

Lac Des Mille Lacs First Nation



Lac des Mille Lacs Reserves 22A1 -22A2

Mailing Address

1100 Memorial Ave, Suite 328 Thunder Bay, ON P7B 4A3

Telephone: 807-622-9835 Fax: 807-622-9866

Toll Free: 1-888-573-0168 Office email: ldmlfn@tbaytel.net

NOVEMBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

BOOZHOO to all of our family, friends, and members! Trusting that you all have had a warm and wonderful summer. Each month seems to get a little busier than the last, here at your First Nation. Miigwetch for all of your support as we continue on the path that the Creator has set us on!

We have included updates on some of the ongoing programs, projects and new initiatives that our First Nation has been working on this year.

ELDERS COUNCIL - The members of our Elders Council have been busy this past year participating in many cultural and traditional activities. Miigwetch for their assistance and participation in the Spring and Fall Feasting of the Lands. The group was honoured with a recent stay out at the Community Cultural Complex and entertained with music and songs via drums, flute, and guitar. A good time was enjoyed by all who attended. It was suggested that a *“night of music”* be planned in the near future. We have many talented musicians, singers and artists in our First Nation that would be interested in attending such an event. It was suggested that we could host a *“Karaoke Nite”*. Stay tuned!

COMMUNITY CULTURAL COMPLEX/CENTRE - We are delighted to say that we have had quite a large number of our Elders and their families/friends stay at our Complex over the summer and early fall months. We have also had a significant number of our Community members request to stay and were happy to accommodate. Again, this Complex was built with the intention that our Elders would be able to stay on the land and be the first ones to do so. We are so very pleased to have been able to be a part of the realization of those dreams. Please contact Councillor Irma Churchill if you are interested in staying at the Complex next spring/summer.

We would like to reiterate that “we are very proud to have this project nearly completed as it is an integral part of the Community Development Plan that was approved by the membership.” The Roundhouse, surrounding outside kitchen area, sacred fire pit, and Complex are foundational structures that will serve our First Nation for many, many years to come. All who visit our First Nation are awestruck by the sheer spirituality and beauty of the place. This gives our people much to be proud of and has set a standard of excellence in how our First Nation operates and conducts itself.

We have since been contacted by various local School Boards looking to host winter retreats for their students. It is anticipated that children/students will be able to book (weekly) winter events at our Complex, where cultural and traditional teaching can occur. We have confirmed that 10 weeks are scheduled for such classes from the end of January – April. This will assist in offsetting some of the costs of building and maintaining this awesome building.

FIRST NATION WEBSITE - After much delay and frustration, we are pleased to announce the launching of our "*Official First Nation's website.*" **Launch date: Wed November 12, 2014.** Much appreciation goes out to our staff who made this possible. As communication is problematic for most organizations, it is our hope that our people will be kept abreast and better informed in a more timely and efficient manner with this website. Miigwetch Bruce & Mike for your dedication and perseverance.

WELCOMES - We thank all who showed interest and applied for the three positions that were posted in our last newsletter. Congratulations and warm welcomes go out to: Christine Halverson – Education Program Developer, Antony Maunula – Research & Program Co-ordinator, and Curtis Primeau – Aboriginal Healing & Wellness Worker. As the First Nation continues to move forward in its various endeavours, we are pleased to be able to employ our young, educated members to assist in the advancement of our projects, programming and initiatives.

EVENTS & CLASSES - Our staff have been extremely busy this past summer and fall with numerous projects on the go. As mentioned in a previous newsletter, expressed interest was shown for activities such as: cultural and/or traditional teachings, Ojibway language, regalia, and drum making classes. We are pleased to say that our staff are diligently working on these initiatives. For details, please speak to Marcia Pedri – Health Director.

We are also working on some major Youth events this year. As we have and continue to honour our Elders, we are now focusing on more events to honour our Youth. Workshops are being planned on anti-bullying, zero tolerance to harassment and discrimination. We are excited that a large event is being planned for our young people this upcoming spring! For details, speak to Curtis Primeau– AHWS.

We are also involved in a number of Education initiatives that may better serve our members and their families. We are working on several different projects involving Adult Education, Alternative Education, a Literacy Program for 2-7 year olds, and possible Private Elementary School. These projects are all in the planning and infancy stages and as progress is made, more information will be made available. For details, please speak to Christine Halverson – Education Program Developer.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - We are pleased to announce that the First Nation has received another unqualified audit. This is awarded to those organizations that achieve the highest level of financial accountability and practices. The AGM will be held at the First Nation's Administration Office @ 690 Mountain Road on Friday, November 14th from 2:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be in the form of an OPEN HOUSE where our members can drop in, meet and speak with Staff, Chief and Council, Auditors, and other Presenters at their own convenience. This allows for individuals to have one on one conversation (question and answer) periods.

In the past we have had meetings which were not respectful and were not productive to those in attendance including elders, children, presenters, etc. We acknowledge that people's views can differ and we can agree to disagree, but we cannot allow our membership and guests to be subjected to any form of violence whether it is verbal, emotional or physical. We believe that this Open House venue provides an opportunity for our members to ask questions and get answers in a positive, respectful and safe environment for all. **Note: All of the information that will be presented and available at the Open House will also be posted on our website for those who cannot attend and for our out-of-town membership.**

FLOOD CLAIM NEGOTIATIONS - As reported to the membership in our last Newsletter our negotiations are moving ahead in a very positive manner. We would like to remind our membership that these types of claims are very time consuming. **Here are some key points to keep in mind:**

- a. In the group of 13 or so Flooding Claims remaining in the Treaty #3 area, we are the farthest advanced in our negotiations.
- b. We entered into negotiations in 2009, focused on getting our “evidence” and worked very hard and diligently in completing all of our studies and research by the end of 2013.
- c. Some First Nations in this group have barely started collecting their evidence.
- d. Some First Nations in this group have left the negotiation table.
- e. We assembled the very best negotiating team with renowned experts in their fields.
- f. We have commitments from both Canada and Ontario. *“Canada noted that this claim is a very complex claim and is a high priority and at the forefront of the Treaty #3 flooding claims. Canada is working with Ontario towards a joint offer being made during the fiscal year 2014-2015.”*
- g. *“Ontario noted that the LDMLFN has that commitment from Ontario. It is already a high priority in the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs”.*

It is important to remind our people that we are bound by confidentiality agreements at the negotiation table, and can only release limited information. This assists the First Nation in protecting its membership and claim. Unfortunately, we were informed that a few of our Band members have been calling both the Federal and Ontario Negotiators trying to solicit information and/or giving potentially misleading or damaging information that may be detrimental to our claim. To those that are doing so, you need to stop in these actions, lest you are found to be responsible for causing our claim to be declared of lesser compensation or value.

Please remember that once an offer of settlement is put on the table, it will go through the Referendum Process for Acceptance and Approval by our Membership. The Negotiation teams will be meeting at the end of November. It is our goal that the Crowns will finally have reviewed all of the findings/evidence at that time, and will be in a position to start putting “numbers on the table.”

Chi Miigwetch for your continued patience and support! We are all looking forward to a positive and acceptable settlement to this flooding claim and to moving forward.

SKILLS INVENTORY - A reminder goes out to our band and community members to please send in your updated resumes to our Education & Training Director – Mark Berkan. We are in the process of bidding for the Mill Yard Services contracts at both the Atikokan and Ignace Sawmills. These are five year contracts. We are optimistic that the First Nation will be awarded one or both of these contracts. This keeps your name in our database, and helps to ensure that you do not miss out on potential employment.

CHRISTMAS GIFT CARDS - The Annual Christmas Gift Cards will be mailed out from **Friday December 5th – Wednesday December 10th**. In order to help ensure everyone receives their gift card, please call the administration office to update your current contact information or remind any relatives that may have moved, to please do so.

For those who would like to pick up their gift card from the office, please call ahead of time and make arrangements with either Honey or Danielle to hold onto them at the front desk.

***Please note that the First Nation will not be responsible for lost or stolen cards, or cards sent to an old address and not received or returned.**

If an individual(s) thinks there may be a problem or cause for concern, they may wish to pick up the Christmas gift card in person as replacement cards will not be issued.*

CHRISTMAS AFTERNOON WITH SANTA - We are pleased to offer our families, **“An Afternoon with Santa” on Saturday December 6th from 1:00 – 4 p.m. at the Victoria Inn**. This casual event provides our children and families an enjoyable, relaxing time, filled with gift-giving, holiday sing-a-long, games, hot chocolate & snacks, and picture taking with Santa.

In order to ensure that your child is not disappointed and receives an age-appropriate gift, parents must call ahead and register their child(ren). Unfortunately, due to budget restrictions, we can only accommodate those who are registered and in attendance.

CHRISTMAS GET-TOGETHER FEAST - We are pleased to announce that we will be hosting our **“7th Annual Christmas Get-Together Feast” on Sunday December 7th from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.** at the Victoria Inn. Due to the continued positive and delighted feedback from our members and families, we anticipate being at full capacity once again. This evening will focus on an enjoyable dinner-feast banquet with family and friends, along with carols and seasonal music.

To ensure that these events will be a memorable experience, we will require our attendance numbers as early as possible. The banquet room is limited to a maximum of **350 people**, and it is essential that we get our count so that we can effectively plan and prepare for this event. Please call and register with either Honey Chicago or Danielle Morrison to confirm your attendance and/or family member’s attendance, at your earliest convenience. For those wanting to register via email, please send your confirmation to ldmlfn@tbaytel.net Cut-off date is **Tuesday, December 2nd at noon**.

The travel budget is limited and in order to accommodate as many travel requests as possible, a maximum travel allowance is set at **\$500.00** for this special event. We request that families continue to travel together, in order to cut down on costs, reduce wear and tear on vehicles, and to ensure safety for winter travel.

Special Note: Seating at the above Feast is limited. If you have registered and for some reason cannot attend, would you be kind enough to call the office to let us know that you will not be coming. This will free up seating and allow for other people to attend. **Chi Miigwetch!**

22A1 LOT DEVELOPMENT - We are thrilled to announce that we have received 38 responses and letters of interest to-date, in regards to our call out for individuals/families wanting one of the 40 Phase One lots. These lots have been surveyed and a roughed-in road made. As it is very wet at this time of year, it is asked that traffic remain off the road so that it can settle and dry before vehicles start using the road. This will minimize any further damage to the base of the road.

We would like to congratulate the “pioneers” of our First Nation, in taking this monumental step forward in returning to our homelands in a good way. You are all to be respected and commended for your commitment and for stepping up to the challenges that lie ahead.

As stated in previous newsletters: We understand that not all of our people are interested or in a position to start building on-reserve. Our understanding is that work must be started by the individuals within a two year time frame in order for them to receive their “ticket of occupancy and then subsequent ticket of possession” from the First Nation. Please keep in mind that this endeavor will require much time and effort on everyone’s part in clearing the land and building their homes. As we do not yet receive funding from Indian Affairs for this, individuals will have to finance their homes or summer homes on their own. We have been meeting with different banking agencies in terms of possible financing options that may or may not be of interest to those that are wanting to build. This information will also be made available to the membership.

We have also been in contact with several companies that build pre-fab homes/cabins and are gathering this information so that it can be given out to these members.

Our Housing Committee continues to work on policies and procedures in preparation for the housing which will be occurring. It must be noted at this time, that in order for our First Nation to qualify for further funding from AANDC, we must meet at least two of their criteria:

- a. Reach a certain on-reserve population mark (100)
- b. The buildings must be built to standards - to either the Canadian or Ontario Building Code.

It is believed that once these homes are ready, we will have reached that mark and subsequently funding will have to start flowing to our First Nation.

We have been blessed with breath-taking and spectacular gifts from the Creator. We have started our foundation with a spirit of excellence. It is our hope and goal to continue with this same standard in all that we do as a First Nation!

We are living in exciting times, as we move ever closer to the re-establishment of a physical, on-reserve community.

Note: For those 38 individuals/families that sent in their letters of interest, a meeting will take place in the near future with more updates.



Dallan Forestry, LP
684 City Road
Unit 17
Thunder Bay, ON P7J 1K3

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

As our First Nation members are aware we are in partnership with Nigigoonsimikaaning First Nation and Dale Levesque as owners/operators of Dallan Forestry LP. Dallan Forestry is a 100% owned Aboriginal business. Dallan Forestry is presently working under a 5 year contract at the Resolute Thunder Bay Pulp Mill where 8 of our First Nation members are employed.

Dallan Forestry LP has just recently been awarded a snow removal contract from Resolute for their Thunder Bay pulp mill operation. We anticipate that this contract will create four (4) part time labour employment opportunities (on an on-call as required basis throughout the winter months). Although these positions are on-call as required there is a possibility of them leading to a full time position within the labour pool.

DUTIES TO INCLUDE: Snow blowing/shoveling and general labour as required.

Dallan Forestry LP has a Union Contract in place at the pulp mill site and union wage rates apply.

We would like to request that any Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation Band and/or family member who may be interested in one of these opportunities please submit a letter of interest complete with an updated resume.

SUBMISSIONS SHOULD BE MADE PRIOR TO MID-NIGHT ON NOVEMBER 20TH, 2014.

Letters of interest and resumes should be delivered, emailed or faxed to the attention of Mark Berkan or Quentin Snider at our Administration Office.

Email: ldmlfn@tbaytel.net

Fax: 807-622-9866

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At this time we would also like to advise our membership that Resolute Forest Products is in the process of re-opening the Ignace, Ontario sawmill and are constructing a new sawmill operation located in Atikokan, Ontario. The Ignace operation is scheduled to go back into production in early December of 2014 and the Atikokan operation is scheduled to go into operation in March of 2015. Dallan Forestry LP has submitted bids for both operations related to Mill Yard Services and we are ever confident that we will be awarded these two contracts as well. It is expected that Resolute Forest Products will make the announcement of the contract award no later than November 12th, 2014.

As soon as we receive confirmation from Resolute on the awarding of the contracts we will notify our membership of the various employment opportunities that will become available. We at Dallan Forestry LP are ever hopeful that our members will be interested in and apply for these opportunities.

As a reminder once again we suggest that members and their families who are interested in gainful employment should at all times provide updated resumes to our Administration Office so that they can be added to our Skills Inventory.



Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation
Cordially invites you to

“An Afternoon with Santa”

Light snacks, coffee and tea provided
All children 0 to 17yrs old
Games! Hot cocoa! Prizes!

Saturday December 6th
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.



“Our Annual Christmas Get-Together-Feast”

Sunday December 7th
5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Elders Gift & Pictures with Santa

All Band and Community members invited

Victoria Inn Ballroom Thunder Bay

Please RSVP with Honey @ 807-622-9835 ext 0

ACCESSING THE NEW WEBSITE

The new website can be accessed at www.lacdesmillelacsfirstnation.ca. When visiting the website for the first time you will notice that there is a "Members Only" section. The "Members Only" section of the website contains a "News Feed" as well as "Forums". The News Feed will allow us to keep the membership up to date with what is going on in the First Nation. This is where you will find updates on Flood Claim Negotiations, various partnerships, LDMLFN Policies, etc. "Forums" are online discussion boards where members will be able to interact with each other, share teachings, artwork, and recipes, provide website feedback, etc.

By clicking the "Sign Up" link that can be found on the upper right hand corner of the Homepage, you will be able to sign up for the Members Only portion of the website. The image below shows what you will see when clicking the "Sign Up" link. Please follow instructions carefully.

Sign Up X

In order to sign up please send an e-mail to info@lacdesmillelacsfirstnation.ca with the following information:

- Full Name (as shown on Indian Status Card)
- Email Address
- Password Choice
- Status Card Registry Number

An email will be send to you shortly with your Username and Password.

All information provided will be held in strict confidence, and used only for proof of identity

After submitting your request for access to the Members Only section, you will be emailed with your new login and password. You can now click "Sign In" and enter your login and password to access the Members Only section.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Mike Ignace, Administrative Assistant

Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation

807-622-9835 Ext. 232

m.ignace@tbaytel.net

OFFICIAL LOGO DESIGN CONTEST

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation is looking for a new and unique official logo for the First Nation. This contest is open to all Band and Community Members. We are looking for a design that represents the following theme: **Culture / Tradition / Past – Present - Future**

SPECIFICATIONS:

- Ensure that your logo design includes the text: “Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation”.
- Logo must include an image related to **Culture / Tradition / Past – Present - Future**
- Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation retains the right to; edit, alter, or reformat the original winning logo design as needed.

SUBMISSION AND SELECTION PROCESS:

- Your proposed logo design will be submitted to the Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation Band Office (front desk) or emailed to LDMLFN@tbaytel.net no later than **December 30, 2014**.
- Please remember to submit your contact information along with your logo design.
- The winning submission will be selected by our Chief & Council and announced on our new website (www.lacdesmillelacsfirstnation.ca) during the month of **January, 2015**.
- The winning design will receive a prize of **\$1,000.00**.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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