



November, 2009 • Volume 1 • Issue 5

MISHKEEGOGAMANG OJIBWAY NATION

Community Update



Grand Chief of Pelican Falls, Desiree Gray

Desiree Gray Elected Grand Chief of Pelican Falls High School

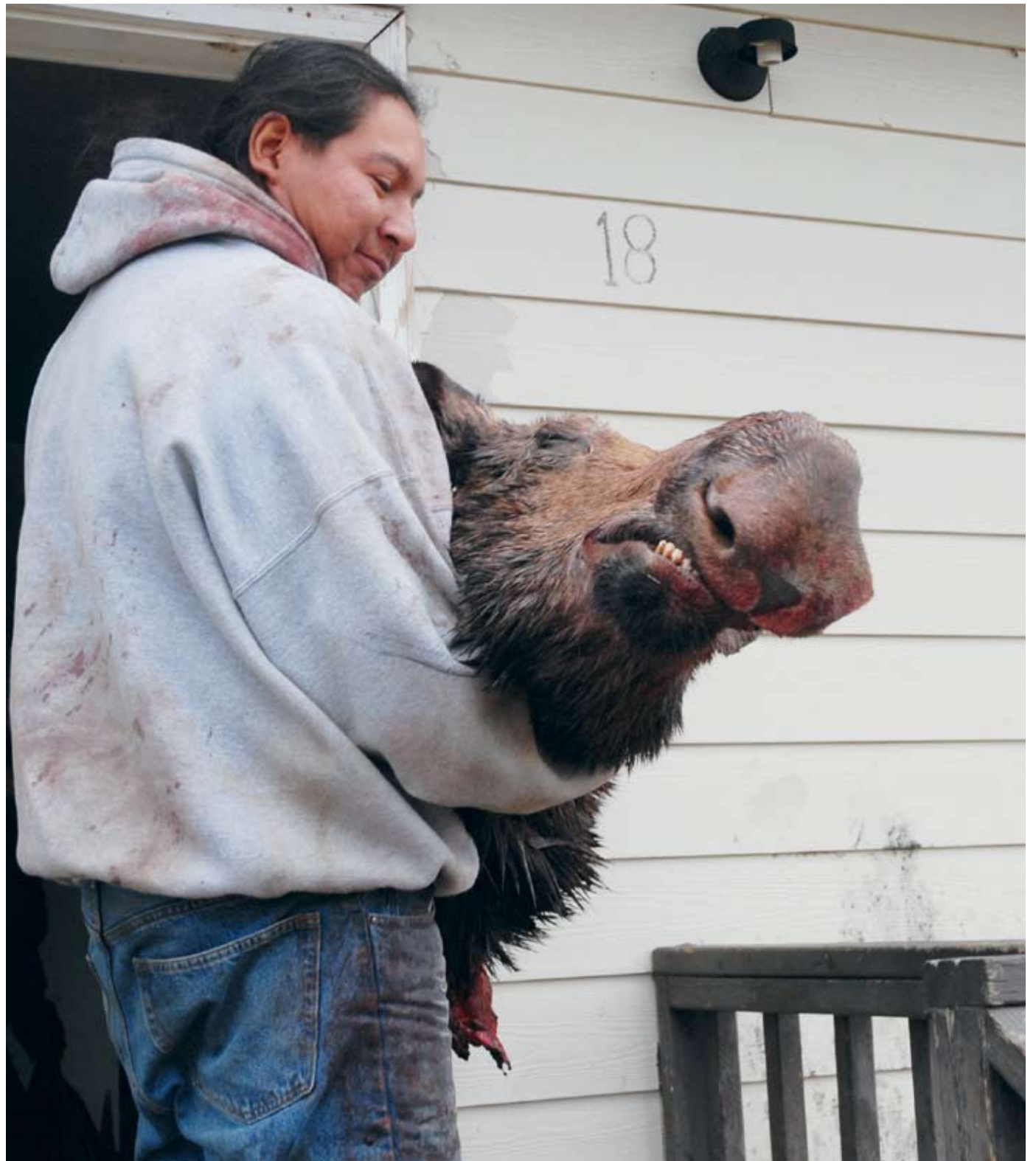
Desiree Gray has been elected as Grand Chief of her high school but she hasn't yet had a chance to enjoy her role much – she's been too busy trying to keep up with school work. She's in Grade 12 and it's her fifth year at Pelican Falls First Nation High School. She was nominated and then elected as Grand Chief by the other students at the school.

When asked why she thought she'd been elected, Desiree was reluctant to sing her own praises. "I think it's because..." she said after a thoughtful pause, "I take responsibility – I'm responsible – and I have a voice that speaks up." Those are qualities she shares with her mom, Connie Gray McKay, Chief of Mishkeegogamang First Nation.

Desiree lives in a dorm at Pelican Falls, which she says is "actually very good." This year she's in the senior girls' dorm and she likes the chance to have friends around to talk to. The two and a half hour trip home means she gets back there only a few times a month.

After high school she plans to go to college or university to study to be a geologist or a veterinarian. She's enjoying the geography course she's taking this term. To keep herself healthy and on track in working towards her goal, she says she "thinks positive" and does a lot of sports including volleyball. She recently participated in a broomball tournament in Thunder Bay. She also takes time to rest and relax, talking to her friends and listening to metal or alternative rock – Atreyu is a favourite band.

Desiree's message to the students of Mishkeegogamang is to "stay in school and do all you can to reach your goals and dreams." She'd like to encourage those who think they don't have the potential to go on to college or university. "They do!" she says emphatically.



John Paul Spade with a moose head from a successful fall hunt.

Mining a Recommended Career

It might not be for everybody, but Charles Bottle loves his work in the Musslewhite Mine, over 100 kilometres north of Pickle Lake as the crow flies. He has been working at the mine for almost nine years, most recently underground with explosives and long hole blasting. Sound dangerous? It certainly could be, if the miners weren't paying attention to every detail every time they do their job.

After the drillers put holes in the rock, Bottle and his crew make sure the holes are clean and then load them with explosives, detonators and gas bags – two types of gel mixed together which expand after a couple of minutes – to keep the explosives in position. Holes two and a half to four inches round and as deep as 20 meters are

drilled into the rock. After the blast, the ore is scooped into a truck and sent to a rock breaker. From there it goes to a crusher to be made to a specific size before being sent up to the surface.

Using a remote blasting system, miners leave the area, program a remote blasting box, ensure all the safety precautions are met, dial a number to the specific mine level on a phone and "ka-boom!" A shift usually lasts from nine to ten hours. After a blast, gases must be clear before the miners can re-enter.

"Mining is not for everybody, but there are a lot of interesting things you can learn and you can have a good job," said Bottle. "I love it. I love the physical aspects of it and knowing what to do."

The miners' day starts with a meeting in the board room where they talk about safety concerns and the day's work. From there they get into their mining clothes,

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Community Centre in Design Stage

A new community centre for Mishkeegogamang First Nation could be in operation by 2011, if all goes well. A feasibility study completed in November, 2007 recommended a community centre on a site adjacent to Highway 599 in the northern Main Community, at an estimated cost of \$4,031,000.

So far the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) has committed \$1,000,000 for the project and Ontario Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs has promised an additional \$500,000, leaving Mishkeegogamang to come up with the balance.

Habib Architects of Thunder Bay has been hired to start on the detailed design. Chief and Council have asked Habib to look at an option for a future expansion to include an enclosed ice arena attached to the community centre.

A site survey and soil investigations are being carried out on the proposed site. Design and construction drawing production will go on throughout the winter with construction scheduled to begin in early summer 2010. The completion goal is between Christmas, 2010 and Spring, 2011.



Some day there could be an arena attached to the new community centre where hockey could be played indoors on the First Nation

MOU does not mean unlimited access

Biggest Losers Win

The latest three month weight-loss challenge in Mishkeegogamang was another successful venture. Winners of the latest Biggest Loser Contest were: 1st Angus Panacheese (\$1,000.00), 2nd Martin Cromarty (\$700), and 3rd Maryanne Panacheese (\$500).

Throwing Rocks

Throwing rocks or other items at vehicles passing through the First Nation could have serious consequences. Sometimes hazardous materials such as fuel and chemicals are being transported through the community and an accident could cause poisons to be released into the air and eventually the rivers and lakes of our area. An accident resulting from a driver losing control of a vehicle could be critical.

Mishkeegogamang Ojibway Nation Community Update

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Chief and Council of the Mishkeegogamang First Nation want to be clear: "We maintain our right to use our traditional lands and we have no real interest to discuss any harvesting in these areas." Councillor David Masakeyash said Abitibi Bowater is obligated to do a forestry audit which indicates their compliance to the procedures they are supposed to follow before harvesting wood in the forest. Masakeyash said there are still outstanding issues between the First Nation and the corporation and that "initial feedback was not positive for Abitibi Bowater."

Mishkeegogamang is maintaining its position to use the lands without harvesting by Abitibi Bowater. "We have rights to those areas until they fulfill their duty to consult. They cannot proceed to the next stage until we are engaged to the satisfaction of both sides," he said, adding the corporation has

"no free access to those areas."

Masakeyash said the current market is not good for the harvesting of wood, which helps for the time being. Allowing cutting of the forest would bring some jobs in the short term, but no long term benefits. "If it's a 100-year program then there should be some arrangement for that long," he said. "If they cut and then go, leaving the land like that, then they have to bring us some sort of a structure that would compensate the loss for 100 years."

Councillor Masakeyash said clearing of the forest impacts the people mentally, emotionally, and psychologically. "It's part of your overall well-being. It's like taking a piece of your flesh, a part of your body that you use to survive."

Masakeyash said the forest has always been there for the people of Mishkeegogamang. "If you have something

that has been very useful and part of it is taken away, or changed or destroyed, it affects your spiritual well-being."

Council intends to learn from the experience of First Nations people south of them that have experienced this type of loss. "Having seen it, we understand the distress. It impacts not only us, but the environment, the animals, the water."

Masakeyash said they are leaning that, although employment is important and necessary, the preservation of traditional lands is equally important. "The people that do use that area, and are rooted in there, are against any kind of harvesting. We recognize that," he said.

Masakeyash said what is going on in regards to forestry runs parallel to the mining industry. He wants the people to understand that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) does not mean guaranteed access or approval. Rather, it sets the stage that will respect aboriginal interest in the land. It allows mining companies to explore at a very preliminary stage. Negotiations begin again with another phase in the process. It takes an average of 17 years from exploration until a mine is operational and there must be a high percentage of grams per tonne of gold to make mining viable. "The community has to be aware that exploration and negotiations will continue, and we'll be making amendments as we go along," said Masakeyash. He said laws will change to benefit the First Nation that is already better equipped and educated than past generations. "Perfect agreements are hard to come by."

Thank you letter

Friends and family,

I want to thank everyone involved in honouring my mother's life and supporting me through this milestone in my life. I would not wish in any event for this to happen to my worst enemy. As reality sets in I am so thankful for the time my mother and I had alone those days in the hospital at the Health Science Centre in Winnipeg. Although it was only for a short time I will cherish those moments as though we spent a lifetime together.

It was appreciated and comforting to know that friends like you stood along beside me, during this time of loss. I am grateful for the support of many friends like you. It is sad for us and we will miss Violet very much as she will live in our hearts forever.

Thank you again.

Tara-Love Hilsher



The fall moose hunt has been successful for many Mishkeegogamang residents.



Mike Pelletier cuts up moose meat for the freezer.



Top: A drilling company takes core samples to check for gold near Pickle Crow.
Bottom: Ryan Neekan cuts core samples.



Charles Bottle highly recommends mining as a career.

Mining as a Career CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

including coveralls, hard hat, miners belt and boots, and head for the man-carrier. This is a vehicle with three types of braking systems, (there's a 17 - 18 percent grade) all of which have to be checked, along with lights and radios, before proceeding underground. The temperature remains consistent all year round and there are heaters in the refuge stations. Bottle said it can get very hot if you are working at the bottom of the mine, partly from all the equipment being used down there.

Bottle got his training "on the job." The work is both physically and mentally difficult and varies from day to day. "We are taught daily to keep our mind on what we are doing. One mistake down there can be very unforgiving. It could be your last mistake," said Bottle. One danger would be to walk into an open hole, some of which are 870 meters deep.

Mine tunnels are about 5.5 meters wide, some wider, depending where the ore is. The air is extremely dry and with all the fumes created in the mine, it is vital to know and understand the ventilation system. A certain amount of ventilation is required for every piece of equipment used in the mine. Bottle said there are 13 45-ton trucks inside the mine as well as loaders and a grader.

How many times a miner would come to the top in a given day depends on what they are doing. If working on an explosive run, they could come up two or three times

a day. "Sometimes you don't see daylight at all if you're busy," Bottle said, adding he doesn't mind that part of the job at all. At least 150 people are working at any given time and those off-shift have trailers with their own room, including satellite television, internet connections and good food served in a common mess hall. Men and women play cards, work out and watch hockey. The miners work for 14 days straight and are then flown back home for 14 days. The pay is "decent" and mining is a career Bottle highly recommends, especially for the young, unemployed people of Mishkeegogamang. He has enjoyed the extra training he has received, especially in the area of mine rescue. Throughout the north there are all-native mine rescue teams that compete in annual competitions.

Inside the mine there are safety precautions such as auxiliary tanks and well-equipped rescue stations including fire extinguishers, lights, water and various means of communication.

Bottle has never held a solid gold bar, but recognizes high grade ore when he sees it. What is the best part of the job? "The camaraderie that comes from working with these experienced people," said Bottle. Many people that work at the mine have been there for a lot longer than he has. "There's a lot of meeting people who share their knowledge and pass it on to the newer kids that come in to work."



A young mom can relax, knowing her baby is in good hands with Dr. Koval.

A Decade of Dedication

Dr. Marilyn Koval sits in her mother's Pickle Lake kitchen making sushi for dinner and reflecting on nearly a decade of being a physician for Mishkeegogamang First Nation. When she began her practise, she was already pregnant with her second child and it made sense to work in a community close to family for support and child care.

"I already felt close to the community because of my history, growing up in Pickle Lake," said Dr. Koval. But she said she was especially touched by people's reaction when they learned that their new doctor was going to be away on maternity leave for a full year. "I remember people being incredibly understanding and gracious, saying 'Of course you need to spend time with your baby,'" she said.

When she returned to work, Dr. Koval's mom, Rose Koval, watched the children while the doctor went to work on the First Nation and drove back and forth between the communities to nurse her baby.

Dr. Koval was the youngest of five children, attending elementary school in Central Patricia and then high school in Thunder Bay. It was a hard transition and she remembers being very lonely but living

with an "outstanding" family, with high expectations for her behaviour and whose children still consider the doctor as an "older sister." Rose Koval also remembers the trauma of her children leaving for high school. "I used to go to the bush for the day when they would leave," she said. But in those days she felt her place was with her husband and working in the family transport business.

The idea of working in the field of medicine was a seed planted in Marilyn when she lived in Pickle Lake. "So much of my life now was shaped by my early years here. I remember when I was very young thinking I would like to come back," she said. She said there was a doctor in the area, "Dr. Bob," whom she watched and admired. "I remember understanding that I could go where there was need."

Along with the work, there was the sheer love of the bush. "That's a huge influence my mom has had on me," said Dr. Koval. "There was the enjoyment and delight of being in nature, the discoveries. I have memories of my mom taking these big sniffs of air out in the bush. My mom was a huge forager." She still is, judging from the

evidence of wild cranberries, blueberries and other produce in the Koval home and on the menu.

The arrival of Koval's children, Hannah, now 11, Abigail, 10, and Jonah, 5, and her time off to be with them, has punctuated her life. Around the time of their youngest child's birth, Marilyn's husband, Larry Willms, also a physician, decided to quit his seven-year practise in Round Lake and join Dr. Koval in Mishkeegogamang. The decision was agonizing, as each doctor was so attached to the community they were working in and couldn't imagine leaving. But it was practical and "just seemed simpler" to work in the same community, close to Marilyn's supportive family. The doctors take turns working while the other stays home to parent and home-school the children. They have tried a variety of rotations, but have recently settled into two month blocks. One of them is in Mishkeegogamang for five days each month.

Drs. Koval and Willms also do emergency medicine as well as in-patient and out-patient clinics in Sioux Lookout, where they live. Many of their patients

are people from the north, including Mishkeegogamang, who can't wait for a doctor to come to their community.

"Life is busy," said Dr. Koval, admitting she doesn't think their lifestyle would be possible without the support of their families.

Dr. Koval said she has not only seen healing and transformation in the lives of the people of Mishkeegogamang, but has also herself been transformed by many interactions with the people and families of Mishkeegogamang. "It is an incredible privilege to share in peoples' lives and journeys and transformation happens both ways."

Of course there are difficult moments of sadness and some despair, but for Dr. Koval there are more moments of inspiration from encounters with the people. "I especially notice and reflect on this when I'm with parents who are really trying their best to make choices that are healthy for their children, sometimes against enormous odds and great barriers," she said.

Dr. Koval said she is also often moved when she is with an elder. "It's hard to explain, but it's a quiet feeling of being awestruck when I'm with an elder." She said Dr. Willms often asks the elders of Mishkeegogamang their "secret" to a long and healthy life. One quote, from the late James Masakeyash was particularly poignant. "He said, 'When I go to bed at night I dream of what I'm going to do the next day.'" Many elders speak of how they breathe the fresh air, live on the land and don't drink alcohol. "It is no surprise that they are well over 80," said Dr. Koval.

Sometimes the elders tell her stories of her own father and grandfather, precious memories that she holds dear. "I am inspired by the lovely stories of my family," said Dr. Koval, who admits she is also very aware of the irony that her family was part of the history of flooding that has had such a negative impact on the community.

"There is a lot of resilience here and yet there are a lot of people really struggling to keep it together," she said. "I see individuals articulating a real desire to make some changes for themselves, their children and their families," said Dr. Koval.

"I have done a lot of thinking about health and healing, and have concluded that people heal themselves," she said. "When someone is given a medicine, whether it's traditional or white woman's medicine, it's the body itself and the mind and spirit that are doing the work. These medicines just help out a little bit."

From the Pickle Lake OPP Detachment Commander

I've often been asked by people in the south why I chose to work in Pickle Lake. "Isn't it cold and isolated? Isn't it hard to be accepted, being an outsider?" they ask. I always reply that people in the north always accept newcomers and in today's world we are not really that isolated anymore. As for the cold, well, I have to agree it can be brutally cold at times but the excellent summer weather and fishing (minus the pesky blackflies) make up for the long, cold winters.

I have spent most of my twenty-year policing career working within First Nations communities getting to know the people and the issues. The people of

Mishkeegogamang should be very proud of their elected Chief and Council as these men and women always put the concerns and needs of the community first. During meetings with the council, I have observed their compassion and enthusiasm when it comes to community issues. The Chief and Council are not only the managers of the First Nation, they are often involved in the individual health and welfare of its members and go beyond what is expected.

I have really enjoyed working with the communities of Pickle Lake and Mishkeegogamang, the local NAPS detachment and all of the area's residents.

This experience has given me a greater appreciation of the hardships faced by people of the north and the determination to protect language and culture. It also has reconfirmed my personal belief that each person in a community chooses to make things better or worse for themselves and their community.

I would like to thank the Chief and both the current and past Councils for their understanding, support and willingness to resolve and address issues in the best interest of public safety. I also recognize all the current and past staff of the Pickle Lake detachment for their hard work and commitment. Thanks for making Pickle Lake

an enjoyable place to work, live and play.

I have accepted the responsibility of detachment commander for the Sioux Lookout OPP and will assume my new duties on November 9, 2009. Acting Sergeant Mark Downey will assume the position as the Pickle Lake detachment commander until my replacement is identified. Acting Sergeant Downey is an experienced officer who has been posted to Pickle Lake for a year and a half.

Nathan Schmidt
Detachment Commander
Pickle Lake OPP

Hydro Expansion Project Begins with Community Consultations

Hydro One is working on hydro expansion from the community of Nipigon to the Musselwhite Mine (PC Gold) north of Pickle Lake. The project is in preparation for possible future mines in the area and to improve the reliability of hydro power to the communities, including Mishkeegogamang and Pickle Lake, along the way.

Hydro One will make a presentation to the Chief and Council soon, describing the probable location of the future transmission line and outlining the process. The process

will involve all of the communities along the corridor and discussions are already underway regarding the environmental, socio-economic and technical factors of the project. The line is over 400 km long and the planned width is two km. It is expected that the construction of the corridor will employ 100 to 200 people and take nearly two years to complete.

In their presentation Hydro One said the hydro corridor was determined by avoiding water bodies, wetlands, Provincial

Parks, conservation reserves, steeply sloping lands and communities. They aligned the corridor to roads, pipelines, and logging clear-cut areas. Before this proposed line will be approved there will be consultations, environmental field studies, evaluations and presentations at meetings and information centres. Public consultation will occur from the fall of 2009 to the spring of 2011. There will be field studies beginning this fall and ending in December 2010 with final submission of

the environmental assessment planned for spring of 2011.

Councillor David Masakeyash said Mishkeegogamang and its traditional territory has seven mine exploration areas right now, including two that are very preliminary and the rest with some preliminary exploration. Most of the exploration is for gold, but there are two areas with iron possibilities and all would benefit from the extended hydro line.



Former chief Danny Panacheese.

Former Chief still has Highway Beef

Translated by David Masakeyash

Elder Danny Panacheese wouldn't mind another crack at the job of Chief of Mishkeegogamang. At 86 and wheelchair-bound due to leg amputations, this is highly unlikely, but with a twinkle in his eye, he speaks about what he would do if he was given the opportunity. He'd deal with the highway issue.

"That is one grievance that needs to be determined," he said, "We've had no settlement from that issue."

Panacheese said the road has been the main access road to the mines north of the First Nation and the community of Pickle Lake for many years and there has never been proper compensation for the use of Mishkeegogamang lands. Panacheese said he requested from the government that there would be an extension of the First Nation boundaries when the highway came through the reserve. "That never happened even though it was agreed by the government that our boundaries would never change or be molested. It was a basic agreement." And just like the flooding of their lands, the highway was built without prior consent.

Panacheese said putting a highway through the community really changed a lot of things, opening the doors to alcohol abuse. "In the beginning alcohol was forbidden on Reserve lands. Since the highway there has been a negative impact because of alcohol and other things due to the easy access."

Panacheese said when he was the chief, prior to Roy Kaminawaish's term, he had an idea of putting up a toll gate and charging people to pass through. "I was advised I wouldn't be successful in doing that from a legal angle so I put it aside, but I still have a strong ambition that this is one way the highway issue would be resolved," he said.

Panacheese said it is also important to make sure that Mishkeegogamang harvesting rights are protected, even though people are more dependent on government programs than they are on the land these days and "do not go out and experience what we are supposed to."

Panacheese does not think much has changed when it comes to the First

Nation dealing with Indian Affairs. "I noticed that they tried to accommodate us in many ways but there was a lack of honesty in many areas. It is still the same today. It hasn't changed." The Elder said there seems to be a big difference between white and Anishinabe ways. "For example we can talk and talk and agree on some things verbally, but when it comes down to paper, it's written differently, not reflecting what we said and then they try and get us to sign it."

Panacheese has lived in Mishkeegogamang all his life. He noted the improvements to houses since the early days and a big difference in how children behave. When he was five years old Panacheese would make a few cents chopping wood. He also babysat smaller children, getting "good food" and sometimes some change for his efforts. "That was very good. It was the first time I was earning money," he recalled. At the age of five, he was also a hunter, spending hours with a bow and arrow searching for grouse and partridge. "I was very good at it," he said. He remembers trapping alone as a boy, getting up at 3 a.m. and sometimes not returning until midnight. Panacheese worked physically until the age of 81 and now is limited due to his amputations. He longs to go hunting again, but realizes that is not possible.

Panacheese said things have changed dramatically in many areas, but one he wanted to highlight was the lack of consequences for wrong-doings in this day and age. He recalled being caught for making "moonshine" in 1939 and getting three months in jail, "no questions asked." Nowadays, he said, people do much more serious crimes and get much less time than he served. "It's disappointing. In our time when you committed a capital crime, you got capital punishment. Now people do serious crimes and don't have to serve the time."

When asked if his jail time had stopped his moonshine activities, the Elder laughed and replied, "After that I made it secretly and didn't get caught!" But seriously, he said, today there is a lot more alcohol abuse and it is "the seed of breakdown" in the community. "That's one area we have to concentrate on."



Billy Gray works on his winter supply of wood at Ten Houses.

Ojibway Language Speakers Invited to Train as Teachers

Did you know that speaking your language is a rare gift that you could use to launch a successful teaching career? The Sioux Lookout District, which includes Mishkeegogamang, has been given approval to adopt its own curriculum. The District has initiated an Ojibway-language immersion program for 2010 to start with Junior Kindergarten and progress up to Grade 2. From Grade 3 there will be progressive increases in introducing English.

The immersion plan carries with it the immediate need for qualified Ojibway-speaking teachers. To address this need, Sioux Lookout District and Brock University are now accepting their second wave of applicants for entrance in September, 2010. Native teachers graduating from the program will receive a BA and B.Ed from Brock University, and become members of the Ontario College of Teachers, with full benefits. They will also be able to teach anywhere in Ontario. Applicants should apply immediately for acceptance in September 2010. The minimum qualifications are Grade 12 and or/ acceptable life experiences, such as several years as a TA. To become an immersion teacher, you would also need to be fluent in your traditional language.



Congratulations to Lesley Mathe and Kyle Koper on their August 15 wedding in Pickle Lake

Apply to Become a Teacher

START A SUCCESSFUL CAREER • MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

APPLICANTS WANTED

- Do you love children?
- Do you want a lifelong rewarding career?
- Do you want to make a difference?
- Are you proud of your culture?
- Do you love to share your life experiences?
- Do you have a vision for your children's future?
- Do you want to make a difference?
- If you have a grade 12 education or equivalent you qualify to apply to a special partnership program between Brock University and Sioux Lookout District.
- You will receive a B.A and a B.Ed degree upon completion of the program.
- Fully-funded program is out of Sioux Lookout, modular with many web-based courses.
- Early, immediate application is necessary

Contact Missabay Community School Director of Education or Principal for an application.



Arson completely destroyed the Youth Centre located next to the administration building at Ten Houses in October. Community members, including Robbie and Dianne Bottle, spent a lot of time getting the Youth Centre up and running so the youth would have a safe place to gather.



Munzie Roundhead and Linda Kitchenese and their workers have renovated 15 houses in Mishkeegogamang in the last five months.

Mish Rep Needed for Committee

A Pickle Lake OPP constable is very interested in having someone from Mishkeegogamang join a community policing committee just now being established. Constable Dianna Dauphinee believes that partnerships between the community and the police promote safety and prevent crime, and that's the purpose of the new committee - to work together for safer communities.

Three people from Pickle Lake came to an initial meeting, with several more expressing interest. Constable Dauphinee recently met with the Mishkeegogamang Chief and Council, inviting the First Nation's involvement in the committee, and Chief and Council supports such involvement. "If we do get some reps from Mishkeegogamang, we would have some of the meetings there," said Constable Dauphinee. The half-hour drive between the communities for committee meetings is significant, but "you need commitment," said Dauphinee, to make a positive change in both Pickle Lake and Mishkeegogamang.

NAPS is in charge of all the policing for the First Nation, but the OPP is called in to assist as needed.

Constable Dauphinee has some good ideas for how to promote safety and wellbeing in Pickle Lake and Mishkeegogamang. She recently gave a Halloween Safety presentation in the Pickle Lake School; a snowmobile safety course and even some type of soup kitchen are other ideas that have been suggested. All these activities would benefit from committee and community participation.

The first official meeting of the committee is November 11, but those interested in joining can contact Constable Dianna Dauphinee at any time at 807-928-2211.



Leanne Netumgeesic, a Chippewyan from NWT has been working in band finance since July.

Excerpt from Audit Report

To the Members of Mishkeegogamang First Nation

We have audited the consolidated statement of financial position of Mishkeegogamang First Nation as at March 31, 2009 and the consolidated statements of revenues and expenditures and deficit and cash flows for the year then ended.

In our opinion, these consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the First Nation as at March 31, 2009 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Meyers Norris Penny LLP, Chartered Accountants, Licensed Public Accountants

Kenora, Ontario, July 31, 2009

Financial Summary

The following is a summary of the Mishkeegogamang finances as of March 31, 2009. Brackets indicate 2008 figures.

Band revenues increased significantly in INAC funding, Aboriginal Healing Foundation and Miscellaneous. Band Revenue totals for the year include items such as INAC \$4,904,673 (\$4,426,792), CMHC \$68,331 (\$131,320), FNIH \$1,480,745 (\$1,564,632), Ministry of Community and Social Services \$821,987 (\$922,166), Ontario Hydro \$750,000 (\$750,000), Casino Rama \$744,303 (\$1,659,460), Aboriginal Healing Foundation \$238,464 (\$163,470) Miscellaneous \$630,233 (\$231,319) and Administrative \$583,696 (\$292,863) and many others totalled \$10,341,388 (\$10,818,295).

Expenses increased significantly in administration, amortization, capital purchases and salaries.

Band Expenditures for the year included Administration \$561,671 (\$284,415), Amortization \$97,567 (\$53,133), bad debts \$1,118 (\$220,072), Capital Purchases \$704,217 (\$599,966), Honoraria \$329,364 (\$261,685), Hydro payout \$144,135 (\$71,080), Long term debt repayments \$123,677 (\$47,838), office supplies \$73,632, (\$104,650), Professional fees \$195,031 (\$283,818), Salaries and benefits \$3,858,310 (\$3,461,645) and many more.

There is a deficit in operating fund at the end of the year of \$896,707 (\$1,145,414) compared to the beginning of the year of \$1,145,414 (\$2,550,729).

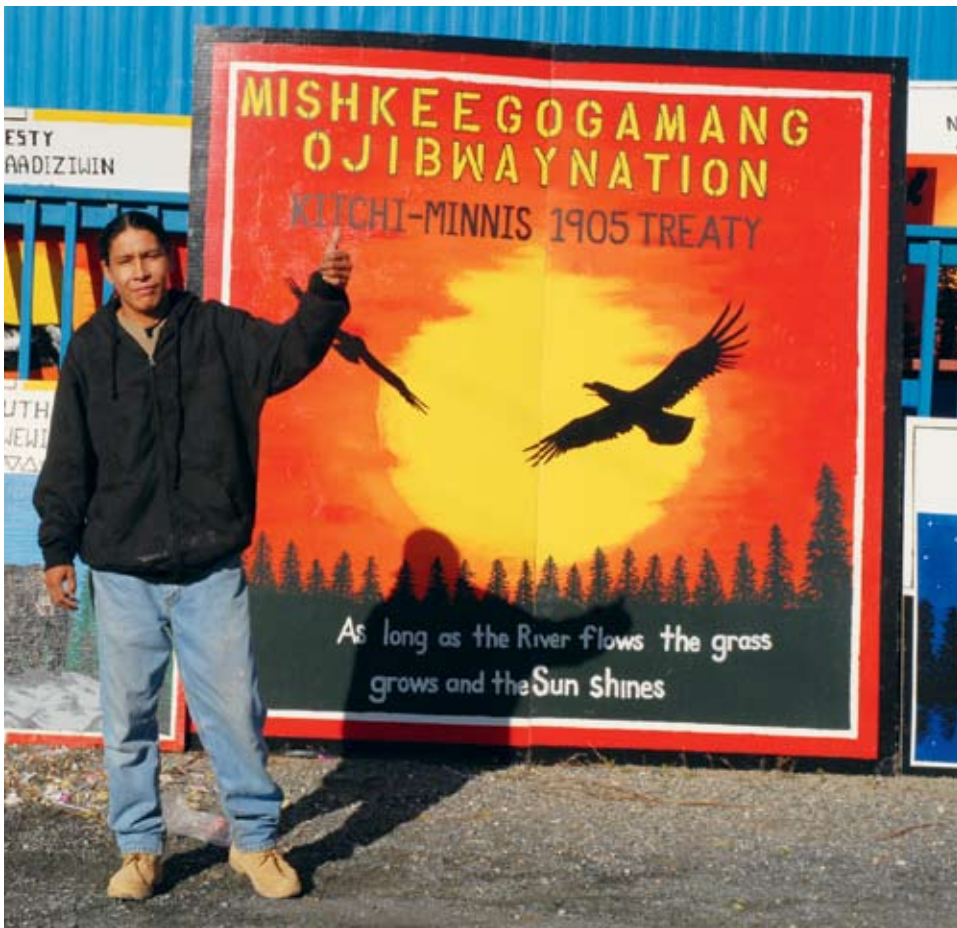
A complete audit report is available at the band office.



Cleanest yard contest. PC Gold sponsored a Cleanest Yard Contest for the community. The winners were: 1st place, \$500, Theodore Mishenene; 2nd place, \$250, Jim Kwiash and Mary; 3rd place, \$200, Steven Agoo Lawson (Ace Lake). Judges were NAPS officers.



John Wesley has been hired for dog control to deal with the many strays on the Reserve. With the nearest veterinarian being in Dryden, having dogs put down or neutered in an animal hospital is cost prohibitive. Dog control is done for the health and safety of the First Nation.



Donald Spade is a talented young artist from Mishkeegogamang, commissioned to paint many new signs for the community.



Keith Sever and his staff have built a number of small log houses on the First Nation to help alleviate the need for homes. The mobile homes expected this fall will be delayed until Spring.

Mishkeegogamang Participates in Pilot Survey

Mishkeegogamang is one of 12 North-western Ontario First Nations participating in a Statistics Canada survey. The main purpose of the survey is to learn more about how to collect good data from people living in First Nation communities. Mishkeegogamang Chief and Council granted permission to Statistics Canada to conduct the survey.

Good quality data is important for planning and decision-making, but right now there is very little data, except for basic census data, about people living in First Nations communities in Canada. Statistics Canada and other government departments are interested to learn what aspects of survey-taking are unique in First Nations communities, such as communications with community leaders

and with those who take the survey.

Some First Nations in Alberta are also part of the survey.

Two parts of the survey are already done. All houses in the community have been listed and telephone interviews have been done with some occupants. In the third part of the survey, to be done in November, a Statistics Canada employee will visit some homes in the community and ask someone in the home to answer survey questions.

All answers to the surveys are confidential. If good quality data can be collected, general results and analysis will be given to the Nishnawbe Aski Nation office. Statistics Canada wishes to express appreciation to all those Mishkeegogamang residents who participated in the survey.

Job Postings

Guards Wanted! Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service (NAPS) is presently looking for persons interested in being employed as a Guard. Guards are required whenever police need to have someone in custody. In order to be a Guard a person must do the following: 1. Obtain a Guard Application from your local NAPS Detachment. 2. Consent to a Criminal Record and "Vulnerable Sector" check for employment purposes. 3. Once the Guard Application is completed, return it to the NAPS Detachment for processing. Successful candidates will also be required to complete a Guard Training Manual and First Aid/CPR training, both of which are provided and paid for by NAPS. This training takes two days which NAPS pays candidates to attend. Approved Guards are paid \$16.00 per hour. If you are interested in applying to be a Guard please contact your local NAPS Detachment or call NAPS NW Office in Sioux Lookout at 1-800-396-6277 and speak to Cindy Siemens.

Wasaya Air Job Opportunities

Aircraft Fueller Full time Pickle Lake

Job summary: Perform all tasks related to fuelling aircraft and aircraft de-icing, ensuring daily fuel quality checks and all applicable fuelling standards, techniques and procedures are being adhered to, and other duties as assigned

Qualifications and Requirements

- Minimum Grade 10 education or equivalent and able to perform basic mathematical calculations
- Mechanical background or abilities
- Physically fit and able to perform heavy repetitive lifting, pulling and tugging
- Able to travel by air to service away-from-base equipment as required
- Able to work outdoors winter and summer, in inclement weather
- Ability to speak and understand Oji-Cree is an asset

Operational Support Personnel Full time Pickle Lake

Job Summary: Perform daily data entry and cargo inventory control functions of computerized inventory system, perform clerical and filing duties related to shipping, receiving and invoicing documents, and other duties as assigned.

Qualifications and Requirements

- Background in general office practices, preference in transportation, shipping/receiving setting
- Skill in Microsoft Office software
- Able to work in a fast-paced team setting, willing and able to learn new tasks
- Strong written and verbal communication skills
- Ability to speak and understand Oji-Cree is an asset
- Possess or demonstrate ability to obtain Restricted Radio Operators Certificate

Custodian Part Time Pickle Lake

Job Summary: Cleaning/janitorial duties at Wasaya's Pickle Lake Office.

Minimum Skills and Qualification

- Grade 12 education or equivalent
- Ability to maintain confidentiality
- Ability to work with minimal supervision
- Valid Driver's License
- Ability to prioritize workloads and meet deadlines
- Prior custodial experience would be an asset
- Must be physically able to carry 25 kg & do repetitive lifting, bending as required
- Ability to pay attention to details and procedures

Ramp Attendant, Full-Time, Pickle Lake

Job Summary: Reports to the Ramp & Warehouse Supervisor, performs demanding physical labour involving heavy repetitive lifting. Performs tasks related to aircraft loading and unloading. Assists with shipping and receiving tasks, operates a variety of Ground Service Equipment. Operates snow removal and aircraft towing equipment as needed.

Minimum Requirements:

- Valid Class "G" drivers license with acceptable drivers abstract
- Physically fit and able to perform all-season, outdoor, heavy repetitive lifting
- Able to travel occasionally with aircraft and overnight at away-from-base locations
- Ability to speak and understand Oji-Cree is an asset

For complete job descriptions, call or email Wasaya. If you are interested in any of these Wasaya positions please submit your resume and cover letter to:

Erin Anderson, HR Coordinator
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