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LAC DES MILLE LACS FIRST NATION SEPTEMBER 2011 NEWSLETTER

Boozhoo Membership and Families

Hoping this Newsletter finds you all in good health! What a beautiful summer we have enjoyed thus far with hot and sunny weather for most of the season. It has been a very busy time for the Administration as you can see from the following information and updates regarding our First Nation.

Chi Miigwetch to all of our Committee Members and Volunteers that helped make this year's Pow Wow on July 23, 24, 25, 2011 such a wonderful event! We had a fantastic time with many visitors, dancers and drum groups from neighbouring First Nation Communities. Thank you to all who came out, supported and enjoyed this important part of our culture.

ABORIGINAL ARTS EDUCATION PROJECT

With a grant received from the Ontario Arts Council in January 2011, the Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation completed our "**Sewing Spirits**" project over a five month period. The project was designed so that Community members could learn more about Traditional Regalia, ceremonies, cultural teachings and how to make their own regalia. Spearheaded by Celeste and Marcia Pedri, regalia making workshops were held on a weekly basis at the Band Office with excellent results and participation! Plans are being made for "Sewing Spirits – Part 2" in the early new year!

CAPITAL PLANNING STUDY

JR Cousins, the engineering firm that is preparing the Capital Planning Study for the Community, is in the final stages of completing the study. Chief and Council were hopeful that the firm would have this completed prior to the upcoming AGM. We have been informed by JR Cousins that they were having difficulty engaging a company with an auger type drill to complete the soil sampling that must be done as part of the project. It has now been confirmed that they have been able to book a drill rig for late October, 2011 and that they should have the entire Study completed in time for us to present to the membership at our next Quarterly Membership Meeting in December.

SPECIAL CEREMONIES

As we are nearing the completion of our capital planning study and before any construction occurred, we sought the direction of Spiritual Advisors from Treaty #3 territory. As a result of those meetings, we were instructed that Special ceremonies needed to first take place to ensure that the lands where building would be occurring on were "clean" and free from any sacred areas and to ensure the preservation of all our values.

Special ceremonies were held in late spring on 22A1 at our Gathering Area, regarding the upcoming plans to rebuild on our reserve. We had a number of our own elders on hand to participate and witness the direction our ancestors relayed to us. We are pleased to announce that our ancestors welcome us back on the land and we have been given the go ahead to commence with the rebuilding of our Community!

LAC DES MILLE LACS FIRST NATION ROUNDHOUSE

As announced by Chief White Cloud at our 2011 Elders Gathering and with the blessing of the elders in attendance, the first permanent building to be constructed on 22A1 will be one of great cultural and spiritual significance to us---a Roundhouse. As the First Nation moves forward with the rebuilding of our community, this building and surrounding area will provide a very significant place for Spiritual Ceremonies to be held, for teachings to be provided by the Elders, for training purposes and for important Community meetings. As most are aware, construction of the building began on August 18th, 2011 and we are hopeful that the contractor will be completing the exterior construction by late October 2011. The Roundhouse is being constructed out of Red Pine Logs and is 70 feet by 70 feet with 13 sides to it. This will be a magnificent building and area that our members and families can be extremely proud of when it is completed. This is a Community building that all of our members and families can enjoy and benefit from. Plans for an official grand opening will be made once the building and area is complete. With weather timelines, this is projected to occur next spring.

Chief and Council request the co-operation of the membership during the construction of the Roundhouse by acknowledging that this is a Construction site and safety is always at the forefront. We encourage our members and families who are visiting at the site to respect all safety precautions, regulations and guidelines that all must follow and adhere to. As well, all necessary insurance is in place for such a large project.

If you do visit at the site, please ask to speak with Cliff Hagen, the contractor building the Roundhouse, before entering into the actual building for safety reasons. Cliff and his work crew are available on site. Hagen Contracting has built numerous Roundhouses in a number of our sister Treaty #3 First Nations, and comes highly recommended.

If members so desire, visits can be arranged through the band office and transportation provided along with a tour of the area. Please leave your name and number with Danielle.

UPGRADES TO ACCESS ROAD – 22A1

We are pleased to announce to our membership that upgrades to the entire access road to 22A1 are underway and should be completed this fall. Please use caution when on our road as heavy equipment will be in use. In order to bring this road up to a Secondary standard level, we are putting down a six inch layer of gravel on the entire road. This is also to prepare for more traffic volume that comes with the rebuilding and repatriating of our Community.

OSISKO MINING CORPORATION

As reported to the membership in 2010, the Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation signed a Resource Sharing Agreement with Osisiko Mining Corporation in relation to their proposed Osisiko Hammond Reef Gold Mine project. Advanced exploration continues on the Hammond Reef site

and it has been confirmed that there is sufficient gold in the deposit to justify the construction of an open-pit mine on the property. Projections are that Osisko would begin the construction and development stage in 2012. An Environmental Assessment of the proposed project began in the summer of 2011.

As reported previously, the Resource Sharing Agreement that is in place calls for Osisko to provide employment opportunities respecting the Hammond Reef project where possible and commercially reasonable. Members of the locally surrounding First Nation Communities will take priority respecting employment opportunities so long as they meet the requisite skills, education, experience and job qualifications of a particular position. In our Administrations' efforts to ensure that the Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation is prepared for calls for employment opportunities and contracts we are continuing to build our Community's Skills Inventory. It is expected that, once the Environmental Assessment is completed, the Osisko Mining Corporation will have numerous opportunities available in many fields. We should also mention here that it is projected that the construction stage of the mine site will take four years and the expected life of the mine at this point in time is 20 years. Job opportunities (full or part-time) that become available could last until the deposit is depleted and the mine goes through the closure stage. With this information at hand it is projected that the entire project could last over a 25 to 30 year time span.

With a complete Skills Inventory on-hand the Administration Office will be able to contact and notify interested individuals of the openings. We would like to take this opportunity once again to request that all interested members, employed or otherwise, submit an up-dated resume to the Administration Office to the attention of Bruce Barber, our Consultation Technician, who is preparing our Skills Inventory. Note: all resumes are welcomed, not only those pertaining to the mining industry.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

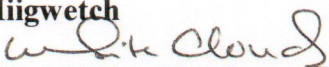
The Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation will be holding its Annual General Membership Meeting on October 15th, 2011 from 12:00 to 4:30 p.m. at the Airline Motor Hotel in Thunder Bay. Meyers Norris Penny and Don Morrison - Bimose Tribal Council, will be in attendance to present the 2010/2011 Audit. There will also be a number of other presentations during the meeting.

CONGRATULATIONS – NICHOLAS ANDREWS

Nicholas Andrews, grandson of Elder Celine Biver and son of Carole Andrews, was a member of the under 16 BC provincial Rugby Team that competed this past July in Calgary at the National Rugby Championships. Nicholas's Team BC came away with the Gold Medal. The Administration of the Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation wish to say that we are proud of your achievement and to have been able to support you. CONGRATULATIONS NICHOLAS!

Please read the enclosed materials regarding upcoming Community Events and Mapping of our Cultural Future. Have a great fall and we look forward to seeing you at our community events!

Miigwetch


Chief White Cloud