



Red River Current

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ALBERTA GOVERNMENT COMMITS TO PROTECT MOOSE LAKE

Last month, Chief and Council met with Premier Jim Prentice, as well as the Environment and Sustainable Resource Development Minister Kyle Fawcett to sign a letter of Intent that acknowledges the development of an access management plan for the Moose Lake area.

“The Fort McKay First Nation has done a wonderful job of preserving their traditional way of life, while allowing for responsible oil sands development near their community. This has enabled their people to thrive economically within the oil sands region. But it has also meant that some land that is meaningful

to them near their reserve has been used for development. When Chief Boucher asked for our support to protect the small parcel of land near Moose Lake for his community, I didn’t hesitate to say yes,” explained Jim Prentice, Premier of Alberta and Minister of Aboriginal Relations.

Kyle Fawcett, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development also commented in a media release: “The Access Management Plan for the Moose Lake Area will be developed over the next year,

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MOOSE LAKE PROTECTIONS CONTINUED

(continued from page 1) together with the Fort McKay First Nation and industry partners in the area. By working together we can come to an agreement that will balance development and environmental protection in this area that is so important to the people of the Fort McKay First Nation."

Moose Lake has always been considered a sacred place to Fort McKay. Due to recent oil sands development around the area, its protection has become of great concern to our community. Thanks to the Lower Athabasca



MFN LEADERSHIP TEAM

Jim Boucher, Chief

Raymond Powder, Councillor

Gerald Gladue, Councillor

Ruth McKenzie, Councillor

George Arcand, CEO

Larry Hewko, CFO/COO

Barrie Robb, CEO Business Development

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

SUBMISSIONS

If you have any photos, stories or ideas for the Fort McKay Current, please contact Nancy Robin at:

780-715-4512 or

email: nancydoire@msn.com



Premier Jim Prentice and Chief Boucher meet in Fort McKay last year. Photo by Emily Woods

Regional Plan that came into effect in 2012, the development of the Moose Lake Access Management Plan can now be implemented. The Lower Athabasca Regional Plan created new environmental structures that protect the quality of air and water, and expands the overall preserved land within the region to more than two million hectares. It also permits for sub-regional plans, such as this one, to take shape through the combined effort of First Nations, industry and government.

"Moose Lake is an important place for the people of my community. It is where many of us go to hunt, trap, fish, and pick

berries safely and in peace. The Letter of Intent I have signed with the Alberta government is an important first step to ensure our children and grandchildren have a clean, peaceful place to keep our traditions and culture alive. I am looking forward to working together with the Alberta government and our industry partners to develop this important plan." explained Chief Jim Boucher.

With this Letter of Intent, we can all be confident that the Alberta government is now taking the necessary steps to ensure that Moose Lake is protected and will be for generations to come.



NOTICE OF ADVANCE VOTE



Notice is hereby given that a General Election will be held on Friday, April 10, 2015, for the election of:

ONE (1) CHIEF
FOUR (4) COUNCILLORS

Voting will take place: Friday, April 10, 2015
Between the hours of 10:00am and 8:00pm.

Voting Stations will be located at:

Fr. Begin Community Hall
Fort MacKay, Alberta

Nistawoyou Association Friendship Centre
Fort McMurray, Alberta

Chateau Nova Hotel & Suites
159 Airport Road
Edmonton, Alberta

An Advance Vote will take place on Thursday, April 2, 2015, at the locations set out above between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Dated at the City of Edmonton in the Province of Alberta this 24th day of March, 2015.

“Sean Ward”
Returning Officer

FUN FOR ALL AT FORT McKAY'S WINTER FESTIVAL



On March 7th, many people around the community put on their winter gear and participated in Fort McKay's Annual Winter Festival. It might have been a winter day, but the weather was deceivingly beautiful with warmer than usual temperatures and the sun shining on everyone. Parents arrived with their children, and youth brought their friends for a fun filled day!

The event started off at noon with a free lunch for everyone to enjoy. Throughout the afternoon, many folks competed for the grand title. Activities included snowshoe races, snow snakes, sled pulls, Indian leg wrestle, log toss, moose calling as well as bannock and tea making contests. The arena was also open all day for those who preferred to skate leisurely around the ice. After dinner, people cheered as many got up and showed off their moves during the Jigging contest in the band hall.

We would like to thank all of our volunteers that came out to help out during the events, as well as everyone for their participation. It surely was a great day filled with excitement and laughter!

We look forward to our next gathering!

**Congratulations to this year's
Winter Festival winners:**

Kiddies of the North Female

- 1st - Mataya
- 2nd - Ronan
- 3rd - Nikitta

Kiddies of the North Male

- 1st - Exzander
- 2nd - Brayden
- 3rd - Keegan

Duke and Duchess

- 1st - Jace and Carmen
- 2nd - Logan and Mikeela
- 3rd - Wilfred and Carmen

Prince and Princess

- 1st - Tristen and Alice
- 2nd - Lane and Brace
- 3rd - Jeff/Tyrell and Reanna

King and Queen

- 1st - Charlie and Sherry
- 2nd - Rod and Michelle
- 3rd - Cole / Kevin / Dave and Becky





FORT McKAY ELDER PRESENTS ON WBEA BERRY PROJECT AT CONFERENCE



Recently, Celina Harpe joined Janelle Baker to present on the Wood Buffalo Environmental Association (WBEA) and Fort McKay berry project at a conference in Edmonton. The conference was called "Wisdom Engaged: Traditional Knowledge and Northern Community Well-Being" was held February 18-22, 2015 at the University of Alberta in Edmonton.

Harpe and Baker presented on the topic of "Berries are Medicine: Sharing and Consuming Cranberries in Fort McKay". Baker gave a fifteen minute background presentation on the project and Harpe gave a forty-five minute talk as a part of an Elder's workshop. The combined presentation will become a chapter in an edited volume of pro-

ceedings from the conference. In this particular case, Harpe was invited to be the presenter from the Fort McKay berry group because she had experience in public speaking, had expressed interest in co-presenting at a conference, and had shared stories about using cranberries as medicine during the berry project research to-date. She was accompanied by her daughter Karen MacDonald, who attended the meetings for the first two days of the conference.

However, this was not the first conference that members from the Fort McKay berry group have presented at. In 2013, Andrew Bouchier, Shay Laurent, and Eddison Lee Johnson from the Sustainability Department accompanied Janelle Baker in

Denton, Texas to give a poster entitled "Eating Berries in the Oil Sands: Fort McKay's Observations of Berry Contamination in their Traditional Territory" at the Society of Ethnobiology's annual conference. The following year in 2014, Clara and Andrew Bouchier, Shay Laurent, and Jean L'Homme court joined Baker to give a presentation called "Tasting and Testing: Addressing Aboriginal Concepts of Berry Contamination in Alberta's Oil Sands Region" at the Society of Ethnobiology's annual meeting, held in Cherokee, North Carolina. Clara Bouchier co-presented the talk and it is available on youtube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n4g5jNZ2xkA&list=PL2F-DA7C93E8A96A33&index=10>

Most recently, Baker gave a poster presentation at the Oil Sands Monitoring Symposium February 24-25, 2015 hosted by the Alberta Environmental Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Agency (AEMERA) in Edmonton entitled "Eating Berries in the Oil Sands: Using Traditional Knowledge to Observe Berry Quality". Dr. Kevin Percy, Executive Director of WBEA and Jane Percy, WBEA Communications, who are both directly involved in the Fort McKay berry group were in attendance at the symposium. Several members of the Fort McKay sustainability department were in attendance as well.

WELLNESS CENTRE SPRING BREAK CAMP

April 7-10 2015
from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

Join us for games, crafts, baking,
outdoor activities and much more!

Breakfast, lunch and snacks included.



Let the good times roll!

GET INTO SPRING WITH THESE FUN ACTIVITIES

GUITAR LESSONS

Ever wanted to be a rock star? Guitar lessons are being offered to anyone interested.

10 week program - from April 16-June 18 - Thursdays 5-6pm @ the Arena

Registration is mandatory!

FITNESS CHALLENGE

Want to get back in shape? Why not join this challenging and fun 4 week Fitness Challenge.

4 week program - From April 1-30th - at Fitness Centre

Registration is mandatory! Only for people with BMI 25plus.

AIR CADETS

Any youth between 12-18yrs old who is interested in joining the AirCadets in Fort McMurray
must contact contact Stefany Guillen.

*If you would like more infomartion about these programs or to register,
please contact Stefany Guillen at: 780-714-7094.*

THE BENEFITS OF VOLUNTEERING

Volunteering has a meaningful, positive impact on your community. But did you know that it can have many benefits for you too? Here are some reasons to volunteer:

Learn or Develop New Skills

Volunteering is the perfect vehicle to discover something you are really good at and develop a new skill. As Mahatma Gandhi said, "Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever." It is never too late to learn new skills and no reason why you should stop adding to your knowledge just because you are in employment or have finished education. Planning and implementing a major fundraising event can develop goal setting, planning and budgeting skills. Supervising and training other volunteers helps to develop supervisory and training skills. The possibilities are many.

Be Part of Your Community

We sometimes take for granted the community that we live in. People and societies co-depend on each other for survival but growth of such things as commercialism are seeing traditional values being disregarded. Communities are suffering due to the growth of secular societies but at the same time we can really bridge that expanding gap through volunteering. Volunteering is ultimately about helping others and having an impact on people's wellbeing. What better way is there to connect with your community and give a little back? As a volunteer, you certainly return to society some of the benefits that society gives you.

Boost Your Career Options

A survey demonstrated that:

- 73% of employers would recruit a candidate with volunteering experience over one without
- 94% of employers believe that volunteering can add to skills
- 94% of employees who volunteered to learn new skills had benefited either by getting their first job, improving their salary, or being promoted



New Interests and Hobbies

Sometimes we do get locked into the "rat-race" of life and volunteering can give that escape to everyday routine and create a balance in our lives. Finding new interests and hobbies through volunteering can be fun, relaxing and energizing. Help run a youth radio station or website for a few hours a week or assist in publishing a charity newsletter. The energy and sense of fulfilment can carry over to a work situation and sometimes helps to

relieve tensions and foster new perspectives for old situations.

New Experiences

Volunteering is a brilliant way to get life experience. Whether you build a library or mail flyers to raise awareness for a local charity, you will experience the real world through hands-on work. This guide section has established that volunteers can do almost anything and with the new millennium has dawned an era of infinite volunteer opportunities. For example, it is possible to volunteer in developing countries and see the direct impact of your actions on some of the most vulnerable people of the world.

Meeting a diverse range of people Volunteering brings together a diverse range of people from all backgrounds and walks of life.

Both the recipients of your volunteer efforts and your co-workers can be a rich source of inspiration and an excellent way to develop your interpersonal skills. Volunteering also offers an incredible networking opportunity. Not only will you develop lasting personal and professional relationships but it is also a great way to learn about people from all walks of life, different environments, and new industries. Networking is an exciting benefit of volunteering and you can never tell who you will meet or what new information you will learn and what impact this could have on your life.

*excerpts taken from:
<http://www.worldvolunteerweb.org>*



*Elsie Fabian
2nd Annual
Memorial Round Dance
at the Band Hall
May 10, 2015
Feast at 6pm
Round Dance at 7pm*

*Anyone wanting to donate or help cook
please call Becky at: 587-644-1758*

FuseSocial Leadership Wood Buffalo Program

Now accepting applications for 2015-2016

*Find out
everything you
need to know about
the program and
how to apply*



*Program
Application
deadline is
April 30, 2015*



To find out more about the **Leadership Wood Buffalo Program**, and how you can become a community leader, register for one of our information sessions.

To download application forms, or register for an info session, visit www.fusesocial.ca or email hello@fusesocial.ca

FORT MCKAY HISTORY: *Spring is in the air...*



Photos above: The following people are in the photos above. Can you find them? Shawna McDonald, Philip Fitzpatrick, Raymond Powder, Paul Fitzpatrick, Micheal Bouchier, Curtis McDonald, Martha Powder, BJ Fitzpatrick and Dayle Hyde.

Photo below: Athabasca river ice break in the early 1950s near Fort McKay.



FORT MCKAY 5th ANNUAL LAWN AND GARDEN COMPETITION 2015



Calling all gardeners! Come and take part in celebrating the beauty of the Fort McKay community. This year new categories have been added to include community members of all ages. There is an entire kids section that includes fun gardening challenges such as the biggest sunflower or the most decorative garbage bin. If you are new to gardening don't worry there is a category for you too. Show off your hard work and win big prizes!

The competition, sponsored by Hammerstone Corporation, is an annual event in Fort McKay. The event aims to increase the curb appeal of the community by encouraging people to landscape their homes with sustainable flower gardens, vegetable gardens, and unique outdoor living spaces.

Registration for this event ends on May 14th 2015. Once you have registered, the event coordinators will be sure to schedule a time where they can take before pictures of your lawn, garden and outdoor living space. These pictures will be used in the judging process to show the judging team your work from start to finish. Please hand in your registration papers to the Sustainability Department before the deadline.

On March 18th, the Fort McKay First Nation celebrated the ground-breaking ceremony for the new construction of the new Youth Centre.

In the photo: Feather McDonald, FMFN Youth representative, Andrew Clark, Executive Chairman, Clark Builders, Chief Jim Boucher, David Long, Vice President Oilsands Commercial and Development, Husky, and Gordon Kemp, VP OBO Production/HSSE, BP.



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

RECREATION

DEPARTMENT

FITNESS CLASS

Mondays:

Bootcamp 3:15-3:45pm

Youth weight training

4-5pm

Tuesdays:

Easy flow yoga 12-1pm

Wednesdays:

Ying Yoga 12:15-1pm

(band hall)

Thursdays:

Ying Yang Yoga 12:15-1pm

(Band hall)

Fridays:

Tabata training 12-1pm

SCHOOL GYM

Mondays:

open gym 6-7pm
(12-14yrs old)

Volleyball 7-9pm
(18yrs +)

Tuesdays:

open gym 6-7pm
(15-18 yrs old)

Volleyball 7-9pm
(18yrs+)

Family Activity

April 24th @ Landmark cinema (more details TBA)

Volleyball tournament

April 25th (16yrs old+)

Fitness Challenge

from April 1-April 30th (more details contact Stefany)

FORT MCKAY HOCKEY

ACADEMY

April 12 (12pm-2pm):

Edge control/Dryland

April 19 (12pm-2pm):

Puck control/Dryland

April 26 (12pm-2pm):

Edge control/Dryland

HOCKEY SCHEDULE:

12-1pm- Novice on Ice

12-12:45pm- Atoms, Pee-wee, and Bantam Dryland @ school gym

1-2pm Novice Dryland @ School gym

1-2pm- Atoms, Peewee, Bantam on ice

Good luck to all the kids traveling to Edmonton to Native Provincial from April 1-5th.

For more information about activities/events join us on Facebook at Fort McKay Rec Club

WELLNESS CENTRE

780-828-4312

Monday to Thursday:

3:00-5:00pm Afterschool Activities (Ages 6-17)

5:00-6:00pm Supper Program (Ages 6-17)

Mondays:

6:00-8:00pm World Culture Program (Ages 10+)

6:00-7:00pm Homework Help (grades 1-3)

Tuesdays:

6:00-8:00pm Self-Esteem Program (Ages 10+)

Wednesdays:

6:00-8:00 pm Outdoor Activities (Ages 10+)

6:00-8:00pm Homework Help (grades 4-8)

Thursdays:

6:00-8:00 pm Dodgeball (Ages 10+)

Field Trip to YMCA

April 10 & 17

*Permission slip required

Bus leaves at 1:00 pm

Bus Returns at 5:00 PM

Teen Night Trip

April 24

*Permission slip required

Bus leaves at 5:30 pm

Bus Returns at 10:00 PM

**Kids 9 and under MUST be picked up by 5:30

****NO SCHOOL SPRING BREAK CAMP**

Open 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

*Wellness Centre will be closed on Easter Monday

YOUTH CENTRE

780-828-4462

FORT MCKAY FAMILY SUPPORT CENTRE

780-828-4048

Mondays

ATC Child & Family Services – Foster Program & Family Enhancement.

Alcohol Anonymous (AA) Meeting 7:00pm – 8:30pm. Last Monday of month-probation/ parole Services.

Tuesdays

Women`s Sharing Circle 7:00pm – 9.00pm.

Wednesdays

Victim services – Victims of Crime support, Narcotics. Anonymous (NA) Meeting 7:30pm – 8:30pm.

Thursdays

NEAFAN – Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Assessments. Karaoke – 7:00pm– 9:00pm.

Saturdays

Sweat Lodge – 1:00pm.

HEALTH CENTRE

780-828-2450

Mondays-Wednesdays

The Doctor is in

Tuesdays and Thursdays

Physiotherapy & Dr. Taiwo

*please call in advance to verify

