

## Lac Des Mille Lacs First Nation



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## FEBRUARY 2012 NEWSLETTER

### Boozhoo Membership

Hoping that this Newsletter finds all of our membership and families in good health following the Christmas and Holiday Season! It has been an enjoyable winter thus far in Northwestern Ontario with unusually mild temperatures. We, at the Administration Office are hoping for an early and warm spring.

With the New Year already a month upon us, we wanted to take this opportunity to inform the membership of some important initiatives that the Administration is working on and of some of the upcoming events that are planned for 2012.

### LDMLFN Roundhouse

As we move ever closer to the realization of the vision and journey of re-establishing our Community on Reserve 22A1, Chief White Cloud and Council believed that it was important and most fitting that the first Community Building built was the Roundhouse. Our Roundhouse represents the very core of our Culture and will be a place for teaching, gatherings, ceremonies and meetings for the Community. This Community structure signifies the return of our people after more than half a century of being flooded off our lands.

Chief and Council are very pleased to announce that the construction of our beautiful Roundhouse has taken place and that there are only 3 weeks of minor work left to do (early this spring) for completion. Included in the landscaping of this area, are walking paths, a ceremonial fire pit, two outdoor ovens/fireplace, and sheltered sitting areas. Our membership have much reason to be proud of this area and it is anticipated that much use of this area will occur. The Official Grand Opening of the Roundhouse will take place on Friday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

Once the work is completed on the Roundhouse and landscaping at the end of May 2012, our next planned project is the construction of an eight-unit Elders Complex. This building will sit overlooking the Roundhouse and be located to close proximity of the gathering area. The units will be seasonal in nature and available to our Elders from May to October yearly. It is also projected that we will have staff on-site at these times while the units are being used by our Elders. Our Elders are our teachers and keepers of our culture and history. It is only fitting that they be located closest to our Roundhouse and Gathering area, and most importantly that they are the first ones to actually go back to live on the land.

### Lac des Mille Lacs Access Road – 22A1

Chief and Council determined that improvements to our Access Road were necessary with the increase in traffic to the Roundhouse and surrounding area. For those that do not know, our Roundhouse is located at the very end of our Access Road in the Sand Point area. Improvements were made during the late fall with the road being upgraded and deemed to be in excellent shape and safe for our members to regularly travel on.

As well, in an effort to ensure that the road is maintained on a regular basis the Administration has been successful and received approval of a 50/50 Cost Share Maintenance Agreement with the Ministry of Transportation and Communications. This agreement ensures regular grading and snowplowing of our Access Road and is scheduled to commence in April 2012.

## **2012 Elders Gathering**

Over the past three years we have hosted our Elders Gathering on or about the third weekend in April, which has fallen close to the Easter Holiday. As instructed by our Elder's Council, this year's Elders Gathering will be held later so that our Elders can take part in the Opening Ceremonies of our Roundhouse. An Invitation and Registration package will be mailed out to the Elders in the very near future and we request that the Elders reply and confirm their registration as soon as is possible following receipt of their packages so that we can make all of the necessary arrangements for them in a timely manner. Plans are underway for an exciting and event-filled weekend!

## **Election Year – June 2012**

As dictated by our Custom Leadership Selection/Election Code, there will be an election for all Council positions (Chief and 4 Councillors) of the Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation in June 2012. All members of legal voting age that have their mailing addresses on file will be receiving notification from an Electoral Officer of the Election call. The Administration would like to request the assistance of members in ensuring that our mailing list is as up to date and accurate as possible, as this list is given to the Electoral Officer to send out the packages. Please call Honey at the Administration office with any address or mailing changes.

## **Capital Planning Study**

We have been notified by the engineering firm of J.R. Cousins that they expect to have the Capital Planning Study completed and ready for submission to the First Nation by the end of February 2012. Once in receipt of the final report, Chief and Council will then have to review the findings with INAC for their approval of the Plan. Following this process, the Plan will then be brought to the membership for acceptance and approval. It was determined that our quarterly meeting will coincide with this final report, and will take place at that time. The First Nation will require a Project Manager for this huge endeavour and ask for qualified, interested members to send in their curriculum vitae at their earliest convenience.

## **LDMLFN Skills Inventory**

In an effort to ensure that the Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation is prepared for calls regarding employment and contracts, our Administration continues to develop a Skills Inventory for our Community. Our First Nation has been gathering information on the specific education, certifications and qualifications of Community members that have sent in their resumes. This information is very useful to have to assist in decision making and assessing opportunities. We are requesting that any band/community member(s) who may have an interest in employment opportunities that we become aware of, forward their information to Bruce Barber, who maintains the files. With such an Inventory on-hand, we will be able to contact and notify interested members when opportunities for training and/or employment are brought to our attention. Whether you are presently employed or not we would still like to include you in the Inventory for our Community. We have been pleased to assist 15 members during the 2011 year in gaining access to training and employment from our Skills Inventory list.

Note: the Skills Inventory will also be of great importance in the re-development of our community infrastructure on 22A1 and/or First Nation building projects. The First Nation asks for all qualified, interested members who are interested in the above, to send in their resume or curriculum vitae to the attention of Quentin Snider. Any/all skilled trades are invited and encouraged to do so.

## **Diamond Driller Helper Training Course**

For those interested, Con College will be running a Diamond Drillers Helper Training Course in May 2012. An Application Form is enclosed. Please return as soon as is possible so that we can work with the Con College Staff in securing seats for our members. The course consists of a fifteen day presentation and takes place in the Upsala area, possibly out of the Outland Reforestation Firesteel Camp where the trainees will be housed and fed. Once applications are turned in to the College, the applicants will be interviewed either in person or by telephone by the College Training Staff. On graduation day there are normally a number of Exploration Company representatives on hand with job opportunities available.

## **Prospector Training**

If there are any members interested in receiving Prospector Training, the First Nation is able to participate and arrange for such training. This course consists of a five day workshop that provides the necessary credentials for members to obtain specific positions in the geo-technical field with mining exploration companies that are presently operating within our Traditional Territories. Interested community members are asked to send in a letter of interest or contact Bruce Barber on the above initiative.

## **S.R.R. Boats & Motors**

The First Nation owned Savanne River Resort is in the process of up-grading some of its older rental boats and motors. The Resort will be purchasing four (4) new upgraded boats and motors and selling off the four (4) older ones. Chief and Council have decided that they would like to offer the membership first choice in purchasing one of these used models. They are sixteen feet Lunds, with 20 H.P. Mercury Motors that have been regularly serviced and in good condition, all motors being 1999 or 2000 models. Members are reminded that they do not come with trailers. Any interested individuals are asked to submit a brief letter of interest to the attention of Quentin Snider. It is suggested by the Council that offers start at around \$700.00 per boat/motor, with the best offer(s) being successful.

## **Mining & Exploration in our Traditional Territories**

We would like to confirm with our membership that there is much activity taking place within North and Northwestern Ontario regarding mining and exploration. More specifically for our First Nation, there has been an explosion of activity for all minerals within Treaty #3. Our Administration has been exceptionally proactive in searching out and negotiating MOU's (Memorandums of Understanding) for the past three years with all individual companies that have been and are presently exploring on our traditional lands.

To date we have been in contact with and have entered into Resource Sharing Agreements and/or MOU's with two major mining companies and twelve junior mining or exploration companies. Please note at this point in time, due to the confidential agreements in place, we are not at liberty to disclose specific details regarding the above so as not to jeopardize the projects/negotiations.

As most of our membership are aware, Osisko Hammond Reef (one of the largest Mining companies in our territory) is currently in the EA (Environmental Assessment) process. As these agreements have been publicly released, we can say that plans are tentatively underway to construct an open pit gold mine in the Atikokan area within the next year and a half - two. The opportunities that are currently being explored and negotiated are enormous for our Community and its membership. Once the EA process has been accepted, we can expect to see accelerated activity in the construction of this mine. Chief, Council and Administration have been tirelessly working towards this venture and are extremely pleased to let the membership know that our community and members will benefit tremendously from this venture. For example, to start, a portion of the construction of our Roundhouse was made possible by the use of "Training/Education" dollars in the amount of \$250,000.00 received from the Resource Sharing Agreement with Osisko.

We have also been in direct contact with and are diligently negotiating Limited Partnership Agreements with several Construction, Electrical and Security companies who have extensive, previous experience in mine construction and maintenance. Once the EA process has been approved for the Osisko Hammond Reef project, a community meeting will commence with more specifics or details to be released at that time.

It is suggested and encouraged that any member(s) who are looking to obtain employment in the mining sector/field prepare now in terms of training or education so that they will meet qualifications and be considered for the many positions associated with a new mine. This is not limited to mining or exploration positions, but will include clerical, janitorial, security, food services, etc.

### **Lac des Mille Lacs FN Website**

We are excited to announce that plans are underway to construct and develop an up-dated, user-friendly website. Our band and community members will be able to access information regarding the First Nation and its many activities and ventures. This website will enable us to provide the membership with more timely, pertinent information along with upcoming community events being held. As many of our members live in their various places of residences across Canada and the U.S., Chief and Council understand the importance of staying connected and how communication plays a major role in that. This is one avenue that many of our members can utilize and benefit from. It is anticipated that the website will be up and running by the middle of May 2012.

### **2012 Pow-Wow**

The dates for this years Annual Pow-Wow are July 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> 2012. Those interested in volunteering on this Committee are asked to contact Wendi Ignace at the Administration Office.

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A Warm Welcome Back goes out to our Receptionist/Admin Assistant Honey Chicago, who returns after a one-year maternity leave!! We are also pleased to announce that Danielle Morrison will stay on as Administrative Assistant. With the increase in the clerical demands of our Administration she is a welcome addition to our office staff.

Please find attached the First Nations Health Newsletter along with Spring Community Events.

Miigwech! Chief White Cloud