



Red River Current

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ADMINISTRATION WELCOMES NEW CEO



The second annual Rod Hyde Hockey Tournament was a huge success with high end hockey excitement and the revealing of a new cup that looks familiar. See [Hyde Cup](#) on page 10.



Round Dance "brings the community together" See [Round Dance Fun](#) on page 2.

Also inside *The Current* :

- "Idle No More" Grows
- [Organized Hockey in McKay](#)
- [New Skates and Skate Sharpener for Hockey Arena](#)
- [2013 Royal Trapper Of The North Competition](#)



Fort McKay CEO George Arcand visits with Marie Boucher after addressing the Fort McKay First Nation staff. See [CEO Addresses The Troops](#) on page 4.

FORT MCKAY WINS BATTLE WITH PROVINCE

The Community members of Fort McKay challenged the Alberta Government and won. "It was a successful day for the community." Says Dan Stuckless, Manager of Environmental Affairs, Fort McKay Sustainability Department.

"Community members successfully voiced their concerns and challenged the provincial government about a road built within Fort McKay reserve lands." Says Stuckless.

(Continued on page 3)



FMFN LEADERSHIP TEAM

Jim Boucher, Chief

Raymond Powder, Councillor

David Bouchier, Councillor

Gerald Gladue, Councillor

Mike Orr, 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.

ROUND DANCE FUN

Savana Boucher, age 8, Kionna Grandjambe, age 9, and Makayla Faichney, age 10, bust out some old dance moves from the 70's between Round Dances.

The Round Dance was held recently at the Band Hall and organizers Tracy White and Leona Grandjambe and say the Round Dance was held for the traditional purpose, "To bring the people together."

Approximately 120 people participated in the event.

"We are going to try to do it every month," says Grandjambe.

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www.fortmckay.com



ROAD CLOSURE A VICTORY FOR COMMUNITY

(Continued from page 1)

Fort McKay community members voiced concerns to Alberta Government representatives in regards to the 60-kilometer gravel road built by the Dover Company after it was approved by the provincial government.

In 2012, The FMFN Sustainability Department filed a lawsuit against the Dover Company to have the gravel road closed to public access; subsequently the community was not properly consulted with implementation of the road.

After a successful claim, Alvaro Pinto, Manager, Sustainability Department asked for road to be closed to public access and for the area to be gated. "The success of this claim and the ability to limit access on the road a big win for the Fort McKay First Nation," says Stuckless who also mentioned public

safety concerns in the area.

Future plans are to privatize the road restricting public access.

"Fort McKay has not been idle..."

The successful outcome between the Fort McKay First Nation and the Alberta Government demonstrates FMFN's

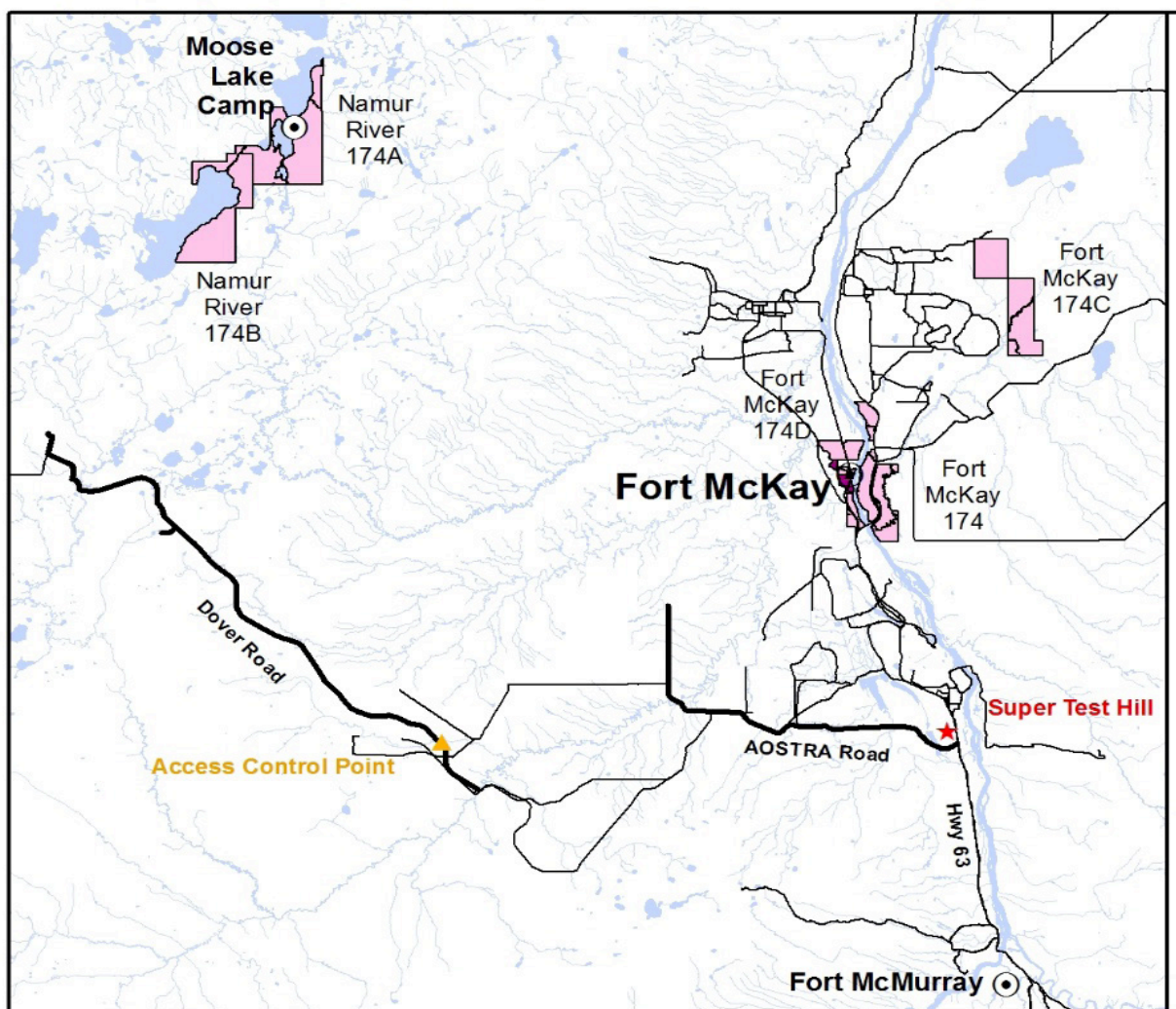
commitment to open communication and negotiation.

There remains some aspects of

the litigation to finalize in the near future that will be conducted with Chief and Council.

"Fort McKay has not been idle," concluded Stuckless.

"A big win for the Fort McKay First Nation....."



Access to the road is off of Highway 63 just south of Super Test Hill, then west on AOSTRA Road. A gate will be installed at the Access Control Point.

NEW CEO LISTENS TO THE PEOPLE



George Arcand is the new Chief Executive Officer for the Fort McKay First Nation Administration.

Through some creative recruiting and a little luck, the Fort McKay First Nation (FMFN) Administration has filled its highest position, Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Meet George Arcand Jr. the new CEO of FMFN, who in November 2012 made his post official after eight years as the Regional Director General (RDG) with Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC, formerly Indian and Northern Affairs Canada INAC).

Prior to being the RDG for the federal government, Mr. Arcand's credentials also include eight years as the Associate and Acting RDG and 14 years as the Director of Community Development and Planning and Tribal Administrator for Alexander First Nation. While working for Alexander First Nation he is credited for his contribution in negotiating the Alternate Funding Arrangement with the First Nation, a first in Canada.

During his tenure with AANDC, Mr. Arcand had been instrumental in a number of positive changes for Alberta's First Nations including reorganizing the Alberta Region to provide more effective services to all three treaty areas, Treaty 6, 7 & 8 as well as the introduction of agreements with the Province of Alberta in the area of Child and Family Services. He has and continues to foster excellent working relationships with the Assembly of Treaty Chiefs and their respective Executive Directors.

Mr. Arcand integrated a process that would allow the Alexander community members to be part of the chief and council decision-making process. He also restructured the local government, the band office, the companies owned by the Alexander First Nation, the finances, the capi-

tal, and the infrastructure, in order to make the processes and organizations more efficient.

"I see those kinds of things happening here," says Arcand, "we will achieve the things that the leadership and community members want such as building more homes and improving roads." Arcand also plans on keeping the community informed on business decisions including that with local industry.

"We are going to let people know that we do things right"

While addressing his new administration Arcand said, "We will demonstrate that we are a professional organization and industry will recognize that we act on the best interest of the Fort McKay First Nation." Arcand says, "I believe Chief and Council brought me here to make positive changes and I believe I will create change that

"... to make sure that we build and create the best Fort McKay that Fort McKay could ever want."

will make sense to the community. I am a firm believer in listening to those around me, the community. My job is to work with Chief and Council to ensure that we build a sustainable, environmentally friendly and profitable community."

Mr. Arcand lives in Alexander First Nation located just outside of Edmonton with his wife and three children. Currently, his two sons are attending university and his daughter is in high school.



TRAPPERS TO BE CROWNED AT WINTER FESTIVAL

The "best ever" Fort McKay Winter Festival is set for March 8 and 9. The 2013 Royal Trappers Of The North will also be crowned during the Winter Festival. The King Trapper, Queen Trapper, Prince Trapper and Princess Trapper will also receive huge prize money. Trapper couples will compete in tea and bannock making, log sawing, snowshoe racing and moose calling. There will also be big prize money in all of the many individual Mad Trapper events and the Talent Show Contest. Registration forms will be delivered to all homes in Ft. McKay and can be dropped off at the band hall reception, the hockey arena, The Youth Center and The Wellness Center. Extra registration forms are also available at these locations.



SPONSORS

The Bouchier Group

Fort McKay Metis

Fort McKay GOC

Denesoline

Suncor Energy

CNRL

Fort McKay Enterprises

Fort McKay Winter Festival Schedule of Events

FRIDAY

Winter Festival Talent Show

At the Band Hall
7:00pm-10:00pm

Elders 50 years and up.
Prize\$ for 1st, 2nd, 3rd

Adults 20 yrs and up.
Prize\$ for 1st, 2nd, 3rd

Youth 13-19years
Prize\$ for 1st, 2nd, 3rd

Children 7-12 years
Prize\$ for 1st, 2nd, 3rd

Food Concession

50-50 draw

Open Jigging

SATURDAY A.M.

Royal Trappers Of The North

At the arbour
9:30am-Noon
Queen and King Trapper 16 years +
Princess and Prince 10-15 years

- Tea & Bannock making (Adults Only)
- Log Sawing
- Snow Shoe racing

Dogsled Rides on the Athabasca
10:00am - 5:00pm

Lunch
Noon-1:00pm

Royal Trapper Moose Calling
12:30pm

SATURDAY P.M.

Mad Trapper Events

At the arbour
1:30pm-5:00 pm
(Registration table will be set up at lunch time)

- Sled pull
- Team Swooshing
- Leg wrestling
- Log tossing

Supper
At the band hall
6:00pm

Mad Trapper High Kick
At band hall
7:00pm

Crowning Of The Royal Trappers
and all prizes awarded.
At band hall. 8:00pm



OUR NATION IN PHOTOS



Left: Young trapper, Blaize Fredrick Bouchier, 5, with a very large Lynx on the Moose Lake Trail.

Top: Shawn Shott with son Tanner Shott, 9 months, and Terry Grandjambe with daughter, Mataya Rita Ann Grandjambe, 8 months, at the Fort McKay Metis Christmas Skate.

Below: Trappers Course Instructor John Prociuk discuss a student's Lynx trap with students including Rose Beaton, Gary Beaton, Evelyn Orr, Brenda Grandjambe, Joanne Orr Desjarlais, James Ladouceur and Shirley MacDonald





Fort McKay Hockey Society members and coaches after practice at Fort McKay Hockey Arena. Left to right: Tyrese Shott, 7, Simon Adams, Keon Grandjambe, 7, Everett Reid, 8, Tayden Shott, 5, Trace Quintal, 14, Blaize Bouchier, 5, Jesse Boucher, 7, Everett Quintal, 11, Raymond Cardinal, 9, Callie Fitzpatrick, 5, Phillip Fitzpatrick, Tyrell Shott, 11. See story [Fort McKay Hockey Society Founded](#) on page 11.



John Gladue at the Metis Christmas Skate with children Gabrielle Gladue, 4, Sadi Gladue, 2, Aboslom Gladue, 1, and wife Nicole Gladue.



This rez fox was hit by a ski-doo and is now known as "Not Even".

“IDLE NO MORE” MOVEMENT GROWS

In case you have been on your trapline for the last few months and have not heard of the Idle No More movement or if you just want a clearer understanding of the movement, here is a brief history and description of how it affect Canadians.

Idle No More is an ongoing movement founded by four women from Saskatchewan. The group came to as a result of the need to increase awareness of changes in legislation as they relate to Canada's Indigenous people and the environment.

The movement takes particular issue with the recently passed Bill C-45 which makes changes to the Indian Act. These changes were implemented without properly consulting First Nations, violate existing treaties and weaken environmental protection of land and water.

The organizers of Idle No More outlined their vision and goals of the movement in a press release: Meekis, Devon, January 10, 2013:

“The Vision revolves around Indigenous ways of knowing rooted in Indigenous sovereignty to protect water, air, land and all creation for future generations.

The Conservative government bills beginning with Bill C-45 threaten Treaties and this Indigenous vision of sovereignty.

The goal of the movement is education and to revitalize of Indigenous peoples through awareness and

empowerment.

Idle No More has successfully encouraged knowledge sharing of Indigenous sovereignty and environmental protections.”

*“...Indigenous
soveriegnity to
protect water, air,
land and all
creation for
future
generations.”*

Although criticized for having no specific demands, the Idle No More movement asks all to remember Canada's history and to understand that treaties were not signed out of the goodness of the heart, but out of a sense of partnership and the need to compromise.

As flawed as they maybe, treaties are a permanent reminder that indigenous people were not conquered, but were brought into the agreement as partners, as invested nations.

For more information on the new legislation and the Idle No More movement visit www.idlenomore.ca.



Unity round dances, like this one at the band hall, as well as cell phones, have become the two main tools for the “Idle No More” movement.



TRAILBLAZING MOBILE FOOD BANK ROLLS INTO MCKAY

Fort McKay has been chosen as the site of an innovative new food bank program. The Fort McMurray Food Bank's (FMFB) Mobile Pantry Program is unique and progressive because it directly addresses geographically isolated communities where residents experience chronic hunger and food insecurity and have little or no access to transportation and/or where there might be no full-service grocery stores with reasonable walking distance.

The Fort McMurray Food Bank says that Fort McKay has been identified as a good fit to run the pilot project based on the number of calls for assistance and its isolated location.

Charlene O'Connor RN, the Human and Health Service Manager, Fort McKay First Nation says, "There are a number of reasons why our community members are in need of extra support, and we hope this pilot project will help to provide the required temporary assistance."

The FMFN Health Services Department is hoping to

include with the hampers; meal plans, cookbooks and eventually some budgeting and life skills to help those utilizing the service.

The project will operate for six-months to assess the true needs of the community.

Fort McKay has approximately 20 community members and families regularly using the Fort Murray Food Bank, and in the last year alone 39 families have used the Fort McMurray Food Bank facility.

"To ensure they have food and can maintain thier dignity."

"We find those using the food bank in Fort McKay are mostly working people, both husband and wife, and they just can't make ends meet." says O'Connor.

FMFN Health Services Department currently transports clients to and from Fort McMurray for their food hampers. With confidentiality a priority, those requiring assistance are transported individually at a cost of \$100 per trip.

"The food bank service is confidential. Our objective is to help community members in need of extra assistance.

We want to ensure they have food at the same time maintain their dignity" says O'Connor. All arrangements for those applying for food hampers will be done privately.

Community residents in need of food hampers can make appointments to apply for the Fort McKay Mobile Food Bank by calling intake workers Peggy Grandjambe and Lisa Grandjambe at 780-828-2450.

A celebration of the new mobile food bank will scheduled for February 28 at 10:30 a.m. at the hockey arena parking lot.



Delivering the goods. This year's Hyde Cup raised \$10,000 for Fort McKay's Mobile Food Bank.



FIRE ON ICE AT SECOND ANNUAL ROD HYDE CUP



Left:
Phil Fitzpatrick escorts Rod Hyde to center ice at the Fort McKay Hockey Arena to present the Hyde Cup to the champions of the second annual Rod Hyde Annual Hockey Tournament.

Right:
Phil Fitzpatrick, Chris Grandjambe and B.J. Fitzpatrick of the Underdogs warm up for the exciting championship game. The Underdogs were one of two teams to compete from Fort McKay. The other team were the Moose.

Below:
Rambo Wolverine of the Champion Tar Babyz hoists the Hyde Cup in triumph. Wolverine was a scoring machine scoring 7 goals in the Championship game. The tournament raised \$10,000 for Fort McKay's Mobile Food Bank (See [Trailblazing Mobile Food Bank...](#) story on page 5.)



FORT MCKAY HOCKEY SOCIETY FOUNDED

On November 14, 2012, Fort McKay officially started its very own Hockey Society and the advantages are countless says Arena Manager, Simon Adams who spearheaded the project.

"It is an important step in the development of hockey in Fort McKay." Says Adams. "It opens doors for hockey academies, camps, travelling, fund raising, uniforms, and equipment."

An interim board has been established that includes, Adams, Cort Gallup, Dennis Shott, Lolita Shott, Ron Quintal, Phil Fitzpatrick and Rod Hyde.

There are now over fifty members of the society from Fort McKay ranging from four to 50 years of age. "The

Fort McKay Hockey Society is for everyone," says Adams, "it's important to start at the grass roots level with our young players." There are currently four divisions practicing at the arena twice a week; Initiation, Novice, Pee wee and Atom.

If you or your child(ren) are interested in becoming a member of the Fort McKay Hockey Society, or would like to volunteer or coach, please contact Simon Adams at sadams@fortmckay.com or 780-881-9096.

"The Fort McKay Hockey Society is for all ages," says Arena Manager, Simon Adams (seen above with Mya Adams), "It's important to start at the grass roots level with our very youngest skaters."



NEW SKATES AND SKATE SHARPENER FOR ARENA



Jonathan Boucher operates the new high-tech skate sharpener at the Fort McKay Hockey Arena. The arena was able to acquire the much needed sharpener and one-hundred pair of hockey skates after receiving a large donation from a local company, The Bouchier Group.



HOMEcoming QUEEN Alanis Laurent is hugged by her Junior Oil Baron teammates during a practice on her home ice at Fort McKay Hockey Arena. "it was nice to practice with my teammates right here at home and not have to drive all the way to town," says Laurent.



UPCOMING EVENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

ROYAL TRAPPER COMPETITION

Grab your Queen or King or Princess or Prince on March 9 and get your mad trapper skills going. See story on page 5.

GYM SCHEDULE

Mondays-Volleyball 7-9 pm, 18yrs+,
Tuesdays-Dodgeball 8-10pm, 18yrs+.
Wednesdays-Volleyball 7-9pm,
18yrs+, Thursdays-Hockey, 8-10pm,
16yrs+, bring your own sitck.

NEW HOUSING INFORMATION

The Housing Department is now located on the lower level of the Dorothy McDonald Business Center, previously the Fort McKay Métis Community Office.

The Housing Department phone numbers are as follows:

Harold Davis: 780 828-5307 (new number)

Tina Paupanekis: 780 828-2438

Repairs and maintenance: 780 714-1844. This number can also be used after hours and on weekends if something requires immediate attention; i.e. furnace out, flooding etc.

MOST ACTIVE PERSON

At the end of each month a prize will be given to the person who participates in the most physical activities. See Stefany at the arena for details.

LADIES NIGHT!

Come enjoy a few hours away from the kids at Ladies Night! Open to all women in the community with a focus on women's wellness and parenting skills. Different acitivites each week; craft nights, board games, fitness programs etc. Tuesdays 7pm-9pm at Daycare. Snacks provided.

MOBILE FOOD BANK OPENING

A celebration of the new mobile food bank will scheduled for February 28 at 10:30 a.m. at the hockey arena parking lot. See complete story on page 9.

FREE SKATING EQUIPMENT

The Fort McKay Hockey Arena is giving away a wide selection of used hockey and figure skates and other equipment. Please see or call Simon Adams at 780-881-9096.



FEBRUARY TRAINING

- 4 Defensive Driving
- 5 H2S Alive
- 8 Ground Disturbance 2
- 11-12 Standard First Aid, level C
- 15 Anti-Bullying
- 19 H2S Alive
- 20 Ground Disturbance 2
- 22 Anti-Bullying
- 26-27 Standard First Aid, level C
- 28 Defensive Driving

**TO BOOK YOUR SEAT JUST CALL
GLENNA PETERS**

Office 780-828-2496

Cell 780-838-2143



AND THE BEAT GOES ON! Just a few of the hundred plus joining the latest round dance. Left to right: Kurri Fontaine, Teah Gladue, Sally McDonald, Josephine Grandjambe, Audrey Redcrow and Lexi Redcrow.

