



Red River Current

APRIL 2013

VOLUME 4 :: ISSUE 3

STAND UP FOR MOOSE LAKE

The Hearing on Dover OpCo is soon approaching and the Fort McKay Sustainability Department has recruited the best possible team of people that include lawyers, Elders, trappers, traditional land users and other community members to oppose the project. This team has the opportunity to speak up for the Fort McKay and discuss the impacts this project will have on Moose Lake, the community, and its people.

The hearing begins on April 23rd, and the setting is expected resemble very closely to a court process where each party will have the opportunity to cross-examine each others' evidence. To start, Dover OpCo will present their information for its proposed development. Fort McKay will then have the opportunity to discuss and



A tea dance is being held at the band hall on April 22 to create unity for the Moose Lake Road hearings that begin the next day at MacDonal Island. See [STAND UP FOR MOOSE LAKE](#) on page 3.

present their opposition. The Municipality of Wood Buffalo as well as Total are also expected to oppose the Dover OpCo Development. This process can go on for as long as two weeks if necessary.

Fort McKay's opposition will include a scientific argument of what Fort McKay needs protected, and how it can be attained. Presented solutions will include creating 'buffer zone' that cannot be developed on, protecting



6



10



2



4



EXCITING FUTURE REVEALED AT QGM



The Fort McKay First Nation held its latest Quarterly General Meeting (QGM) in Fort McKay on March 14th and in Fort McMurray and Edmonton on April 3rd and 4th, respectively. In addition to reporting on the various community programs and services, the FMFN announced a number of new capital projects, including an amphitheatre, infrastructure improvements (roads and sidewalks), Elders Long-term Care Facility, new Youth Centre, new school, and a new church.

While the infrastructure improvements and amphitheatre are approved and underway, the concepts for the Long-term Care Facility, Youth Centre, school, and church require further discussion before they are developed. "We know the community has been waiting a long time for a new school and a long-term care facility for the elders," said Communications Director Dayle Hyde. "We want to act on these projects, but we need the input of our com-

munity members before we move forward. Within the next few months, we will be inviting community members to sessions to discuss these projects. We want to hear the community's concerns, and take their suggestions into consideration."

"This is really an exciting time for Fort McKay," said CEO George Arcand, Jr. "The community is going to see a lot of growth in the next few years. We are trying to build a healthy community, and part of that is providing the best possible facilities and programs. We are also using these new projects to provide opportunities for community members to develop their skills."

The FMFN has committed to providing employment for any able-bodied community member interested in working in the Capital Projects department. The FMFN has registered with the Apprenticeship Board and is currently accepting résumés from community members interested in becoming Electricians and Plumbers. Interested members are encouraged to forward their résumés to fmfnemployment@fortmckay.com (please indicate the desired trade). For more information, please call (780) 828-2468.

"Because these projects are going to require more manpower than the community can provide, we are entering into an agreement with the Kanai Nation (Blood Tribe) in southern Alberta," stated Arcand. "We are going to provide

more information to the community once the details are ironed out. However, I will say that the development of Fort McKay community members will always come first."

The members of the Kanai Nation will be housed outside of the community itself. The funding for the Blood Tribe pilot project is expected to come from the FMFN, federal and provincial governments, and local industry. The next QGMs will be held in June. Copies of the March/April QGM presentation are available at the front office at the Dorothy McDonald Business Centre.



FMFN LEADERSHIP TEAM

Jim Boucher, Chief

Raymond Powder, Councillor

David Bouchier, Councillor

Gerald Gladue, Councillor

George Arcand, CEO

Larry Hewko, CFO/COO

ADMINISTRATION DEPT.

Dorothy McDonald Business Centre

General Delivery

Fort McKay, AB T0P 1C0

Phone: 780-828-2430

Hours of Operation:

Mon. to Thurs. - 8:30am - 4:30pm

Friday - 8:30am - 2:00pm

COMMUNITY INFO LINE

780-828-2442

SUBMISSIONS & ADVERTISING

Cort Gallup, Editor

If you have any photos, stories or ideas for the Fort McKay Current, please contact Cort at cgallup@fortmckay.com or call 780-838-6061.

STAND UP FOR MOOSE LAKE

(Continued from page 1)



A breathtaking view of Moose Lake from the shores of Fort McKay's campsite.

Moose Lake.

A video called “Moose Lake: Home and Refuge” will also be presented during the Hearing. This video tells Fort McKay’s story and the importance of Moose Lake has on the community. People featured in the film include Celina Harpe and Jean L’homme court among others. This video will be available for viewing on various opportunities. Notices will be sent out to community members very soon.

A schedule of the Hearing will be presented to the community at an open meeting scheduled for April 18th. This meeting will also discuss the latest updates on the Dover OpCo Project, and an overview of the evidence that is prepared for the Hearing will be presented. All community mem-

bers are strongly encouraged to attend this meeting in order to better understand the consequences this project can have on Fort McKay.

Hearings on the Moose Lake Road begin April 23 at MacDonald Island.

The public is welcome and all residents of Fort McKay are strongly encouraged to attend.

Transportation to and from MacDonald Island for those who would like to attend the Hearing will be made available through the Fort McKay Sustainability Development Department.

You can make a difference in protecting Moose Lake just by being present at the Hearing. The more community members are present, the more it will demonstrate how deeply concerned Fort McKay people really are about this proposed development.

On April 22nd, everyone is welcome to join together at a Tea Dance. The theme is “Honouring Our Ancestral Roots to Mother Earth”, and in addition to honouring our ancestors, we will be honouring our connection to Moose Lake. Feast starts at 6:00pm.

If you would like more information, please contact the Sustainability Development Department at: 780-828-2480.



3 “DEAD” IN MOCK ATV COLLISION



In an effort to prevent alcohol and risk related trauma in youth, a **mock** collision was acted out by volunteers on the main road at the entrance of the Band Hall on March 12. A mini van was attempting to turn left into the Band Hall but the driver was talking on their cell phone and did not notice a speeding ATV. The ATV hit the passenger side of the mini van, seriously injuring the front passenger and fatally injuring the infant also riding in the front seat.

The front seat passenger, the mother of the infant, was transported to hospital where she died of her injuries. The helmetless ATV driver, a male in his twenties, was walking wounded and arrested by RCMP for impaired driving. The passenger on the ATV, a female in her late teens, also was not wearing a helmet and was killed instantly. Two passengers in the back

seat of the mini van were transported to hospital and treated for their injuries. The driver of the vehicle was charged with distracted driving. The Fort McKay Fire Department used the jaws of life to free the victims from the mini van.

The mock collision was organized and sponsored by the Wood Buffalo Rural Impact Youth Planning Committee. The presentation included local youth that performed some incredible acting as the victims. They included; Feather McDonald, Alanis Laurent, Taylor McDonald and Starr Grandjambe.

The presentation also included intense testimony from emergency response team members who have had to respond to real fatal accidents. Kimberly Timmins of Fort McMurray Victim Services remembers her first

accident. It was a head on collision on Highway 63. She had to return items found at the accident scene to family members, including toys and a purse.

“These accidents change everybody’s lives, including those that work on them,” said Timmins. RCMP Constable Natasha Lytwenko said “NOKs” also known as notifying next of kin is “part of the job that no officer wants to do.”

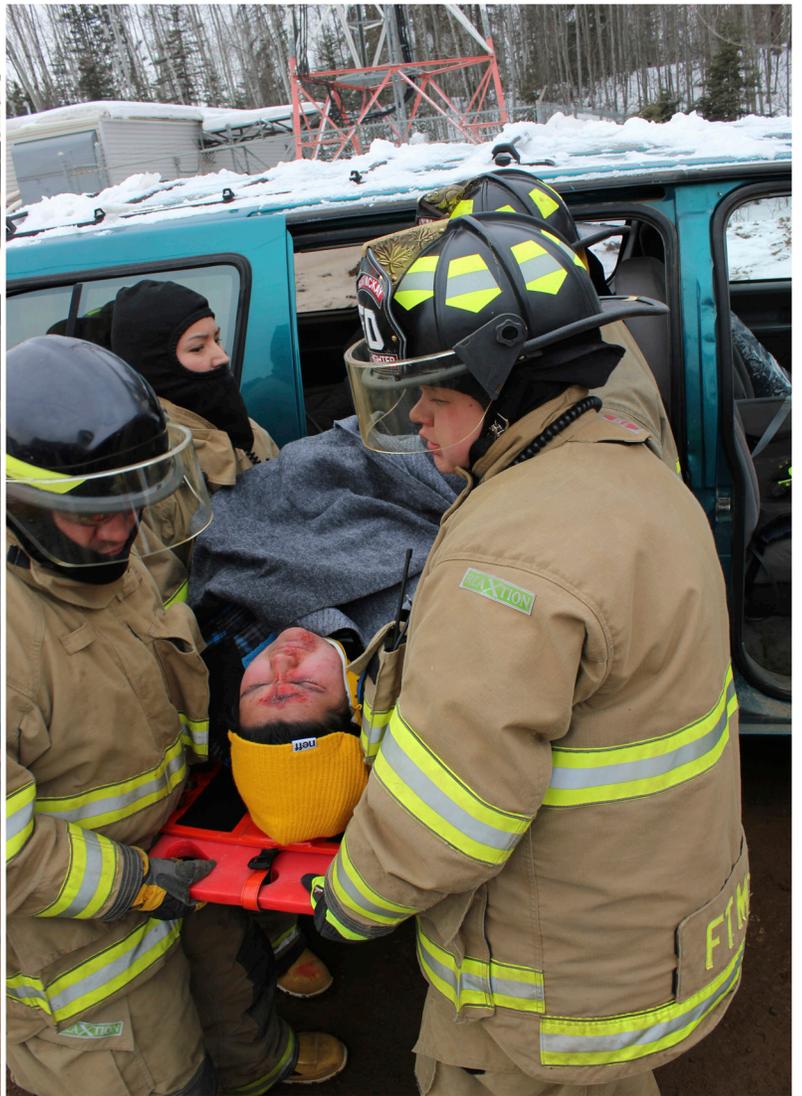
Troy Palmer, Fire Lieutenant for the Fort McMurray Fire Dept. said, “Bad choices that you make, such as talking on a cell phone or texting while driving, or driving impaired, or improperly securing a baby/infant, or riding an ATV without a helmet affects more than you. In the case of a fatal consequence, it is over for you, but has just begun for everyone who knows you. They have to live with it forever.”

MILDRED LAKE FIRE SCHOOL: BURNING NOTIFICATION

In order to teach the skills for real life situations, it is necessary to provide training to Syncrude emergency response personnel through the live burning of gasoline, fuel, oil and propane. Please note that fuel emissions may be visible from the Mildred Lake plant site at various times on any of the prescheduled training dates presented below. Typically, the live burns are from 15 to 30 minutes in duration and the volume of visible emissions may vary depending on the type of training being carried out on any given day. The Mildred Lake Fire School fire fighting training is conducted in an extremely controlled manner and there is no risk to the public. **Scheduled Dates: April 15-30; May 1-31; June 1-30; July 1-31; August 1-31; September 1-20; October 1-18**

If you would like more information or have any questions on this matter, please contact Brooke Bennett, Environmental Technologist of Syncrude Canada, at 780-790-5692.





“BEST EVER” WINTER FESTIVAL AN



This year's winter festival was one of the most memorable in recent history. On a calm, frosty, blue sky day, Fort McKay people gathered around fires making tea and bannock, ran through deep snow and jigged their hearts out.



This year's Winterfest added Prince Trapper and Princess Trapper divisions for the kids, to the King and Queen Trapper divisions, and the kids turned out in full force and had a blast. They even gave moose calling a try for the first time. The winning Prince Trapper performed a perfect rendition of a moose that gets shot after its call. Roanin Grandjambe, 7, a Princess Trapper competitor, did a perfect rendition of a moose that would never be shot, perfect silence in the bush.



Many adults signed up for the individual Mad Trapper events including leg wrestling and log throwing. The annual event was sponsored by the Fort McKay First Nation, the Fort McKay Group of Companies, The Bouchier Group, Fort McKay Enterprises Ltd., Sakastew Transportation, Fort Mckay Metis Local 63, Suncor Energy, Canadian Natural, and Deneso-line.

King: Cole McKenzie
Queen: Sherry McKenzie
Prince: Cassius Grandjambe
Princess: Reanna Whiteknife

D ROYAL TRAPPERS COMPETITION



AUTHOR RICHARD VAN CAMP VISITS ELDERS

Accomplished author Richard Van Camp was in Fort McKay for four days in March gathering stories for a book he is writing that is yet untitled. Van Camp spent a few hours with approximately a dozen of our Elders who shared some of their life stories with him.

“I am here gathering stories of beauty,” said Van Camp a proud member of the Dogrib (Tlicho) Nation from Fort Smith, NWT, who is a graduate of the En’owkin International School of Writing, the University of Victoria’s Creative Writing BFA Program, and the Master’s Degree in

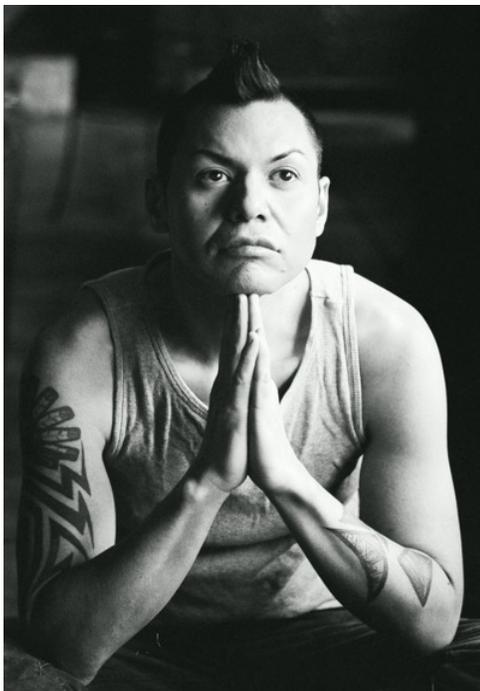
Creative Writing at the University of British Columbia. Richard currently teaches Creative Writing for Aboriginal Students at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, BC. He is also CBC Radio’s Writer in Residence for their North by Northwest Program. A movie based on his novel ‘Lesser Blessed’ will be shown at the TIFF Touring Movie Festival at Keyano Theatre on April 21st.

The book that features our Elders’ stories is commissioned by Imperial Oil and will be released in July of this year. “It is really my love letter to the North,” says Van Camp about the book.



Author Richard Van Camp visits with Elder Lina Gallup in her home.

ALBERTA VENTURE FEATURES MASSEY WHITEKNIFE



If you would like to read the full story, please go to:

<http://albertaventure.com/2013/03/massey-whiteknife-fort-mcmurray/>

Massey Whiteknife, the successful owner of ICEIS Safety, was featured in Alberta Venture magazine last month for his success in being a proud gay business owner.

The article explains how Whiteknife always knew he wanted to go into business, and his vision started when he was as young as seven years old. It also describes some of the obstacles Whiteknife was faced with along the way, and how he managed to overcome these challenges.

Whiteknife explains that: “Being openly gay in Fort McMurray is hard, but being an openly gay business owner is even harder,” The article continues to define how: “Massey

Whiteknife... isn’t afraid to stand out from the crowd.”

Massey Whiteknife has been acknowledged many times before. He received the Youth Entrepreneur Award of Distinction by the Alberta Chamber of Commerce in 2011. He was also nominated for the Fort McMurray Chamber of Commerce’s 2012 Small Business of the Year award and he won the Community Safety award at the latest Fort McKay Community Awards ceremony.

Alberta Venture is a very well known publication and is considered to be Alberta’s favourite business magazine. It highlights the province’s industries and its most reputable businesses.



FORT MCKAY RESPONDS TO SUNCOR SPILL

Fort McKay has publicly expressed serious concerns about Suncor Energy's March 25th release of effluent into the Athabasca River. In addition to concerns about the environmental impacts, Fort McKay's Sustainability Department has reported the community was not notified of the spill by Suncor representatives, which goes against the protocol developed by the community and Suncor following a similar incident in 2011.

Since 2011, Suncor Energy has followed the agreed-upon Consultation Process for "Planned Events," such as when there will be an increase of noise, odours, or other events which might affect the community. However, the protocol developed for "Unplanned Events," which includes pipeline leaks and large spills, calls for Suncor to contact community representatives within a reasonable time frame.

"We found out about the spill from two other organizations, and when we first tried to reach our contacts at Suncor Energy, they were unavailable," said Daniel

Stuckless, Environmental Affairs Manager for the Fort McKay First Nation. "This is not the first time we've had issues with Suncor's communication following a release of effluent into the Athabasca River. In fact, despite our requests for information, Suncor has never released to us the specific details of the 2011 incident."

Employees of the Sustainability Department conducted a visit on March 28th to the site of the spill, and have engaged an independent environmental consultant to test the waters of the Athabasca River. The Fort McKay First Nation and Fort McKay Métis Community leadership will be requesting a meeting with Suncor to discuss the environmental impacts of the spills and the lack of timely notification. The community leadership is particularly anxious to discuss Suncor's communication with the community should another incident posing a more imminent threat to the community occur in the future. The leadership has also expressed frustration that the release of effluent into the Athabasca River has been an ongoing issue dating

PLAYING BINGO AT THE ELDERS CENTRE



SKI BEAUTIFUL “MOUNT MCKAY”



Cort Gallup makes the first ski tracks at “Mount McKay” on a gorgeous sunny, warm winter day.

Fort McKay is known for being a thriving community, and is continuously looking for ways to improve the quality of lives for its community members. One way to do this is by adding recreational activities, like the forthcoming construction of the Fort McKay First Nation Ski Hill and Snow Play Area.

The construction of “Mount McKay” is well under way and will include a state of the art “Magic Carpet” ski lift.

The snow park will be located behind the Fire Hall, where many can enjoy its features. The hill has already been landscaped and prepped for development.

The McKay lift is expected to be running for the next winter season, with the project being completed this spring. The “Magic Carpet” is 300 feet in length and will be powered by an electric motor. There is a black and yellow safety trip

plate at the top that stops the lift instantly. All components are CSA approved.

There will be a section exclusively for tubers and another for skiers and snowboarders. The lift will separate the trails and go up the middle of the park. Tubers and skiers will use the same lift.

The company building the park is called Inter-MTN. It is a family business that holds over 30 years experience. Some of projects that Inter-MTN has been involved with include the lifts at Mount Washington and Mt. Seymour.

“Snow Parks” are very popular these days, and are a great way to enjoy our winter season. Local skier Cort Gallup tried out the slopes for the first time this month, and gives it his thumbs up. “It is a nice little ski hill. It is steep enough and you can make quite a few turns. It is going to make for more great fun in the winter right here in Fort McKay,” says Gallup.



LOOK OUT FOR FISH FENCES ON THE RIVER

Portable fish counting fences are proposed to be constructed and operated in the spring of 2013 to support baseline data collection for the region. The fences will be located on the McKay River and on the Dover River, southwest of Fort McKay, Alberta.

The fences will be constructed as soon as ice is off the river to capture fish migrating up the McKay River and Dover River to spawn. The fence on the McKay River will be constructed across the channel on skew (20% to 30%) requiring the length of the fence to be approximately 70 m. The fence on the Dover River will be constructed across the channel on skew (20% to 30%) requiring the length of the fence to be approximately 15 m.

Additional side fences will be installed along each side. The orientation of the fences will direct fish towards the traps placed along the fence. The traps will be placed on either side of the fences to document fish movements up and down the river. The duration of the fences will be dependent on

fish numbers and/or flow conditions. It is expected the fences will be in place for approximately one month.

There will be signage upstream and downstream of the fence locations to warn paddle crafts of the fences and provide information on portage route. The portage route will be well established and marked appropriately.

All fish captured will be identified to species and counted. Fork length (mm) will be measured for each fish. The life stage, sex, and maturity of the fish will also be identified if possible. Fish will then be released to the opposite side of the fence to continue their migration.

The fish inventory sampling will be conducted according to permit requirements, as outlined in the Fisheries Research License, issued by Alberta Environment Sustainable Resource Development (AESRD).

DO YOU NEED A HELPING HAND?

The Fort McKay Family Support Centre offers a variety of programs that include the following: Evening Counseling, Day Programs for individual and Family counseling for grief/ loss, conflict resolutions, Family violence, Addictions (Gambling, Alcohol, Drugs) High Risk behaviors & Self injuries / mutilations, Co-Dependency, Lateral violence and Depression/Anxiety disorders.

Mondays

- ATC Child & Family Services – Foster Program & Family Enhancement
- * Last Monday of Every month*
- Probation/ Parole Services

Wednesdays

- Victim Services
- NA Meetings (Evening)

Thursdays

- NEAFAN – Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Assessments

We also offer referral services for:

- Addictions services
- ATC Child & Family services
- Addictions Day Program
- Child Visitation
- Eating Disorders
- Family Court Counselors
- Family Violence Support Group

- Gambling Addiction Referral
- Men's Support Group
- NNADAP Treatment
- Psychological Assessment
- Parenting Programs
- Safety/ Shelters for Women & Children
- Sexual Offenders Programs



If you or someone you love needs support, please contact the Family Health Centre at: 828-4048.



SMOKE SIGNALS

HEALTH CENTRE

780-828-4229

- Healthy Moms and Tots programs running once a month.
- Walking Club for beginners. Every Friday, starting April 5, 2013. Group meets at 10:30-11:30 am, at the Health Centre lobby. All ages Welcomed! Weekly door prizes. Contact Belinda for more information at: 828-2450.
- Beginners Diabetes Exercise Group April 11&18; 2-3pm. Meet at the gym.
- Healthy Cooking with Diabetes. April 25, :30-3:00pm at the Health Centre Kitchen. Menu: Vegetarian Lasagna. For more information, contact Belinda.
- Safe Food Handling Course. April 23-24. 9:00am - 4:00pm and 9:00 am - 2:00pm. *Need to attend both days to receive certificate. ONLY 5 seats available. To register, contact Belinda.
- Water Workout for Elders. April 30 at 10:30 - 12:30. Must register with Belinda in advance.
- Food Bank Intake: April 22-24, from 9am-3pm, please see Lisa.
- Food Bank Drive: April 25.
- Social Assistance Intake: April 24-29, from 9am-3:30pm (cheques will be released April 30).

WELLNESS CENTRE

780-828-4312

- Monday nights, Young Chef's Classes
- Tuesday nights, Broomball Clinics for ages 6 and up
- Wednesday nights, Scrapbooking classes for ages 6 and up
- Thursday nights, Dodgeball Tournaments for ages 6-12
- Friday, April 12th- Teen Night (ages 10 to 16) Bus leaves the Wellness Center at 5:30 PM and returns at 10 PM
- Friday, April 19th- Pre Teen Night (ages 6 to 10) Bus leaves the Wellness Center at 5:30 PM and returns at 10:00 PM
- Friday, April 26th- Teen Night (ages 10 to 16) Bus leaves the Wellness Center at 5:30 PM and returns at 10:00 PM

FORT MCKAY RECREATION

780-714-7094

- Yoga, Fridays noon-1, fitness centre.
- Weight class, Mondays, noon-1, fitness centre.
- Volleyball, Monday and Wednesdays, 7-9pm, school gym.
- Interval class, Tuesdays, noon-12:30, fitness centre.
- Abs, Wednesdays, noon-12:30pm, fitness centre.-
- Dodgeball, Thursdays, 8-10pm, school gym.

HOUSING 780-727-2489

- If you have not had your furnace filters changed in the last 3 months please call Housing.
- If you have any major appliance concerns i.e. stove, fridges., dishwashers, range hood fans, washers, dryers or refrigerators please call housing.

SUSTAINABILITY DEPARTMENT

780-828-2480

- Fire Arms Safety Course April 11th, 12th, 13th 2013. 5:00 – 9:00 (Subject to Change). Fort McKay Hockey Arena. For more information, please contact Wayne Courchene: 780-828-2480 or 780 881-2756. email: wcourchene@fortmckay.com- Air Monitor station is getting built and should be running by the end of March.
- Scotty Stewart has a temporary field license to collect undersize or "weird" fish for testing.
- Advisory tours coming up for Syncrude and Suncor for 15 community members and elders.
- Let Sustainability Department know about any odours or smells. To make an odour complaint call 1-800-222-6514.

FAMILY SUPPORT CENTRE

780-828-4048

- NA Meetings, Wednesdays, 7:30-8:30PM.

The Red River Current would like to make a correction from the previous issue featuring the article *25 Years of R.A.R.A.*

Brace Gandjambe (Junior Achievement Award Winner) was recognized for her high marks, her participation in cultural events as a Fancy Dancer, and the time she spends with her family learning about trapping, hunting, and medicinal plants.

Congratulations, Brace!



APRIL TRAINING

- | | |
|----|-----------------------------|
| 9 | Chainsaw |
| 10 | Chainsaw |
| 11 | Chainsaw |
| 17 | Standard First Aid, level C |
| 18 | Standard First Aid, level C |
| 19 | Anti-Bullying |
| 22 | Anger Management |
| 23 | Etiquette |
| 24 | Standard First Aid, level C |
| 25 | Standard First Aid, level C |
| 26 | Anti-bullying |
| 29 | Anger Management |
| 30 | Etiquette |

To book your seat, please call
Glenna Peters at:

Office 780-828-2496
Cell 780-838-2143

