budget.

In March 2010, Mishkeegogamang had an accumulated deficit of \$850,000 which within a year was brought down to nil. Because reporting is up to date, no major funding agencies are now withholding funds.

Mish has historically been short of funds for housing and public works. Strong budgeting policies and transparency to the community, along with a better use of current program funding and a push to access more funding are all being used to change that shortfall.

Program managers now have more authority (with spending limits in place) to manage their own funds, freeing Chief and Council from having to deal with day-to-day issues. Quarterly management meetings will get everyone understanding

what other programs are doing, and getting people working together to reduce overlap and inefficiency between programs.

Community leaders and managers are making timely and effective financial decisions that have led to a balanced financial statement. This means they will be saying ‘no’ when asked to spend funds that go beyond their budgets. But in the long run, it will mean that Mishkeegogamang will also be able to say ‘yes’ to the housing and infrastructure so urgently needed in our community.



Moana Gray and Baby EJay

## Cultural conference

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### Nelson Literacy: Keys to Student Success

Lee McMenemy

This presentation provided insight into the Nelson Literacy program and into how students learn to read. The presenter used the analogy of swimming because what is above the surface does not always represent what happens below the surface. It is below the surface in terms of reading where the most effective learning takes place. I have been using Nelson Literacy over the course of the year, but gained far more insight after this presentation.

### Teaching Children with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

Dorothy Schwab and Janet Thompson

This presentation was very enlightening. The presenters do not view students with FASD as an extra challenge but rather embrace what these students can bring to the classroom. They provided great insight on understanding the behaviours and learning

styles of students with FASD which in turn provided teachers with a stronger ability to develop relationships with these students. I know that I will also make use of a lot of the strategies with all my students.

### Surviving the Alligators

Bee Shawanda

This was a presentation about the importance of laughing and enjoying yourself. Numerous different strategies and activities were outlined which allowed people to loosen up and enjoy themselves, creating a more stress-free environment. A relaxed and safe environment will be a more productive learning environment. Studies have shown that people with a great sense of humour live healthier lifestyles, and students who engage in fun, humorous activities for fifteen minutes before an exam produce better results than those who do not. Bee showed how you don’t force this on people, but simply encourage it.