



Red River Current

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HOUSING SECOND TO NONE

Our housing is simply the best.

“The housing situation in Fort McKay is probably the best that there is on any reserve in Canada,” says Housing Manager Harold Davis.

Davis says the housing list in Nunavut for example is 10 years long. And the housing there is not even close to the quality that we have here in Fort McKay.

“We could shorten the waiting list if we lessen the quality but that’s not going to happen. These are quality houses that would be good in any city in Canada. In fact these houses are better than most houses in any city in Canada, they are phenomenal,” says Davis.

Building beautiful homes with the clients input from the very start may cost more and involve more work initially, but in the long run it costs less. The client is involved in the construction of their home from the very beginning. They choose the house plan,



Owen Mitchelmore and Harold Davis inspect one of the many new houses under construction. This one of the dozens of beautiful homes that will be built over the next 3 years in Fort McKay. See [Housing Questions Answered](#) on page 2.

then choose the paint, flooring, cabinets, counter tops, etc. during construction.

As a result, Davis says, “they get a real sense that it is their house, they like the house, they look after the house and take a real pride in

their house. In the long-term we are going to have less maintenance, less renovations, nicer homes, less turnover and ultimately less cost to the band. Most importantly it will be a nice community in which to live. Pride of ownership is what it’s all about. We want people to



6



10



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4



HOUSING QUESTIONS ANSWERED

say 'this is my house'. The idea is to have a young couple move into their home and stay there right into retirement."

All new houses have the same basic floor plan, approximately 2000 square feet, 3 bedrooms with 2 full bathrooms. There are currently 13 houses under construction. Long-range plans are to build 25 more homes a year until all the housing needs are looked after.

"Chief and Council are very aggressive in getting the housing needs met. It is a high priority," says Davis.

All homes will have a deck with enough room for a BBQ and a few chairs so people get outside and enjoy the great outdoors. All appli-

ances, plumbing fixtures, lighting fixtures, flooring, counters etc. are of very high quality, but if the client wants upgrades they are paid for in advance by the client.

If the client wants a basement then all exterior walls are put in, all plumbing is roughed in and a t-bar ceiling is installed.

Davis says they encourage clients to choose subtle colours for their homes. Many people make the mistake of picking dark, colourful paints. However when the painting is done the client sees that they have made a big mistake and ask for repainting.

"This can be very expensive," says Owen Mitchelmore, the Director of Construction and Facilities Maintenance for Capital Projects.

Fort McKay builds all its own housing through the Capital Projects department. The Capital Projects have tripled the number of their employees from last year, with now about 80 working on the construction of the new homes. There are some areas such as dry walling and HVAC that are sub-contracted.

"We are trying to increase training in those areas so that our construction is completely in house," says Mitchelmore.

All new houses will have residential fires sprinklers installed. Starting this summer a lot of existing houses will also get the residential fire sprinkler systems installed, starting first with the elders homes.

This year the Capital Projects department plans on finishing the 800 block and 900 block of new housing as well as sporadic new homes throughout the community. Capital Projects is also planning a new subdivision where over 70-100

new homes will be built.

Over the next year or two you will basically see all the trailers in Fort McKay disappear. Three have gone already. Several more will disappear this year as well, and

"Chief and Council are very aggressive in getting the housing needs met. It is a high priority."

over the next two years they will all be gone. Davis says the biggest challenge the Housing Dept. is facing right now is temporary housing for those having their new houses built or their old house renovated.

When the client moves out of an older home into a new home the old home is renovated to be close to new condition. The band spent over \$2 million in renovations this last year. The housing department has done over 3000 work orders regarding renovations in only the last two years. All funding for renovations and new houses come through bank loans secured by the FMFN.

"We are really working hard to bring all the houses in Fort McKay up to a very nice standard," says Davis.

Housing selection is based primarily on need, and a scoring system is used. Past experience with housing and number of occupants are big factors in house selection. Elders have priority. In less than three years Davis believes that everybody on the waiting list, 74 in all, will have a place they can call "home". And a beautiful home of their very own design it will be.

"The best part of my job is when I get somebody who has never been here, who drops in to Fort McKay and I have to drive them around and show off the houses. Their jaws just drop, they cannot believe how nice our housing is," says Davis.



FMFN LEADERSHIP TEAM

Jim Boucher, Chief

Raymond Powder, Councillor

David Bouchier, Councillor

Gerald Gladue, Councillor

George Arcand, CEO

Larry Hewko, CFO/COO

ADMINISTRATION DEPT.

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Hours of Operation:
Mon. to Thurs. - 8:30am - 4:30pm
Friday - 8:30am - 2:00pm

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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.



ROAD RAISES DEEP CONCERNS

From February 19-25 & March 5, 2013, The Sustainability Department held another round of Moose Lake Update Sessions. These sessions were scheduled to provide an update to the community on the court case against Alberta, on their lack of consultation on building of the Dover road. They also got an update on the Dover Road Closure Order, a Moose Lake Protection Plan – including Access Management and a Buffer Zone.

Community members were also made aware that Fort McKay would be intervening at an ERCB hearing for the Dover OpCo project that is planned to operate very close to the Moose Lake reserves.

There were 12 sessions in total, including sessions for community members, trappers, Senior Elders, Metis and youth. A new approach in the focus groups was to have a Cree and a Dene translator at the senior Elders' sessions to ensure that they understood the information. This service was greatly appreciated.

At the sessions, community members continued to openly expressed concern about industrial development encroaching on their traditional territory and the Moose Lake reserves. There was general agreement that the community felt that the process was on the right track in fighting for the protection of the Moose Lake



Clockwise from left : Dan Stuckless, Flora Grandjambe, Lina Gallup, Devin (consultant), Zachery Powder, Mary Powder, Rita Rolland, Clara Wilson (Cree Translator), Christine Flett, Edward Rolland, Karla Buffalo, Thecla Tremblay, Dora L'Lommecourt

reserves.

“They have been doing this too long. Getting closer and closer to our land and then taking our land,” said Flora Grandjambe (translated from Cree).

Zachery Powder expressed many concerns regarding the road and development in the area.

“How come they let white people on that road when they won't let me on that road? I was raised there. My Dad raised me there. I am very upset about not being able to get to my trapline. The whole land is broken. If government has not seen it somebody

should take them to see it. We are strong we will fight them,” said Powder (translated from Cree).

Thecla Tremblay focused on the impact on the community's health.

“Many of us are getting cancer. Before industry nobody was ever sick. If they were you go into the bush and get some roots and berries. Now there is nothing. Nobody used to ever get sick. Now everybody is sick,” said Tremblay (translated from Cree).

At the Youth session Taylor McDonald spoke of the importance of Moose Lake being separate from industry.

“Moose Lake is something I care about. It is peaceful and helps you get away from industry. It is a place to get back to our original culture,” said Taylor McDonald.

Fort McKay will get a chance to speak up again on this issue next month. A hearing on Dover OpCo begins April 23, at McDonald Island in Fort McMurray from approximately 9am to 5pm each day and could run for up to 2 weeks. The hearing is open to the public.



L-R, Daniel Stuckless, Karla Buffalo, Feather McDonald, Dakota Faichney, Walter Orr, Taylor McDonald, Kurri Fontaine



Winner
Mikeela Cooper
Junior
Achievement



Winner
Joseph Grandjambe
Trapper



Winner
Brace Grandjambe
Junior Achievement



Master of Ceremonies
Susan Aglukark



Winner
Trace Quintal
Male Youth Of
The Year

2013
Regional Aboriginal Recognition Awards



Joely, Didi, Joe and Martha Grandjambe

25 YEARS OF RARA

FORT MCMURRAY - The Regional Aboriginal Recognition Awards celebrated its 25th Anniversary with its annual event on March 2nd, 2013. The first RARA event was held in 1989. The RARA committee was formed in 1987-88, with the purpose of recognizing the positive contributions of Aboriginal people in Fort McMurray, Fort McKay, Fort Chipewyan, Anzac, Fort McMurray 468 First Nation, Conklin, and Janvier. Awards in fifteen categories were presented in front of the 500 people who attended the sold-out event.

This year Fort McKay residents honoured for their achievements included Mikeela Cooper (Junior Achievement), Brace Grandjambe (Junior Achievement), Trace Quintal (Male Youth of the Year), and Joe Grandjambe (Trapper of the Year). Mikeela was nominated from the Fort McKay School for her willingness to help younger children, her participation in cultural activities, and her positive attitude. Trace was recognized for his involvement in traditional dancing, his time spent on his grandfather's trapline, and his athleticism. Joe was honoured for his 48 years as a trapper, his respect for the land, and for exemplifying good stewardship through responsible trapping.

When asked how he felt about winning the *Trapper of The Year Award*, Joseph Grandjambe replied, "I feel like King of the World. I am proud about it. I am happy to win."

Inuk singer Susan Aglukark, who has a longstanding relationship with the RARA event, once again emceed the evening. Ms. Aglukark has attended past events as an entertainer, keynote speaker, and most recently as emcee while regular host George Tuccaro completes his five-year term as the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories.

The keynote speaker was Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation member Dr. Cora Voyageur, who is a sociology professor for the University of Calgary. Comedian Don Burnstick of the Alexander First Nation and Métis fiddler Brendan Chartrand entertained the crowd. Local sponsors for the evening include the Fort McKay Group of Companies LP and The Bouchier Group. The Fort McKay School provided gift-in-kind sponsorship by making 100 small decorative drums to be used as centerpieces for the tables.

Congratulations to all the RARA recipients of the past 25 years!



Shannon and Shawna Faichney



Fiddler Brendan Chartrand



Ruby McKay, Trace Quintal, Susan Quintal and Mikeela Cooper

NAABA'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY GALA



Raven Cree,
Star Grandjambe,
Alanis Laurent,
Raven Gorman



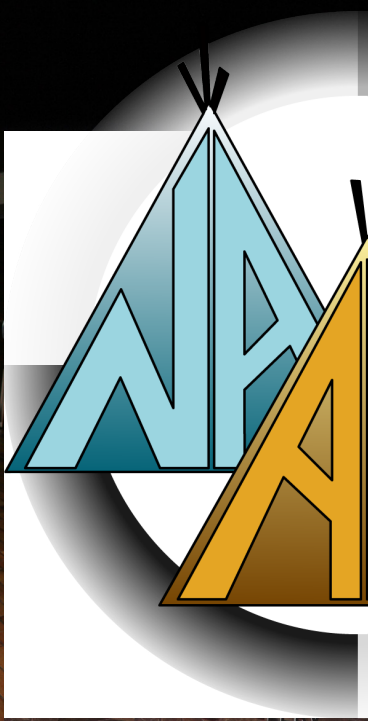
Trent Shott, David Bouchier, Shawn McClure



Nicole Bourque-Bouchier



Massey Whiteknife,
and Jean Whiteknife



Glen Hamelin,
Christian McDonald,
Khelan Boucher,
Cole McKenzie,
Waylon McDonald



Star Grandjambe



Mel Grandjambe, Christine Flett



Peter Powder,
Phil Fitzpatrick,
Paul Fitzpatrick Jr.

Read: **NAABA CELEBRATES 20 YEARS** on next page

NAABA CELEBRATES 20 YEARS

Back in 1993, local business owners jotted down some ideas on a napkin and NAABA was born. It was a Fort McMurray Smitty's napkin to be exact. The purpose of the Northern Alberta Aboriginal Business Association (NAABA), they scribbled on the handy paper, is to promote Aboriginal Business in partnership with Industry; enhancing opportunities by supporting economic development of Aboriginal people in the Wood Buffalo region.

After ten aboriginal companies formed the membership and Syncrude, Suncor and Keyano College offered their support, NAABA grew quickly. Now after 20 years NAABA has over 100 full members and 100 plus associate members.

On February 28 NAABA celebrated their great success in pure NAABA style, after all this wasn't their first rodeo. Keyano College Theatre was the go to facility, of

course, for the formal gala. Nicole Bourque-Bouchier, a past president and the organizations first female president, and Dave Tuccaro were the emcees. Entertainment included blues singer Murray Porter, a Mohawk now living in Vancouver. The 2005 Juno Nominee performed a very emotional song dedicated to the Indian Residential School Survivors called *Is Sorry Enough* which he co-wrote with Elaine Bomberry. Metis teenage fiddling sensation Brendan Chartrand from Manitoba also performed many of his songs including *Back Up and Push*. The art gallery included the colourful works of Dene artist Leonard Flett.

"NAABA is key for the continued growth of the aboriginal business community as it supports networking and future business opportunities," said Bourque-Bouchier who now sits on various NAABA committees. "We are excited about the next twenty years."



Emcee Nicole Bourque-Bouchier and Blair Fudge

\$100.00 REWARD



For the return, or information that leads to the return, of the above Royal Trapper trophy (Queen Trapper version). It was stolen during the awards ceremony of the Winter Festival. It is a Shawn McClure original soapstone sculpture.

See our full [Fort McKay Winter Festival](#) coverage in the April RRC.



Fort McKay hockey stars Tristen Tourangeau, Tyrese "Jumbo" Shott, Shay Laurent, Tyrell Shott and James Black practice their hockey card pose. Laurent, who now plays defence for the Chilliwack Chiefs in the BCHL was home visiting and joined a recent Fort McKay Hockey Society practice at the Fort McKay Hockey Arena.



FIRST STOP FOR MOBILE PANTRY

Fort McMurray Foodbank made it's first delivery to Fort McKay on February 28. Fort McKay was chosen as the site of new innovative new food bank program, The Fort McMurray Food Bank's (FMFB) Mobile Pantry service. The service delivers complete food hampers to Fort McKay families in need.

"It's a great program because we are so rural, and most of our clients are often not mobile," says Lisa Grandjambe, income support worker with the Fort McKay Health Centre.

Funds raised in the recent Rod Hyde Annual Hockey Tournament will be used to purchase a trailer to transport the food hampers from Fort McMurray to Fort McKay. Distribution will be done in a private room with separate entrance at the Fort McKay Hockey Arena.

For more information on the Mobile Pantry call the Health Centre at 828-4229.



WE DELIVER! Bringing home the goods are Philip Fitzpatrick, fundraising hockey tournament organizer, Ariana Johnson, executive director of the Wood Buffalo Food Bank, Dan Edwards, client services manager with the WBBF, Lisa Grandjambe, income support worker with the Fort McKay Health Centre and Peggy Grandjamb, medical transportation coordinator with the Fort McKay Health Centre.



Apprentice Trade Opportunities

Fort McKay First Nation is looking for entry level Apprentice Plumbers & Electricians. These entry level apprentices will work with Journeyman Apprentices in the Plumbing and Electrical field. We are looking for candidates that either have a grade 12 diploma or be able to pass the trade's entrance exam (samples pf exam can be found at FMFN Employment Office). The term of apprenticeship is four years (four 12 month periods) that include a minimum of:

- 1,500 hours of on-the-job training and 8 weeks of technical training in each of the first three years
- 1,350 hours of on-the-job training and 12 weeks of technical training in the fourth year

The candidate should also have the following characteristics:

- An aptitude for math
- Mechanical ability
- Physical strength and stamina and agility
- The ability to distinguish colours to work with colour-coded wiring
- The ability to work in high places
- The ability to keep up to date with changing technology
- Mechanical ability
- Creativity
- Teamwork

If you are interested in becoming an Apprentice please forward your resume to: fmfneemployment@fortmckay.com and indicate which trade you are interested in.



HOCKEY ROAD TRIP A BIG WINNER

GLEICHEN - History was made with Fort McKay Hockey Society's first road trip. On February 9, 2013, About 20 players and 30 parents from Fort McKay formed a convoy and travelled the 800km to Gleichen in Southern Alberta for *Hockey Day in G.A.*

"They had fun. Fun, fun, fun, and that was what it was all about." says Simon Adams who coordinated the event so that Fort McKay could celebrate *Hockey Day in Canada* with the rest of the country.

Sponsors were Fort McKay Group of Companies, The Bouchier Group, Fort McKay Metis Community, Philip Fitzpatrick and Finning. All games were unofficiated 4 on 4 half rink "fun games."

Hockey Players representing Fort McKay Hockey were:

- Callie Fitzpatrick
- Noah Fitzpatrick
- Tayden Shott
- Blaize Bouchier
- Kai Ro Grandjambe
- Tyrese Shott
- Everett Reid
- James Black
- Austin Beaton
- Raymond Cardinal
- Keely Courtorielle
- Tyrell Shott
- Tristen Tourangeau
- Jaiden Boucher
- Trace Qunital
- Nickita Black
- Natanis Black
- Cruz Cooper
- Tiana Fitzpatrick
- Jace Shott
- Jayden Shott.





PHOTOS BY: Lolita Ladoucer

SMOKE SIGNALS

HEALTH CENTRE

780-828-4229

- Every Wednesday (In March) Community Snow Shoe activity with Stefany & Belinda, From 1:30pm- 3pm. Meet at the Arena.
- Community Diabetes Slow Cooker Demo: Thursday, March 21, From 1:30pm- 3pm, Belinda & Maureen, Health Centre Kitchen.
- School "Your Health", : Tuesday, March 26, from 10am-1:30pm, Maureen & Belinda.
- Healthy Moms and Tots programs running once a month.
- Food Bank Intake: Thursday, March 25 & 26, from 9am-3pm, Peggy & Lisa.
- Social Assistance Intake: March 25 – 28, From 9am-3:30pm (cheques will be released March 28 due to the long weekend).

WELLNESS CENTRE

- Soccer, Tuesdays, 6:30-8pm, ages 6+
- Craft Club, Wednesdays, 6:30-8pm, ages 6+.
- Young Chef's, Mondays, 6:30-8pm, ages 6+.
- Snowshoeing, Thursdays, 6:30-8:00pm in Fort McKay, permission slip required.
- Easter BAKE SALE on Friday, March 22nd from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM to help with our fundraising efforts.
- The Wellness Center will be CLOSED Friday, March 29th to Monday, April 1st for Good Friday and Easter Monday.
- We will be running a SPRING BREAK CAMP from Tuesday, April 2nd to Friday, April 5th from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM with breakfast, lunch and snack provided. The Spring Break Camp will consist of structured programming involving sports, recreation, arts n crafts, science, outdoor activities and baking.

YOUTH CENTRE 780-828-4462

- Ski trip planned for dedicated Ski Club youth from April 1st-6th, 2013 in

Whistler, BC

- Ski Club will be going skiing on Fridays, a bus will pick them up at school to take them to the ski hill. Kids in McKay School can catch the bus at the Youth Center at 3:00PM.
- DJ Workshops with Events Wood Buffalo on Tuesdays from 6-8 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.- Snowshoeing, Wednesdays, 1:30-3pm.
- 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

- Air Monitor station is getting erected 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.



MARCH TRAINING

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

TO BOOK YOUR SEAT JUST CALL

GLENNA PETERS

Office 780-828-2496

Cell 780-838-2143

ROAD REPORT 5-1-1

Just dial 5-1-1 and get the latest road reports on the Alberta Road Transportation 5-1-1 road condition reporting service.

R.A.R.A BOOK RELEASE DELAYED

The Regional Aboriginal Recognition Awards (R.A.R.A) committee will be delaying the release of the 25th Anniversary Commemorative Book until June 2013. They are creating the commemorative book to celebrate the many Aboriginal role models from the region and are still in the process of designing and collecting all material. Please contact Nora Flett at (780) 792-1565 to make arrangements to send your photograph, or if you have any questions or concerns.

