

LDMLFN Education Update

The LDMLFN Cultural Education Program continues to offer Anishinaabe Cultural Camps to interested school boards in our area. Students have the opportunity to participate in hands on learning with an emphasis on Indigenous ways of knowing and doing. The focus of the program remains the promotion of our culture and fostering of strong personal identities. Groups of high school students from the local French Catholic board and Kenora's Bimose High School have participated in a week of cultural immersion activities in order to earn a Native Studies Credit.



Upcoming programs include: LDMLFN Youth Wellness Retreat, LDMLFN Youth Cultural Camp, BHS Outdoor Education Program and more to come.

Upcoming Youth Wellness Workshop- Reminder to Register!

In partnership with Bimose Tribal Council, a Youth Wellness Workshop will be held on March 25-26 at the Community Cultural Complex. LDMFLN Students aged 13-21 are welcome to register for one of 10 spots for this weekend event. Activities, food, accommodation, and transportation from Thunder Bay to LDMLFN will be included. Agenda will be available soon. Space is limited so please contact Rikka Berkan (Education) at (807) 622-9835 ext 232 or by email



NEZAADIKAANG NEWS

Towards a healthy and informed community

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Christmas Activities Draw Greatest Number of Community Members To Date!

The holiday season is a wonderful time for Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation band and community members to come together to visit, share a meal, laugh and participate in different activities that help strengthen our relationships!

This year's Christmas activities drew the greatest number of our membership, to date! People came from many places to participate in our Annual Feast, Children's Afternoon with Santa and the Christmas Craft and Bake Night.

The annual festivities started out with our children and their family members gathering at the Victoria Inn to partake in a number of fun activities organized by our Administrative Staff.

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Children spent the afternoon entertained with Christmas crafts and playing fun games! These included, “the hot potato gift exchange” and the delightful, annual group competition where team members pair up to decorate chosen individuals as a “human Christmas tree!” Children also took turns having a visit with the big guy himself and were happy to receive their own special gift!

The Christmas cheer carried forward to the Sunday evening, where our Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation families and invited guests filled the banquet room to capacity at the Victoria Inn. After the opening drumming and songs (both our hand drums and big drum were present), prayers and remarks, everyone feasted on a wonderful spread of food prepared by the hotel chefs and staff. There were loads and heaps of smiles, hugs and good will spread to all!



Families had the opportunity to visit and socialize and our Elders each took turns receiving a special gift from Santa. All of our Elders in attendance also received their annual frozen turkey.

This year all of our Band Members— young and old—received a special gift from Chief and Council to help our families out at this joyous time, in the hopes that they could have an enjoyable and safe Festive Season!

Reminder to all band and community members, don't forget to register for the following upcoming events!

On Saturday March 11, 2017, we will be holding our annual Health Fair and Diabetes Workshop

Time: noon to 5 p.m.
Location: Valhalla Inn, Thunder Bay, ON

Presentations on NIHB Benefits, Cancer Screening, Diabetes Care. Door prizes, Bingo, Refreshments and Children's Crafts!

MARCH BREAK ACTIVITIES

Mon March 13: Bowling at Mario's Bowl

Tues March 14: Skating

Wed March 15: Movie - Silvercity

If you and your family would like to attend any of these events, please contact:

Marcia Pedri, Health Director
807-622-9835 ex. 233
Mike Ignace, Community Wellness Worker
807-622-9835 ex. 231

Remember to stay up-to-date on all upcoming events by visiting our website at www.lacdesmillelacsfirstnation.ca

Training and Development Opportunities

We have made arrangements for “A Canadian Firearms Safety Course” to be held for our members through the Red Sky Métis Independent Nation.

Location: 406 East Victoria Avenue

Dates: March 4 & 5, 2017

Time: 9 am to 3:30 pm

Please note there is no charge for enrolled Band Members. Seating is limited so please contact Mark Berkan (ex.226) or Mike Ignace (ex. 232) at the Band Office to register as soon as possible: (807) 622-9835.

Attention to All Community Members Who Trap

It has come to the Band's attention that there are trap lines within our territory that are currently available. If you are interested in trapping opportunities, or for information on how to apply for one of these traplines, please contact Mark Berkan (ex. 226) at the Band Office.



A Message from Your Chief and Council *(Continued)*

Community Housing Update

After much work, review, and re-drafting, the Housing Committee submitted a final draft of the Housing Policy and Bylaws to Chief and Council in late fall. This document was also sent to Roxanne Harper from Turtle Island Associates. Ms. Harper is a professional in the field of First Nation Housing and in the implementation of housing policies. We have recently received positive and constructive feedback from Turtle Island on our policy and a follow-up meeting is scheduled in February 2017. Once the final policy is ready and no longer considered a draft, it will be presented to the community.

We would like to thank our band and community members for their ongoing patience. It is extremely important that we proceed thoughtfully and carefully so that we arrive at a fair, comprehensive and functional policy that will work for our community. Please note that the process for the allocation of lots will be included in this policy. Note: No lots have been allocated yet; therefore, please be advised that there is to be no unauthorized work or clearing of land at this time.

As some of our lots may fall within close proximity of the proposed Easement, we have waited to send in our document and plan of surveyed lots to ANDC. Once the Easement is finalized and signed off on, we will submit the document. We thank you for your participation and patience. Your input at our AGM and via the filled out surveys was invaluable. This enabled the First Nation to take into consideration and ultimately move ahead with the majority of our member’s preferences and suggestions while drafting these policies.

We are looking forward to finalizing the policy with our community in the upcoming months. The lottery for the allocation of building lots will follow shortly thereafter. We are very pleased to say that we have been working on the First Nations commitment to infrastructure by way of wells or pump houses, septic fields, and culverts at the entranceways for each lot. Safety is a priority for your Chief and Council. This commitment from Council enables our members to enjoy safe drinking water and the safe containment and disposal of wastewater. The comments that we received from Turtle Island Associates regarding our draft policies and planned approach to redeveloping our reserve lands, have encouraged us and we know that we are on the right path for our people to return to their homelands in a good, positive way.

The date for the community meeting will be announced as soon as we receive confirmation from Ms. Harper of her availability. We will then have another meeting for all members who submitted their “letters of interest” for a lot. This year will see much activity on our reserve lands and we will again be sure to Feast our Lands this spring, before the buds start to bloom. Chi Miigwetch



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Christmas Craft and Bake Night

Following the Afternoon with Santa and the Christmas Feast, a Christmas Craft & Bake Night was organized for our families.

Fun activities that promoted family interaction and relationship-building were facilitated by our Health Staff and community volunteers. Participants baked a large variety of Christmas



goodies, and made holiday wreaths from fresh cedar and spruce and other festive materials!

Children enjoyed a number of fun crafts with their family members and friends!



For more information or to suggest a story for the next issue, please contact your Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation Band Office at (807) 622-9835 and leave your name and contact information.
www.lacsdesmillelacsfirstnation.ca

A Message From Your Chief and Council

Boozhoo to all of our Members,

As you are all aware, our Flood Claim was accepted for negotiations in 2009 by Canada and the Province of Ontario. The Negotiation Team has been at the table since September of 2009. It has been a very long and exhausting 7½ years that we have endured in order to bring this claim to closure. Given that the average length of time spent negotiating claims is approximately 19 years, we are very proud to say to our members that this claim has been negotiated in a most professional manner and within an unprecedented timeframe. We are the first of 15 flood claims in Treaty #3 to finalize negotiations with both Canada and Ontario.

I am happy and excited to inform you that we have reached the stage whereby our members can now vote on the negotiated Settlement Agreement of our Flood Claim – Reserve 22A1. After years of dedicated effort and hard work, it is a tremendous achievement to be able to provide our people with this Settlement Agreement. While no amount of money can ever adequately compensate us as individuals, families, and a community for what we have been through, we do believe that this Settlement Agreement reflects a fair and acceptable offer. It is our hope that this settlement will provide some healing and comfort to our community members.

As our members get ready to cast their ballot, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the members of our Negotiation team for their dedication and commitment to the First Nation in this huge endeavour. It is a fantastic accomplishment and we will be forever thankful for all of their assistance in reaching this milestone.

I would also like to thank each and every one of our members for their patience, understanding and support that they have provided throughout this entire process. Your prayers, encouragement and faith in what we are doing have helped us to persevere and keep up with this exhausting pace.

Finally, I would like to say Miigwetch to our Creator, God, for His guidance, strength and infinite, unending love for His people. Our families have never given up hope and have always believed that this day would come. This day is here!

Chief J. Whitecloud Maunula