

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Once again summer is gone and the first days of Autumn have arrived, Mother Nature warns us in her secret language to make adjustments for the coming seasons. On behalf of the FNI executive and board of directors I hope that everyone has experienced a safe, healthy and enjoyable summer and we wish you all the best for the months ahead. The FNI negotiating team, the two vice presidents and Mr. Steven May, the FNI legal representative met with Mr. Ray Hatfield D.G and other officials from Department of Indian Affairs on July 21, 2005 to discuss proactive plans of moving forward with work on an agreement in principle. This session was a very important step in the negotiation process as it shows optimism for advancement in the procedure. The FNI has since received information that the Federal Government has given approval to move to the next step in the process, which is to conduct negotiations on an 'Agreement in Principle' that a Chief Federal Negotiator will be announced soon. I anticipate that this announcement will begin the most serious action ever in the history of the FNI to resolve the longstanding issue of recognition for our people. Even though the FNI has done some proactive work in areas such as terms of reference for a registration advisory committee, financial code and leadership selection code etc. this is just the beginning of a lengthy process that will require further refinement and consultations in order to finalize. I am very happy to report the positive response of the Federal Government.

[Continued on page 2...](#)

FEDERATION DONATES TO STEPHENVILLE DISASTER FUND



Red Cross Representative, Kelly Grouchy being presented \$1000.00 cheque by FNI President Brendan Sheppard.

When the Stephenville flooding started, the Federation of Newfoundland Indians knew it had to help it's members who were in need. Without hesitation, the Board of Directors agreed to help the Stephenville Disaster Fund by contributing \$1000.00 on behalf of it's membership to the Red Cross.

Our thoughts and prayers were extended to all the townspeople of Stephenville. The Federation hopes that our contribution will help alleviate the lost that was incurred.

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Message from the President ... The other activities of the FNI are also very important and there is continuous daily action to ensure that other programs and services are kept at their highest level of implementation and that accountability is maintained at the degree specified in contract arrangements with the funding agencies. There is a great amount of responsibility associated with ensuring that our commitments as an organization in delivering programs on behalf of our membership is implemented and there are many times when policy and procedures are questionable by you the membership. I can assure all membership, when policies and procedures are drafted, approved and implemented by the executive and directors of the FNI, that it is done only with fairness and equality in mind for all members.

In order to keep my message brief the following are just some of the events, which I attended over the past summer months:

- * May 28th, the AGA of the Glenwood Mi'kmaq First Nations
- * May 30, board of directors meeting with the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples
- * May 31st, a Federal National Aboriginal Leaders Policy Retreat
- * June 10th, held a FNI board of directors meeting
- * June 11th & 12th, held the FNI AGA in Grand Falls-Windsor
- * June 21st, the official opening of the Mi'kmaq Exhibition in Grand Falls
- * June 26th Parks Canada ceremony unveiling of the Mattie Mitchell plaque in Rocky Harbour
- * June 29, Opening of the Rooms in St. John's
- * August 10th, FNI information session at the Jim John Adventures Lodge on the Gander River
- * September 01st, along with Gerry Byrne attended a session with the youth coordinators and participants of Skills Link program at Silver Birches Camp in Pasadena.

In closing, I wish you, the membership, the very best of health and look forward in the near future to providing you with additional encouraging news on the FNI activities.

ROUGHNECK COURSE

As mentioned in the Operational Plan 05-06 for AHRDA, the Federation of Newfoundland Indians has listed the Gas/Oil industry as priority for this fiscal year. The management is networking with Gas/Oil companies to seek employment opportunities for the future. Also, we are offering the opportunity for training in this industry. As our first initiative for this priority, the FNI has seats available at the Seal Cove Conception Bay College of the North Atlantic Campus for the RoughNeck Course. The duration of this course is 9 days straight. The goal of this program is to prepare individuals with little or no experience as floorhands to work safely on an oil and gas well drilling rig. In addition, it will also provide the learner with a foundation of knowledge and skills so that the individual can develop as an effective member of the drill crew.

The class size is limited to 9 people at one given time. But if the FNI receives sufficient response from the membership (people that have not been trained in another field in the last five years by AHRDA) to participate in this training we can certainly consider more than one class. **Please contact one of the ACRO's prior to December 2, 2005 if interested at the addresses listed on page 11 of this newsletter.**

FLAT BAY INDIAN BAND SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



Deann Nicole Bennett is a resident of Flat Bay and is the daughter of Dean and Dinnetia Bennett. Bennett has been studying at Memorial University's Western Regional School of Nursing for the past year where she will graduate with a Bachelor of Nursing Degree with the hopes of then returning to Memorial University's Faculty of Medicine to some day become a doctor. Her parents and family are proud to announce her most recent success of receiving the Terry Fox Humanitarian Scholarship valued at \$28,000.00 which Deann was awarded in June 2005.

The Canadian Government created a \$5 Million endowment fund July 31, 1981 which provides scholarships each year in honor of Terry Fox which is called the Terry Fox Humanitarian Award. These are awarded to a student who demonstrates the highest ideals and qualities of citizenship and humanitarian service while in the pursuit of excellence in their academic, sport, and community service.

PATHWAY TO A HEALTHIER LIFESTYLE

Walking Challenge Update

The Walking Challenge, which is part of the diabetes prevention initiative program "Pathway to a Healthier Lifestyle", is well underway to becoming a huge success. To date we have over three hundred people registered for the program and we have passed our first reporting date. The program is designed to help our members to become active and help them keep track of how much physical activity they are actually doing. It is very important to stay with any type of fitness program.

For the first reporting dates we have two people who were awarded prizes for their excellent work with the program. One is Randy Hunt from Port au Port, he came first in our under 16 division; and the second is Laverna Glavine, from Grand Falls-Windsor, who came in first in our adult division. Both were awarded prizes in the amount of \$100.00. We are very proud of both Randy and Laverna and we wish them luck on the next step in this program.

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all who participated in this challenge as we are very proud and pleased at the excellent progress you have made. Many of you have walked the length of the Island and are on your return trip which is great! Please continue to take part in this challenge and encourage others to walk toward good health.

Stay tuned for more information on the program as we continue this walking challenge. Remember to report your kilometers every two months. You can call, email or mail in your total kms walked. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!!!

Healthy Eating on a Budget and Diabetes Prevention

The Diabetes Coordinator will be holding information sessions on "Diabetes Prevention and Healthy Eating on a Budget" during October and November 2005 in each of the Band areas. We would like to encourage all our members to come out and take part in these sessions. We feel that these sessions can provide something to everyone. These sessions are free and refreshments are always provided, so come out and join in the fun. These sessions will be advertised on local radio and to all Band Chiefs.

Cookbook/Health Tip Booklet

We are looking for traditional recipes and health tips that you may wish to share with other FNI members. The diabetes program is putting together a cookbook/health tip booklet to send out to the members and we would like to have your input. If you would like to send in recipes, health tips, or other tips please send them to the diabetes coordinator. This booklet will be sent out in the New Year. Thank you for all your help in making this and all projects a huge success.

Traditional Healing Contest

The Federation of Newfoundland Indians Diabetes Initiative is hoping to learn more about traditional medicines and the uses of plants and foods that are different from today's modern drugs and processed foods. We are looking to our members to help us build a database of interesting old remedies that had been used by our ancestors to heal the body, mind and soul. In today's world many of these traditions are being lost but with this database we hope to save some of this knowledge before it is too late. Help us learn about the healing properties of blueberries, or how to cure the sting from a bee. We need to look to the past to ensure a bright future.

With this in mind we have been given a donation of \$500.00 by a St. George's business person, to hold a contest for the most innovative presentation to alternative healing that has come from our ancestors. We want to hear from YOU on what you can remember about the old healing ways. This can be in the form of a story, an essay, video, audio tape on an old remedy for an ailment that was used by our ancestors. This contest is open to everyone in our membership: child, youth, adult and elders. Talk to your grandparents and elders about this contest and learn about the old ways and send in these ideas to us. Two prizes will be awarded, one for first place of \$300.00 for the most innovative approach to alternative healing and \$200.00 for second place.

Please know, that in sending in your ideas, the Federation of Newfoundland Indians can use these approaches to keep in a database for future use in other projects and keep the old traditions alive. Please include your name, address, telephone number and which band you are a member of when sending in the entries. Be creative and find ways to help us keep our past ways alive. You can send in your entries to the diabetes coordinator at the information given below.

Deadline for these entries will be December 31, 2005.

SHELLEY GARNIER

Diabetes Coordinator

Phone: 709-647-3009 or

Toll free **1-866-647-3009**

P.O. Box 294,

St. George's, NL A0N 1Z0

email: shelly@fni.nf.ca



YOUTH ACTION NEWS

FNI Skills Link Program Visit from FNI President and Local MP

Local MP for Humber - St. Barbe - Baie Verte, Mr. Gerry Byrne, and the President of the Federation of Newfoundland Indians, Mr. Brendan Sheppard, came together on Thursday, September 1, at Silver Birches Camp in Pasadena to meet and greet with the 30 Aboriginal Skills Link participants. The purpose for the weeklong camp was designed to give the participants skills and knowledge in the area of Career Development. The two leaders came to express their support for, and encouragement to the youth participants. Despite their busy schedules they entertained a very welcoming and motivational discussion. In addition, both Mr. Byrne and Mr. Sheppard spoke about the Mi'kmaq people in Newfoundland having a bright, and promising future.

The Federation of Newfoundland Indians (FNI) Youth Program has formed a new partnership with various organizations to implement a Skills Link Program entitled, "Aboriginal Skills Link to Crime Prevention". Human Resources Skills & Development Canada (HRSDC) has contributed funding in the amount of \$312,908 in support of a 23 week program designed for Aboriginal Youth at Risk to help them overcome any barriers to employment or education they may face. Additional partners that have contributed significantly to the program are the National Crime Prevention Strategy, the FNI, and the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples.

Thirty Aboriginal Youth, between the ages of 15 - 30, will work throughout the twenty-three weeks designing, and implementing a community action plan to raise awareness against criminal activity in their areas. In addition, the teachings and ways of the Mi'kmaq culture have been incorporated throughout the entire Skills Link program, which has given the participants a sense of pride for their identity as Mi'kmaq people.

The FNI Skills Link program is somewhat unique in nature as it involves three separate Skills Link groups in The Exploits Valley, Bay of Islands, and Bay St. George areas. The groups follow the same direction and have the same goals and objectives to accomplish over the course of the program. Youth participants are also working to identify their barriers to employment or education, and are working to build their own individual action plans. Participants are taking part in presentations and workshops aimed at giving them the skills to effectively be able to market themselves in a competitive work force. In addition to this, the participants are also engaging in thirteen weeks of job shadowing with employers in their communities specific to their career goals.

Youth Powwows 2005



Pictured Above: The entire group in Panmure Island, PEI.

The youth of the Federation of Newfoundland Indians embarked on their third annual trip to the Conne River Powwow this year, which took place on the weekend of July 2- 4, 2005. Since 2003 the youth program has been making the trip to the Powwow with youth from the nine band areas of the FNI. This trip has been made possible through the fundraising efforts of each of the youth involved, and through the additional help and support of the Federation of Newfoundland Indians. In 2003, eight youth were in attendance. In the second year, youth participation grew to sixteen while in our third year, the number of individuals in attendance grew significantly to twenty nine. With each passing year, the youth have been given a look into their Mi'kmaq heritage, which has helped them learn more about themselves and their culture through participating in ceremonies, dancing, regalia making, and learning the teachings of song and dance.

In 2004, the youth decided that they would like to experience another Mi'kmaq gathering, and attend a Powwow off the Island of Newfoundland. With the help and support of the youth program, they decided to fundraise to attend a Powwow on Panmure Island in PEI. The youth began fundraising throughout 2004 and 2005, as their target date was August 18 - 21, 2005. Forty-five individuals made the trip to PEI. The youth had an amazing trip, and were very proud to represent Newfoundland at the Powwow. A number of the youth danced under the arbor, and also took part in singing and drumming with the Elders. They were also very fortunate and honoured to have two Mi'kmaq Elders sit with the group in the evening for storytelling, drumming, and songs by the campfire.

Contact: FNI Youth Coordinator

Candace Russell

P.O. Box 956, Corner Brook

NL A2H 6J3

Tel: (709) 634 - 6299

Toll Free: 1-877-634-6299

Fax: (709) 639 - 2257

email: candace@fni.nf.ca

website: www.fniyouth.com



FNI's 30th Annual General Assembly

On June 11th & 12th 2005, the Federation of Newfoundland Indians held it's 30th Annual General Assembly at the Mount Peyton Hotel in Grand Falls-Windsor. The assembly was attended by four representatives from each of the affiliated band councils, the National Chief and Vice Chief of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples and several special guests from different government departments who work in partnership with the FNI. The assembly was very successful with delegates, observers and guests receiving a greater insight on the internal and external operation of the FNI.

The following resolutions were passed at the 30th, AGA of the FNI:

A Proposed change to the By-laws of the Federation of Newfoundland Indians:

Re: Section: X1 Directors

It is being proposed that clause 11.01, which reads as follows....

"Subject to Clauses 11.03 and 11.04, the directors shall be the President and the Band Chiefs of the Corporation's recognized Bands."...**Be amended to read as follows:**

"Subject to Clauses 11.03 and 11.04, the directors shall be the President, an elected Youth Representative who is elected in such a manner as prescribed by the Board, and the Band Chiefs of the Corporation's recognized Bands."

Because of a typo in the current By-Laws section 1.01 (1)

Be it resolved that section 1.01 (1) replace Clause 8.05 with Clause 8.10

Because there is no clause 8.10 (iii) as mentioned in Section 10.06 of the current By-Laws,

Be it resolved that the last sentence of Section 10.06 read as follows: Neither the President nor either Vice-President shall chair any part of an Annual General Meeting dealing with the election of officers. The Chair for this part of an Annual General Meeting shall be chosen pursuant to clause 8.13 (iii).

Currently section 14.02 of the FNI By-Laws indicates that a copy of the audit must be submitted to the registrar within 14 days after an AGM as required by law. This process is not required by law and it's not appropriate to submit an Audit to the Companies Act.

Therefore, be it resolved that the By-Laws be amended to delete the last sentence of section 14.02.

Notice to Members

The Federation of Newfoundland Indians hereby advises the membership that one member per band council, at his or her expense, is welcome to attend the regular board meetings of the FNI as an observer. Interested individuals must contact their chief and council and if more than one person is interested in attending a certain board meeting, then each council must create a system to provide fairness in determining who shall attend.

Team Building Data Base Federation of Newfoundland Indians

In an attempt to establish more awareness and build on the inside operations of the FNI, the executive and board of the FNI take this opportunity to extend an invitation to any member who may wish to become part of a team for possible new projects in the future. At this time the FNI are asking anyone who is interested in volunteering for a team to submit a resume and brief narrative explaining their interest and experience in any particular project area. The FNI will hold all names in a central database and when necessary select the most suitable individual to be part of a team when such projects become available. The FNI anticipates that members will soon be required for the project areas outlined below. Travel & meal cost will be reimbursed by the FNI for anyone who is selected for any team.

**Aquatic Management
Economic Development
Employment & Training
By Laws & Organizational Change
Species at Risk
Culture & Heritage**

Send resumes and narrative to the FNI Corner Brook office or email to adminasst@fni.nf.ca (subject should be "Team Building").

In addition to the above request the FNI is requesting interested individuals from the membership who may wish to participate in workshops offered by the FNI for the enhancement of the organization to submit their names. All expenses are paid for members to attend any workshops. Please send your name to the following email address: adminasst@fni.nf.ca (subject should be "Workshop interest").

OPENING OF THE MI'KMAW PEOPLE OF NEWFOUNDLAND: A CELEBRATION



For the first time ever, portraits, artifacts and oral histories of the Newfoundland Mi'kmaq have been gathered together in an exhibit that is currently on display at the Mary March Museum in Grand Falls-Windsor. Entitled "The Mi'kmaq People of Newfoundland: A Celebration," the exhibit was officially unveiled June 21.

"We are the people of today, and we draw great strength from our past", said Brendan Sheppard, president of the Federation of Newfoundland Indians. This exhibition is without a doubt a source of pride to the Mi'kmaq people of Newfoundland.

Items on display include prints of the original six earliest known portraits of Newfoundland Mi'kmaq; a spectacular beaded buckskin coat that is more than 100 years old; rare Mi'kmaq artifacts collected by anthropologist Frank Speck;

and a series of 47 contemporary photographs of Newfoundland Mi'kmaq by international photographer Jeff Thomas.

"The contemporary portraits in the exhibit demonstrate the ancestral link between the Newfoundland Mi'kmaq of the 1600s and the Newfoundland Mi'kmaq who exist today", said Mr. Sheppard. "We are those people, and we are very proud to be showcasing a part of our ancestor's history, which practically creates a rebirth of their existence".

The exhibition is dedicated to three influential Newfoundland Mi'kmaqs: Mary Webb, who was a beloved elder and a traditional medicine woman responsible for delivering more than 700 babies in the Bay St. George area; Chief Larry Jeddore, who helped spearhead the Newfoundland Mi'kmaq's campaign for official recognition; and Mattie Mitchell, 'who made an exceptional contribution' to the exploration and mapping of the Northern Peninsula, and to the development of Newfoundland's mining and forest industries.

"Our history is of no interest if it's locked away in secure vaults in big museums", said Mr. Sheppard. "Our history is a living, essential element in our lives and to the development of our people".

Penny Holden, curator of the Provincial Museum of Newfoundland and Labrador in St. John's - a division of the Rooms Corporation - said she feels proud the corporation is hosting the Mi'kmaq exhibit.

"It touches our hearts to be able to present a part of our culture that is normally not as well-represented as it should be", she said.

Penny Wells, curator of the Mary March Museum, said "that the exhibit holds special significance to central Newfoundland, as most of the Frank Speck artifacts were collected in 1914 near Badger.

The fact that a lot of the material history belonging to the Mi'kmaq people has disappeared, and Frank Speck having this small collection from Badger, makes this a very important exhibit to feature at the Mary March Museum.

Submitted by Jennifer Pelley GFW Advertiser

INVITATION TO TENDER

The FNI will accept tender bids on the following item, the highest bid will be accepted. Please forward your bid to the FNI office, closing date on this tender is November 30th, 2005.

1 Laptop Computer
 Operating System Windows XP Home Edition
 Acer Model Travelmate 290
 System type 86-based PC
 Processor Intel Centrino 1.3 GHZ
 256 MB memory
 HDD 30 GB
 56K Modem
 Wireless 802.11
 DVD RW
 Firewire and a carrying case.***Please note - Display not functional on computer



ULNOOWEG 1ST ANNUAL ATLANTIC ABORIGINAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP AWARDS

The first Atlantic Aboriginal Entrepreneur award winners were announced on Tuesday, September 13th, 2005 at the Awards Gala held at the Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel in Moncton.

The jury had the difficult task of selecting winners from the more than 50 nominations received. Recipients were recognized in seven categories: Atlantic Aboriginal Entrepreneur of the Year, Aboriginal Woman Entrepreneur of the Year, Aboriginal Youth Entrepreneur of the Year, Band Enterprise of the Year, Aboriginal Business of the Year (one from each province), Aboriginal Export Business of the Year, Economic Development Officer of the Year and Government Employee of the Year.

The Honourable Andy Scott, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, was the keynote speaker for the event. He presented four provincial business awards on behalf of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency. "The Government of Canada is proud to be a presenter in the Atlantic Aboriginal Entrepreneur Awards Ceremony" said Minister Scott. "The involvement of the Aboriginal Community in developing the economy of our Region is essential and deserves to be recognized. Congratulations to the Awards Recipients and Nominees. You are an inspiration for future Aboriginal Entrepreneurs and Leaders of tomorrow".

Ulnooweg Development Group, the host of this inaugural event, is proud to work with its partners to present this prestigious and long over due celebration. A major partner in the event is the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) in addition to Industry Canada through its Aboriginal Business Canada (ABC) program and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC). The initiative has also received support from the First Nations and Inuit communities throughout Atlantic Canada.

"Aboriginal entrepreneurship is a growing contributor to the economy of the Atlantic region, and to the country as a whole," said Dawn Madahbee, Executive Committee Member of the National Aboriginal Economic Development Board. "On behalf of the Board, I commend the initiative of Ulnooweg Development Group in launching the Awards initiative, to draw attention to Aboriginal business success." Dawn Madahbee, Aboriginal Business Canada attended the awards gala and presented the Aboriginal Woman Entrepreneur of the Year Award along with Clara Gloade, President of Native Women Association of NS. The winner of that award was Patricia Pottle, owner and operator of Amaguk Inn located in Hopedale, Newfoundland and Labrador. Ms. Madahbee also presented a commemorative framed certificate to the Ulnooweg Development Group Executive to acknowledge this inaugural event.

The banquet and awards show began with an opening ceremony chant and dance performed by Donna Augustine and Stuart Augustine of Big Cove, New Brunswick followed by opening prayers by elders Margaret LaBillois of Eel River Bar, NB and Grand Chief of Mi'kmaq Nation Ben Sylliboy. The event offered an excellent opportunity for entrepreneurs to strengthen existing business relationships and celebrate the numerous accomplishments of the Aboriginal business sector in the Atlantic region.

Nominations for this prestigious award came from a variety of sectors, including the construction industry, ecotourism, corporate leasing, service industry, sand and gravel business, arts and entertainment, food industry, retail and export.

Winners for each category

Atlantic Entrepreneur of the Year:

Glooscap Trading Post (Basil Peters) - Millbrook First Nation, NS

Apjipeg Crafts (Margaret LaBillois) - Eel River Bar First Nation, NB

St. Mary's Tree Service (Lee Polchies Sr.) - St. Mary's First Nation, NB

Annie's Canteen & Wooden Flowers (Annie (Ronnie) Paul) - Indian Brook First Nation, NS

Business of the Year - NL: Mista Shipu Limited Partnership (Sebastian Benuen, Tommy Pone & Tony Parsons) - Happy Valley/Goose Bay, NL

Business of the Year - NB: Maritime Sound and Light (Anthony Stonham) - Fredericton, NB

Business of the Year - NS: G&G Home Heating (Robert Gloade) - Truro, NS

Business of the Year - PEI: Inland Sand (Jack and Darcy Sark) - Lennox Island, PEI

Woman Entrepreneur of the Year: Amaguk Inn and DJ Gifts (Patricia Pottle) - Hopedale, NL

Youth Entrepreneur of the Year: Beothuk Outback Adventures (Fred Thorne)-Buchans, NL

Band Enterprise of the Year: Innu Development Ltd. Partnership-Happy Valley/Goose Bay, NL

Export Business of the Year: Spirit Thunder Recording (Jimmy Augustine) - Elsipogtog, NB

Economic Development Officer of the Year: Tracy Menge - Eskasoni First Nation, NS

Government Employee of the Year: Cheryl Keats, INAC - Fredericton, NB



Fred Thorne being presented the Ulnooweg Aboriginal Youth Entrepreneur of the Year Award by David Elgie of ABC.



Picture of one of Fred's Lodge's at Red Indian Outfitters & Tours

ST. GEORGE'S ABORIGINAL DAY CELEBRATIONS



"Oh Great Spirit of my soul, burning with my own heart's yearning and innermost aspirations. Speak to me now and always of the greatness and goodness of your precious gift of life and help me always to be worthy of the priceless privilege of living. All my relations."

This is the seventh part of the Mi'kmaq Sacred Seven Prayer, the prayer on which our Aboriginal Day Celebrations is based. Such a prayer is inspired by the picture of a lone wigwam on "Seal Rocks Hill" in the historic Mi'kmaw village of the same name with Grandmother Moon and Steel Mountain to the South. This photo was taken the night before our Aboriginal Day Celebrations, 2005.

Perhaps not a traditional Mi'kmaw wigwam but more representative of where we are today. A combination of modern day materials and the ways of old. Our People are embarking on a new journey into the future of self-discovery and self-empowerment as we reclaim and celebrate our past. A fire burns brightly inside the wigwam and we are all drawn toward its warmth and beauty.

"Oh Great Spirit of the South, who's warm breath of compassion melts the ice that gathers around our hearts and who's fragrance speaks to us of distant spring and summer days. Dissolve our fears, melt our hatred and kindle our love into flames of true and living reality. Teach us that he who is truly strong is also kind, that he who is truly wise tempers justice with mercy and he who is truly brave matches courage and compassion. All my relations."

That is the second part of the Sacred Seven Prayer on which our Aboriginal Day Celebrations is based. All seven parts of the prayer are recited at various times during the day from Sunrise to Sunset. The wigwam was the focal point of our Aboriginal Day Celebrations this year. The people who arrived as early as 3 a.m. for the Sunrise Ceremony waited inside the wigwam for dawn to break. Then, just at the right moment, emerged from the wigwam to gather together in a circular formation a short distance away.

In the stillness and quiet of a new dawn, the slow rhythmic beat of the drum, the giant medicine wheel of stones, the prayers, the chanting, the wigwam in the background, all are symbolic of how far we've come as a people. We are strong and growing stronger like the fire inside the wigwam. Where we go from here will be determined by the level of our commitment and devotion to the teachings of our elders. Through the sacred medicine wheel that has the power to reconnect us to those who have gone before us, to each other in the present, to generations yet unborn and everything in creation, may we be empowered as a people to go forward with strength, wisdom, bravery, unity and pride. All my relations. Wellain. Submitted by Chief Violet Dawson

ST. GEORGE'S COURT HOUSE RESTORATION UPDATE

The Second Phase regarding the restoration of The Historic Court House in St. George's is underway and the work is progressing smoothly. With assistance from The Federation of Newfoundland Indians (FNI) and Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC), ten workers have been hired to complete the interior restoration of the building.

Since being hired in the second week of July, workers have applied a final coat of paint to the exterior of the building. In addition, four exterior steps have been built at each exterior entrance, one of which includes wheelchair accessibility.

The interior of the basement's walls and floors has been cleaned to make ready for painting. Also, the interior of the first floor has been partitioned off as per floor plans specified by the interpretive planning firm, Tract Consulting.

Beginning the final week of September, the electrical wiring, plumbing, air conditioning, fire alarm system, and security system will be installed. Following these steps, the insulation, drywall, plastering, door and window trim, and flooring will be completed.

Once the interior restoration is completed Tract Consulting will start the design and construction of the exhibits that will be completed to coincide with the opening of the Museum on June 6, 2006.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the members of the restoration committee as well as the numerous agencies and organizations for their continuous support with this important project.

Submitted by Vice Chief Simeon Lee

ST. GEORGE'S SEEKING NATIVE CRAFTER'S

The St. George's Indian Band is looking for talented crafts people to design and create crafts for the Museum Gift Shop that will be located in the old Court House that is now in the process of being restored to its former glory. If you are interested in selling your crafts, you should send in a sample of your work to the St. George's Indian Band for consideration. Each sample will be carefully considered by a committee and if selected the craft can be sold in the gift shop. The gift shop is set to open in June 2006 so if you are interested it is time to get started. Send any crafts to the St. George's Indian Band P.O. Box 262, St. George's, AON 1Z0 or drop them off at the FNI building in St. George's to Shelley Garnier. All items will be considered.

Submitted by Shelley Garnier

MATTIE MITCHELL HISTORIC SITE DEDICATION



Mattie Mitchell dedication in Deer Arm, Gros Morne Park L-R
Brendan Sheppard, President FNI, Jerry Bryne, MP and Misel Joe,
Chief Conne River Band

In 2001 the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada (HSMBC) recommended that Mattie Mitchell be recognized as a person of national historic significance.

Mitchell's historical significance is most evident in his contribution to the development of the Newfoundland economy in the 20th century. Mitchell, like many other knowledgeable Mi'kmaq guides, helped to diversify the economy from coastal fisheries to interior mineral resources and forest products.

In 1904, while working for H.C. Thomson, Mitchell led an exploratory journey through the interior of the Northern Peninsula. The purpose of the voyage was to map the region and detail natural resources available for development. With Mitchell's assistance and guidance the first maps of the peninsula were created.

In 1905, Mitchell was hired by the Anglo-Newfoundland Development (A.N.D.) Company to survey timber and resource concessions in central Newfoundland. His work at this time led him to discovering the Buchans ore body, one of the world's most productive massive sulphide deposits. Developments from this discovery continue to be a major source of mineral wealth in the province today.

In the winter of 1908, Mitchell was commissioned by the A.N.D. Company to lead a party from Norris Point to St. Anthony to collect and herd a group of 50 reindeer. After more than three months in the country in poor weather conditions, covering over 650 kilometres, the reindeer were successfully delivered in Millertown. The voyage demonstrated Mitchell's skill as a guide through rough weather and rugged, uncharted terrain.

In the remaining years of his life, Mitchell continued to guide in the Bonne Bay area. He was also employed by the International Power and Paper Company in preliminary survey work for what later became the Corner Brook pulp and paper mill. He died in 1921.

In 1999, both the Beothuk Institute and the Miawpukek First Nation, in consultation with the Federation of Newfoundland Indians, requested that the HSMBC recognize Mattie Mitchell as a person of national historic significance.

The Miawpukek First Nation, the Federation of Newfoundland Indians and Marie Sparkes, great-granddaughter of Mattie Mitchell, in consultation with Parks Canada, chose the site of commemoration-Deer Arm in Bonne Bay, Gros Morne National Park.

Mitchell was born in Halls Bay in 1846, and from 1885, he lived at Bonne Bay. It was from here that he was engaged in the guiding, prospecting, and exploration work for which he is so well known. Deer Arm, within Gros Morne, was Mitchell's preferred route into the Long Range Mountains. Visitors to the National Park can learn more about Mitchell's life and his accomplishments thanks to an exhibit now in place at that location.

SPLE'TK FIRST NATIONS ABORIGINAL/CANADA DAY CELEBRATIONS



Nish Paul, Rachel Mills, Chief Nellie
Power & Margaret Hopfel

Sple'tk First Nations celebrated National Aboriginal Day and Canada Day together this year at Wigwam Point on Saturday, July 25th. About 350 people turned out for the event where the Elders were treated to lunch and tea/coffee. Vendors were there with their wares; face painting for kids, and canteen services were provided. The Sple'tk Drummers and Dancers were there to open the event. Entertainment was provided by Nish Paul and Francis Newhook. There were games for the Elders and kids as well as a family scavenger hunt.

Submitted by Bernie Hanlon

ST. GEORGE'S UPCOMING ELECTIONS

Fall 2005 is election time for the St. George's Indian Band! The Band held their Annual General Meeting at which time nominations were held for the four executive, four directors, one elder and one youth positions. Violet Dawson was elected by acclamation as Chief; other positions that were elected by acclamation were Howard Skinner as Vice-Chief; Karen White as Treasurer and Shelley Garnier as Secretary. On Sunday, Nov. 20, 2005, from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm at the Royal Canadian Legion, St. George's, NL voting will be held for four director positions as all other positions were filled by acclamation. All members of the St. George's Indian Band 19 years of age and older are eligible to vote. Come out and vote for your directors.

NEWS FROM INDIAN HEAD FIRST NATIONS

The Indian Head First Nations band held its Annual General Assembly on Sunday, October 23rd at the Lion's Club in Stephenville. This years AGA was more of a cultural and social event. The evening started with an explanation of some of the traditional medicines by Gertie Mae Muise and two drumming songs by the Rainbow Thunderbird Singers which included Gertie Mae, Linda Wells, Phyllis Cooper and four youth, Sarah Wells, Leanne Alexander, Dana Joy and Sabrina Muise. We also had on hand Anselm Benoit who displayed his aboriginal carvings, Elder Charlie White who displayed his walking and talking sticks, Phyllis Cooper who had an assortment of crafts and Shelley Garnier who distributed diabetes information. There were three ticket draws throughout the night and Greg Swyers and Anselm Benoit were winners of the book The MI'KMAQ People of Newfoundland: A Celebration donated by the Indian Head First Nations Youth Group and Harold Bennett was the winner of the Christmas Ornaments provided by Indian Head Mi'kmaq Women's Association.

The amended constitution was ratified and the meeting was adjourned. All present then mingled and enjoyed some finger foods provided by the Band and its members. Chief Hayward Young Jr. would like to thank all those who attended and anyone who made any contribution to the evening.

Out of Province Members are now being accepted into the Band and the rights and benefits of those members will be determined at a later date. Applications and information for interested members can be obtained from Chief Young.

There will be a Pow Wow, Co-hosted by five bands in the region in July 2006, in Flat Bay. The Pow Wow committee is making a request to the Armed Forces that may see these members attending the gathering. Members who have family in the Armed Forces are asked to let Chief Young or other Board members know, as soon as possible, so their names can be added to the list.

The Band continues to look for office space in an effort to provide services to the membership and raise our profile in the community. We hope to have something in place by the new year.

We would like to congratulate Kim Butler on being named to the Provincial Aboriginal Women's Association and we wish her the best in your future endeavors.

Our web site is being updated and we ask our members to keep their eyes open for our new look web site www.indianheadfirstnations.com.

Any members that are interested in sitting on teams or committees to work on future projects of the FNI can contact Chief Hayward Young Jr. at 647-3550.

Our next general meeting will be Sunday, November 6th at St. Michael's Elementary Cafeteria at 7:00 PM. Future meetings will be held the first Sunday of each month rotating between Stephenville and Stephenville Crossing.

Submitted by Chief Hayward Young

INDIAN HEAD TOURISM STRATEGY MEETING

The FNI is in the process of developing a Tourism Strategy for its members. Open consultations will be held with members of Indian Head First Nations to receive comments and suggestions regarding the development of this strategy. It will be held at the **Holiday Inn, Stephenville on Saturday, Nov. 19th from 3:30 - 4:30 pm**. All members are welcome. Should you not be able attend, please provide your comments or suggestions to Chief Hayward Young before the date of the meeting. You may also contact the consultants directly with your comments. Email dawn@wandacuffyoung.ca OR fax 709-834-4650. **Deadline to receive comments is Friday, Nov. 25th - 4 pm.**

EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

THE FEDERATION OF NEWFOUNDLAND INDIANS

Aboriginal Human Resource Development Agreement 2005-2006

As a follow-up to the last edition of the Mi'kmaq News the following will delineate the status of projected operational plan for this fiscal year:

- Currently the FNI is sponsoring 32 individuals into post secondary training;
- Currently the FNI is sponsoring 08 individuals into the university training;
- Currently the FNI is sponsoring 16 individuals into employment programs;
- The FNI has advertised for an individual or firm to conduct the first phase of a tourism strategy for the nine local band councils. This tender has been awarded to Wanda Cuff Young Inc. from Conception Bay. Public consultation meetings will be taking place within the communities, this will be your opportunity to have your say into this strategy;
- The FNI welcome individuals that are interested in pursuing training in the fishing industry to submit a training application to one of the ACRO's (PAL does qualify). Also, if you are interested in pursuing employment in the field of fishing and have no previous experience, the FNI can negotiate a subsidy with an experienced fisherperson to hire you to gain experience;
- The FNI encourage individuals that are interested in the Gas and Oil industry to apply for the Rough neck courses offered through various colleges and submit a training application to your ACRO;
- The FNI has hired Mr. Leonard Muise from Stephenville as the Education Specialist to develop resource package to schools to support the provincial outcomes;
- Terry Hickey and Associates has completed the organizational review and the FNI is now seeking individuals to participate on a team to develop a plan of implementation resulting from this review.
- The FNI trained nine individuals in the RCMP Summer Program this year and encourage interested people to apply for this program again this year, deadline for resumes is December 16th, 2005, please visit the FNI web page for further details (www.fni.nf.ca). 17 youth were employed for six weeks over the summer, and an additional 7 youth were approved under summer career placements for the youth program, and worked as Aboriginal Youth Program Assistants.

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MATTIE MITCHELL PRINT FOR SALE



The Federation of Newfoundland Indians will be selling prints of the Jerry Evans painting of Mattie Mitchell that he presented at the Mattie Mitchell dedication in Rocky Harbour, Gros Morne Park in July 2005. These prints can be purchased for \$10.00 each at the Corner Brook office of the Federation of Newfoundland Indians.

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Mi'kmaq Words

Tia'm - moose - pronounced (di-aam)

Gesig - winter - pronounced (ge-sik)

Gept'gewigu's - November - pronounced (gept-ge-wi-guus)

check out <http://www.mikmaqonline.org/>

CONSTITUTIONAL CORNER

Did you know:

11.03 In the event that a director, other than the President, resigns his or her office or ceases to be a member of the Corporation, whereupon his or her office as director shall ipso facto be vacated, the vacancy thereby created may be filled for the unexpired portion of the term by a person appointed by the Band Council of the Band to which the director who resigns or ceases to be a member of the Corporation is or was a member.

XII POWERS OF DIRECTORS

12.01 The management of the activities of the Corporation shall be vested in the directors who, in addition to the powers and authorities vested upon them by these by-laws or otherwise expressly conferred upon them, may delegate to an Executive Committee of Directors, the President, either Vice-President or the Executive Assistant any function that may be required to ensure the efficient operation of the Corporation, including without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the hiring and dismissal of any person employed by the Corporation. The directors shall retain soleresponsibility for reviewing and approving overall plans of the Corporation as submitted by the executive, for reviewing and approving expenditures of the Corporation on a quarterly basis, and reviewing and approving expenditures of programs of the Corporation.

MI'KMAQ NEWS

We are always looking for event listings, stories, suggestions, poems, ideas, and artwork.

You can send them to:

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