

LDMLFN Youth Cultural Camp

On August 15-18, 2016 a group of LDMLFN Youth participated in a Cultural Camp at the Community Cultural Centre. Youth had a busy time making traditional crafts like chokers and leather medicine bags. They also learned new skills such as outdoor survival basics, fire making and snaring. Kids enjoyed swimming, sports, building new friendships, watching movies, playing bingo and other games. A highlight of the camp was the youth making their own hand-drums and learning about the significance and care of their drums. On the last day, the youth birthed their hand drums in a ceremony led by Esther Chung and Barb Osadec.



Live Free Live Righteous

LDMLFN held its summer concert event on September 4, 2016 at the Fort William Historical Park. For a second year in a row, the concert was well attended with a strong showing of support from many returning attendees. The ‘Live Free Live Righteous’ message continues to spread in the community as the concert drew many new people! Performing at the concert were DJ’s Grandtheft, Cheat Codes, Autoerotique, Shub, BlvckSheep and headliner Laidback Luke. ‘Live Free Live Righteous’ is the only music festival in the region whose mission is to promote equality, diversity and respect.



NEZAADIKAANG NEWS

*Towards a healthy and informed community*

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Community Members Gather at Annual Powwow

Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation held its Annual Powwow once again at the First Nation’s Savanne River Resort on June 24 – 26 2016. This traditional powwow continues to provide a great opportunity for families and friends from far and wide to get together and reconnect!

This year’s host and co-host drums were the Whitefish Bay Singers and Shkoday Asin. We were thrilled to have 12 drums in total come out to support this event. Other invited drums included, Nokomis, Battle Nation and Little Bear.

Due to the weather, dancers and guests gathered under the “Big Tent.” The Powwow weekend saw very hot, sunny weather mixed with thunderstorms and bursts of rain showers. Our Creator knows and provides what Mother Earth needs and we rejoiced in the celebrations!



“It is always so up-lifting to see our families come together during our Annual Powwow,” stated Chief Whitecloud. “More and more of our youth are coming out to dance and carry on with the traditions of our ancestors. It is wonderful to witness the little ones who can barely walk, out there in the circle.”

It takes months of planning, preparation and on-site help to successfully carry out a Powwow. We are grateful to all of our “team members” who continue to assist us in their various duties and responsibilities during this time. Special mention goes out to Nathaniel Moses – Powwow Emcee, Rheal Twance – Arena Director, and Gilbert Smith – Spiritual Advisor, for their commitment to our First Nation in fulfilling these roles. A huge miigwetch to all of our staff and volunteers who continue to go over and above in lending their assistance in carrying out the many tasks that make this Powwow the success that it is. A special thank you to our Powwow Co-ordinator Mike Ignace. Chi Miigwetch Team!

For the third year in a row, LDMLFN held a mini brave and princess competition. This continues to be a great opportunity to honour our young ones while helping to foster confidence, strength and community responsibility and pride. Our 2016 Mini-Brave is Kaleb McGinnis with 2nd Brave – Ethan Schooley-Zoccole. Our 2016 Mini-Princess is Phoebe Kemp with 2nd Princess – Kiera McDermid. Congratulations go out to these young and talented Powwow royalty members who will represent our First Nation at many other Powwows throughout this year. A big thank you to all of our children who came out to dance and participate in this competition!



## Upcoming Events and Programs

Don't forget to register for upcoming events and programs offered by LDMLFN.

Please contact the staff at the Band Office or visit our community website at [www.lacdesmillelacsfirstnation.ca](http://www.lacdesmillelacsfirstnation.ca) for the most up-to-date and correct information.

**Halloween Social 2016** – We are pleased to announce that our Annual Halloween Social will be held at Gammondale Farm on October 20, 2016 from 6:00-9:00 p.m. The evening will consist of various activities including crafts, horseback riding, a visit to the animal farm, hay rides, Boo Barn, and the Haunted Cornfield. Hot beverages will be served along with BBQ hot dogs, hamburgers and cake. Each family in attendance will be able to bring home a pumpkin to carve for Halloween. Everyone is encouraged to come dressed up in their Halloween costumes! For more information or to register for this event, please contact Mike Ignace at (807) 622-9835 Ext 231.

**Haunted Fort Night 2016** - Tickets have been purchased for Fort William Historical Parks “Haunted Fort Night”. The event will take place on October 22, 2016. Please contact Mike Ignace at (807) 622-9835 Ext 231 to register or if you require more information.

**Sewing Spirits 2016** – We are excited to announce that Sewing Spirits will start on September 14, 2016. We will meet on Wednesdays from 6:00-9:00 p.m. at the West Thunder Community Centre (916 Edward St. S). Sewing Spirits is a weekly gathering of community members who come together to learn and share cultural knowledge and experiences. Under the guidance of an Elder participants will take part in activities including regalia making, traditional teachings and artist demonstrations. No experience is necessary... just a desire to celebrate our Anishinaabe culture... and have fun! Please contact Marcia Pedri at (807) 622-9835 ext 233 for more information or to register.

## Celebrating Our Dads!



A great day of fun, fishing, BBQ and prizes was held to celebrate our fathers this past June. The day-long event was held at the Savanne River Resort, and the weather couldn't have been better!

Fathers, sons and family members were provided with all of the necessary equipment and gear needed to bring home some great catches and some great fishing stories! ***Chi Miigwetch to all of our fathers who continue to love and support us in life!***





### Developing Relationships Between Education, Culture and the Land

Delivered through the Lac des Mille Lacs Education Department – Alternative Education, the Cultural Education Program (CEP) is offered to any educational organization seeking to support student learning. To date, groups from Bimose High School, Ecole secondaire catholique de la Verendrye, and the Bimose FNSSP Program have participated. The programs are held on the traditional lands of LDMLFN and are 4-6 days in length. The CEPs are customized overnight cultural immersion programs, led by experienced Cultural Resource persons and are designed to support the students' curricular needs. For example, the BHS students earn Ontario high school credits in Native Studies and Outdoor Education through their school as part of their visit. The main purpose of the program is to share Indigenous knowledge and culture to support healthy student identities. Activities are focussed on experiential learning and include traditional teachings such as drum making and protocol, language activities, beading and making birch bark baskets, outdoor survival, building a sweat lodge and shelter, snowshoe hikes and fur harvesting, just to name a few. As a successful program, the CEP generates revenue for the First Nation through the usage of the Cultural Complex and programming provided.

**Please note:** The majority of the CEP bookings for students are scheduled from the months of January to April. The First Nation has committed the summer months to our Elders and their families for the use of the Community Cultural Complex, and they will take precedence in scheduling. Please contact Mike Ignace at 807.622.9835 ext 232 to book your time at the CCC.



### 2016 Elder's Gathering a Great Event!

Our Annual Elder's Gathering is held to honour and celebrate our community Elders. Chi Miigwetch to our Elders Council Members for their continued support and guidance in planning this event. Our appreciation and recognition goes out to our sitting Elders Council members: Ernie Boyes, Amelia Crawley, Roy Ignace, Gladys Mychasiw, Frances Shebobman and Bill Tenniscoe.

This three-day event was held to coincide with the community powwow so that our out-of-town Elders could attend both celebrations. Throughout this time, Elders participated in a number of fun, cultural and recreational activities including a ceremony and BBQ at the Roundhouse and Community Cultural Centre, a dinner feast with entertainment by Aboriginal Comedian Don Burnstick and Family Bingo. The gathering closed in a good way with a sharing circle of our Elders, who expressed what was in their hearts to our Creator-God, and to their fellow assembled Elders. Miigwetch to local Elder Isabelle Mercier for her teachings and gentle spirit. There were many happy faces, laughter, hugs and good medicine shared during this time!



From the Office of Chief and Council

**Boozhoo to our Membership and Families!** We hope that all of our family members are in good health and spirits and are enjoying the long and hot summer days! Along with the warm weather, summer also brings vacation time. We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank our staff for all of their hard work and dedication to the First Nation and say “job well-done!” Please find a few key updates that we would like to communicate to our membership.

Annual General Meeting

Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation held its Annual General Membership Meeting at the Airline Hotel on June 17, 2016. After holding our AGM for the past three years at our Administration Office, it was decided that we would require more space this year due to the important milestones being reached by the First Nation and the anticipated increase in numbers attending. Keeping in mind that we have a duty and responsibility to provide a safe and harassment-free environment where our members, families, staff and invited presenters could gather, we chose this location along with taking the necessary safety precautions. We are happy to report that it was a very respectful and informative meeting.

We were very pleased that so many of our families came out to receive key information regarding Band business. In order to accommodate the busy schedules of our families and invited presenters, this year we followed a format that provided several timeslots for our members to attend. This format consisted of sessions held in different rooms at set times, so that our members could choose to attend at their convenience. We also provided a common social area where family members could rest, eat and visit with each other. We had an excellent turnout of our membership.

During this time, our Band Members were able to attend detailed and informative presentations regarding the community land base development, the previous year’s financial report and audit, and the Flood Claim Settlement. Members not only received information, but also had the opportunity to ask questions of their Chief and Council and visiting professionals (lawyers, auditors, INAC representatives, Negotiation Team experts, etc.) who continue to perform important work for the Band. Due to the sensitive and confidential nature of information pertaining to the Flood Claim and the Band’s financials, these sessions were open only to registered Band Members; however, non-registered family members were welcome in both the social area and the community land development sessions.

Please note that information regarding the Band’s audit is readily available in the ‘Members Only’ section of the website. You are also welcome to contact your Chief and Council in order to receive any updates missed at this meeting. A special Chi Miigwetch to Elder Isabelle Mercier for providing spiritual support through her prayers and drum songs during the day.

From the Office of Chief and Council (continued)

Micro Solar Grid

Earlier this year the LDMFLN received approval of their proposal, which was submitted to the Small Communities Fund. This proposal supports the construction of a Solar Micro Grid, which will provide power to the Cultural Complex and Roundhouse, in order to assist in getting these two buildings off of diesel generator power. Administration is in the process of finalizing an agreement with Jazz Solar Solutions for the construction of the micro grid. Our goal is to begin site preparation in late October and to have the grid construction commence shortly thereafter.

Housing Lots

The surveying of the lots and roadways in the re-established Community Site has now been completed. We are awaiting the final drawings of the survey in order that the First Nation can submit the plan to AANDC-INAC for approval. Our Housing Committee has been working very hard at summarizing the recent survey responses and finalizing the policies. It is anticipated that the Housing Committee will soon be able to put forward a final draft of the policies for Chief and Council to review and approve. A suggested avenue for lot allocation will be brought forward based on survey responses from the membership and made in the best interests of the community as a whole. Miigwetch for your participation, interest and commitment to repatriating our people with their homelands.

In Closing...

As our membership is aware, in our determination and efforts to become a self-sustaining and progressively autonomous Community, we are forging ahead with various economic development projects and proposals. Although we greatly look forward to closure and settlement of our Flooding Claim, we are still actively pursuing other potential revenue generating streams and opportunities. As we have reported in previous newsletters and communiques, we have been actively involved in Forestry (Dallan Forestry LP); Mining (Agnico Eagle Resource Sharing Agreement); Energy (Jazz Solar), and are proactively searching out any Economic Development project within our Traditional Territories. Please see the announcement on Wataynikaneyap Power partnership in the ‘News’ section of our website, [www.lacdesmillelacsfirstnation.ca](http://www.lacdesmillelacsfirstnation.ca). We, as your Chief and Council, believe that becoming financially independent is key to realizing our vision of a better future for our First Nation, for our children and for the generations to come. Miigwetch