

Lac Des Mille Lacs First Nation

Head Office - Reserves 22A1/22A2

Mailing Address

1100 Memorial Ave, Suite 328 Thunder Bay, ON P7B 4A3
Telephone: 807-622-9835
Toll Free: 1-888-573-0168

Fax: 807-622-9866

Office email: ldmlfn@tbaytel.net

NEWSLETTER - August 2012

Boozhoo Membership and Families,

We apologize for the interruption in regular Newsletters being sent out this summer as it has been a very busy time for the Administration. As you are aware, we went through a lengthy Election process this spring/summer and following the close of the Election on June 8th 2012, had to allow time for the Appeal process. An appeal was filed by one of our members and following the Code that appeal was handled by the appointed adjudicator who has notified us that there were no grounds to advance the appeal, therefore it was denied. The Administration awaited this decision before preparing this Newsletter to send out.

ELECTION 2012

The 2012 Election of the Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation saw the return of Chief White Cloud (Judy Maunula), Councillor Tracy Morrison, Councillor Irma Churchill and Councillor Laura Ewing (Shebobman) for another three year term as well as our newest Councillor Carmel Zoccole. Congratulations! The People of Lac des Mille Lacs have spoken! Thank you to all candidates who participated in the election. A copy of the Electoral Officer's report is included in this package.

LDMLFN 2012 ELDERS GATHERING

This year's LDMLFN Elders Gathering was held May 25, 26 and 27 and was a huge success with a total of 67 Elders being registered to take part in the Gathering here in Thunder Bay. Friday, May 25th was set aside for a road trip to our new Roundhouse for the Elders. During the early morning hours of the 25th of May the Thunder Bay area experienced the worst rain storm witnessed in 50 years and by 6:00 a.m. the banks of the Matawan River had overflowed right up to the highways' edge. There was a great concern that the Happy Time Tour buses that were chartered to take our Elders to the Roundhouse would not be able to get through and that the First Nation's Access Road to Reserve 22A1 would not be passable. The Creator was watching over us and our Access Road stood up to the test and was in surprisingly good shape, while hundreds of side-roads, forest access roads and parts of Hwy 11-17 experienced wash-outs and road closures. This is a testament to the excellent road construction techniques employed by the late Jim Vibert of Upsala and our Band Administrator who together engineered the construction of the Access Road in 2005 and 2006.

Our Elders were able to enjoy the Opening Ceremonies of our newly constructed Roundhouse and a feast of fish, moose meat, wild rice, corn and bannock. Many thanks to Elders Francis Kavanaugh and Gilbert Smith for performing the Opening Ceremonies as our elders returned to our homeland.

On Saturday, May 26th the selection of the Elders Council was held at the Victoria Inn. Congratulations again to returning members of the Elders Council: Louis Sawdo, Margaret Savage, Ernie Boyes, Shirley Chapman/Churchill, Gladys Mychasiw and welcome to newest Elder Council member Julia Rusnak. Thank you to Shirley Sheboboman for serving on the last Elders Council term.

On Saturday evening a Feast was held that was open to all Community members and was followed by an evening of entertainment and dancing with music being provided by the "Amazing Hot Rods." Music from the 1950's and 60's was totally enjoyed by everyone in attendance. We look forward to seeing you all again at next year's Elders Gathering!

COMMUNITY CULTURAL COMPLEX

Now that the Roundhouse has been completed, the Administration is pleased to announce that plans are underway to construct the next phase of development on Reserve 22A1, which will be a Community Cultural Complex. This project will see the development of a Complex overlooking the Roundhouse and surrounding outdoor kitchen area. It will provide a setting where our Elders can return to the land first before any other individual homes are built by the membership.

The construction will consist of 10 units, which will accommodate an elder and either their partner or family member. The complex will also house a common sitting area, kitchen, showers, and outdoor decking. It is hoped that our elders will be able to stay in these units between the months of May and September on a first come - first serve reservation basis, at absolutely no charge. The First Nation is pleased to offer this opportunity to our Elders so that they can be the first ones back on the land, in a safe and secure setting. Please watch for further details on this endeavour as construction begins.

LDMLFN FLOOD CLAIM NEGOTIATIONS

It has been brought to the attention of the Administration that there are erroneous rumors circulating that the Crown has made an offer of settlement regarding our Flooding Claim. We would like to advise our membership that this is not the case and that the negotiations with the Federal and Provincial Crowns are on-going and progressing at an excellent pace.

There are presently 13 other First Nation Communities within the Treaty #3 territory involved in negotiations with the Crown and we are told that the LDMLFN negotiations are much further advanced than any other table. This is due in large part to the very hard work of our Community's Negotiating Team and the experts that are working on our behalf. Our Survey and Land Appraisal studies will be completed by the end of October 2012 and this information is necessary for the Crown to be able to make an informed offer to the Community. Chi Miigwetch to all of those that make up our Negotiations Team for their much appreciated dedication!

We are pleased to announce that we have recently been informed by the Crown that they are looking at being in a position to table an offer to the LDMLFN in the late spring or early summer of 2013. Enclosed as confirmation as to the status of our negotiations, you will find a letter we received from the Federal Crown's lead negotiator. Rest assured, we will continue to advance this flood claim to bring the people the very best possible settlement.

LDMLFN CAPITAL PLANNING STUDY

We are in the final stages of the DRAFT Capital Planning Study's review of Reserve 22A1 by AANDC (INAC) staff. The regional engineer from Bimose Tribal Council is assisting our Administration in the review process. It is hoped that the plan will be given approval by INAC with little or no revisions necessary. The first step following acceptance will be the surveying of lots for housing development. It is expected that the surveying will commence in late spring/early summer of 2013. More information will follow as the review is completed. There will also be a need for a Housing Committee to be formed. Interested individuals are asked to submit their name, along with any pertinent job experience and/or qualifications.

BENDING LAKE IRON – JOSEPHINE CONE MINE

Bending Lake Iron has submitted their Draft Terms of Reference to the Government for an Environmental Assessment and our Administration is also working closely with Bending Lake Iron officials in the development of a Memorandum of Understanding. The proposed Josephine Cone Iron Ore Mine site is located within the Traditional Territories of our First Nation and once the company gets through the Environmental Assessment there will also be job opportunities available to members. The proposed site is south-east of Wabigoon Lake, near Ignace ON.

OSISKO HAMMOND REEF – GOLD PROJECT

The Osisko Hammond Gold Reef project has now entered into the Environmental Assessment process. The advanced drilling exploration at Hammond Reef has been completed and test results confirm a feasible amount of gold to warrant the development of a mine. It is expected that the Environmental Assessment and the permitting process for the mine will take approximately 12 to 15 months. Osisko Mining Corporation expects to go to construction of the mine site sometime in 2013, once the Environmental Assessment is completed. A huge thank you to our First Nation Elders that have participated in the Land Use information gathering workshops that Osisko has held to date.

We anticipate that there will be numerous job opportunities available once mine construction begins. We encourage those members with an interest of gaining employment during the construction and operation of the mine to submit resumes to the attention of Bruce Barber in our Administration office, so that we can contact you when we are made aware of the opportunities.

Please note that your Administration has been working closely with a number of construction, electrical and manufacturing companies to enter into partnerships, so that we will be in a position to bid on projects during the construction and life of the mine.

JOB OPPORTUNITY – PROJECT MANAGER

We are currently looking to fill a **Project Management** position within the First Nation. A detailed job description is available at the Band Office with an anticipated immediate start date. As our First Nation is moving forward with the redevelopment of the Community on Reserve 22A1, this individual will supply the necessary qualifications and experience needed to assist in project management of the Reserve. All interested, qualified band and community members are asked to submit their curriculum vitae and letter of interest to the attention of Chief and Council at their earliest opportunity.

JOB OPPORTUNITY – RESORT MANAGER

We are looking to fill a **Resort Management** position to conduct the daily operations of the First Nation's owned Savanne River Resort. With a steady clientele of guests in the fishing and hunting seasons, the need for a full-time position is necessary. All interested, qualified band and community members are asked to submit their curriculum vitae and letter of interest to the attention of Chief and Council at their earliest opportunity. A detailed job description is available at the Band Office. It is expected that this position will involve an extended on-the-job training period.

JOB OPPORTUNITY – HEALTH WORKER

We are looking to fill the position of **Health Worker** within our First Nation. Interested, qualified individuals are asked to submit a Letter of Interest accompanied by an up-to-date resume to the attention of the Band Administrator. A detailed job description is available at the Band Office. It is expected that this position will commence October 1st, 2012.

Note: Should interest or qualified band or community member applicants prove to be lacking in any of the above three posted positions, the First Nation will then proceed to advertise externally.

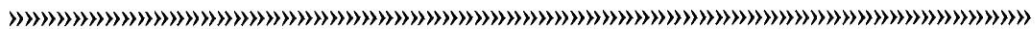
NEW WEBSITE

Our staff members have been working diligently towards the building of a new First Nation Website which we hope to launch by the end of September 2012. The new LDMLFN Website will contain the following: Community Information, Details on the First Nation's Programs, Upcoming Events Calendar, Archived Newsletters Section, Photo Gallery, Video Gallery, A "Members Only" area, and a link to an "Official Lac des Mille Lacs Members" Page. It is anticipated that it will be more user friendly with regular up-dates by Administrative Assistant Bruce Barber. Although this will be a new website, it will continue under the pre-existing domain of <http://www.lacdesmillelacsfirstnation.ca> Details on access will be mailed out to the membership once it is launched.

Further input or suggestions as to what you would like to see in the website is encouraged. Please direct your calls to Bruce Barber extension 229.

HST POINT-OF-SALE EXEMPTION

There is information included in this package related to the HST Point-of-Sale Exemption for tax paid on cable, internet and telephones. If you have been paying these taxes on your bills, there is an opportunity for you to fill out claim forms and be re-imbursed. Remember that you must have your receipts of payment. Our office will be able to assist you with the filling out of the related forms should you require assistance in doing so. Please contact Danielle @ extension 232 for assistance.



Miigwetch! For additional information on any of the above, please feel free to contact either Chief White Cloud, Councillor Irma Churchill, or Band Administrator Quentin Snider at the Band Office.