



# Red River Current

SEPTEMBER 2013

VOLUME 4 :: ISSUE 8

## MOOSE LAKE MEETING

A critical meeting regarding the future of Moose Lake, *MOOSE LAKE: OUR NEXT STEPS*, will be held at the Band Hall on September 11, from 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m. On August 6, the Alberta Energy Regulator approved Brion Energy's SAGD project adjacent to Fort McKay's Moose Lake reserves. Brion Energy plans to begin development of the project this winter.

Earlier this year the Fort McKay First Nation (FMFN) and the Fort McKay Métis Community (FMMC) opposed the portion of the project nearest the reserve, requesting a 20 km no-development buffer zone around Gardiner Lake and Namur Lake.

Fort McKay also asked for the assurance of environmental best practices and an access management plan. These three requests were intended to protect the environmental integrity of the area, and reduce the impact of industrial development on community members.

All Fort McKay community members are welcome to attend the open meeting. Information on the decision, current plans, and options going forward will be presented. Please join us to be informed and be heard. Your feedback will help leadership determine the long-term strategy to protect Moose Lake.

BLOOD WORKFORCE	2
RADIO STATION	4
LOCAL VEGETABLES	5
HOCKEY ICE	6
ALBERT GRANDJAMBE	10
RECLAMATION	11



3



6



14



# NATIONS BUILDING NATIONS

Fort McKay is currently in a time of growth and development. With this prosperity, all areas such as housing, capital projects and infrastructure are currently undergoing rapid new growth and improvements over the next 2 years. This growth and development requires a large and skilled workforce.

Chief Jim Boucher saw this challenge as an excellent opportunity to help tackle the longtime aboriginal unemployment problem in Canada by developing an aboriginal workforce right here in Fort McKay.

First, all Fort McKay band members and aboriginal residents that



were willing and able to work were hired, however, dozens of more workers were needed to create a sufficient workforce to get the jobs done.

To find these workers Chief Boucher visited Canada's largest First Nation, the Blood Tribe in Southern Alberta. There, he met with Chief Weasel Head of the Blood Tribe, and the two Chiefs shook hands on a plan to create an aboriginal work force in Fort McKay.

"Chief Weasel Head was elated," says Max Jacobs, Director of Special Projects for the Fort McKay First Nation. "This project would have a very positive impact on his community."

Funds for the project came from the Federal Government, the Provincial Government, The Blood Tribe and the Fort McKay First Nation.

The program started with 96 workers, in groups of 24. Three hundred people were interviewed to select the 96 workers that

include carpenters, plumbers, electricians, heavy equipment operators and labourers.

Two groups work 10 days then rotate with the other two groups who then also work 10 days.

The participants stay in Barge Landing Camp and are transported between the camp and the worksites by Sakasteew Transportation.

Caribou North airlines flies them back and forth between Lethbridge and Fort McMurray.

The participants undergo training that is unlike any other training program.

The Blood tribe workforce program ends on November 8.

Whether the program will run again in the next construction season has not yet been determined.

"However," Jacobs adds, "the project has huge potential for growth and could easily morph into a permanent Aboriginal Workforce Development Program."



## FMFN LEADERSHIP TEAM

Jim Boucher, Chief  
Raymond Powder, Councillor  
David Bouchier, Councillor  
Gerald Gladue, Councillor  
Ruth McKenzie, 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](mailto:cgallup@fortmckay.com) or call 780-838-6061.





# FMFD TOP 3 IN CANADA

Their fellow competitors thought that the Fort McKay Fire Department had won it all at the 2013 Aboriginal Firefighters Association of Canada national fire competition held at Walpole Island, Ontario on August 24. However, Fort McKay, representing Team Alberta after winning the provincial championships, repeated their third place showing in last year's national competition.

Saskatchewan's team, who hailed from Fond du Lac, was the top team, followed by Quebec and Alberta. The FMFD team was the only team who had women, Deputy Chief Kathleen Faichney and Firefighter Shelley Cyprien, competing. "It was fun and a great experience," says Firefighter Tyler Young. "I look forward to next year's competition."

The complete results:

1. Saskatchewan
2. Quebec
3. Alberta
4. Manitoba
5. Ontario
6. Nunavut
7. British Columbia
8. Atlantic

## **TEAM ALBERTA**

### **Top photo, left to right:**

Dana Alook, John Ross, Mel Grandjamb, Kathleen Faichney, Chief Jim Boucher, George Arcand, Robert Champagne, Ron Quintal, Tyler Young, Shelley Cyprien, James McIssac.

### **Middle photo:**

Ron Quintal and James McIssac.

### **Bottom photo, left to right:**

Shelley Cyprien, Tyler Young, Mel Grandjamb, Ron Quintal, James McIssac and Kathleen Faichney.





# NEW YOUTH CENTRE INCLUDES RADIO STATION AND RECORDING STUDIO



“Good morning Fort McKay! It is 8 AM and you are listening to Fort McKay Radio. That last song was by a local musician ...” says a radio announcer in the near future.

Plans for the new Youth Centre include a fully equipped radio station and recording studio. The youth centre also includes a computer room, art room, black light room, movie/games theatre,

kitchen, dining room and offices. The construction schedule is yet to be determined.

The Youth Centre will be strategically located in the empty lot next to the Wellness Centre and the arena. Youth Coordinator Kerry Trueman says the new Youth Centre is long overdue. The current Youth Centre is located in an old house that has little space and has had its oper-

ational challenges over the last few years.

“The kids are excited,” says Trueman. “We grew out of the old youth centre a long time ago.” The youth centre design conforms with a branding style that will be used for all of Fort McKay’s new public facilities. The idea is to give Fort McKay a sharp, consistent look.





# TOWER GARDENS PRODUCE

A unique pilot project by the Sustainability Department proved this summer that you can grow almost anything in Fort McKay. In June, four garden towers arrived in Fort McKay and were planted with a mix of flower and vegetable seedlings. Today the Tower Gardens are ready for harvesting.

"We heard from elders and local community members that access to fresh produce is not the easiest for community members," says Karla Buffalo, the SD Manager of Government Relations and Community Development.

The SD operated two of the towers and the other two towers went to community members. "Lina Gallup and Thecla Powder were chosen as the two community members to participate because through the annual garden contests they proved that they were passionate about gardening. So we proposed the idea to the both of them. We wanted to see if elders can manage the water and the minerals and nutrients and also to actually see if they liked the food that the towers produced," says Buffalo.

The Tower Garden is a patented vertical food production system designed for home and commercial growers.

The system is highly efficient, and allows even inexperienced growers to produce food in a fraction of the time it would take to grow the same crops in soil.

They grow 20 Plants per tower and can grow almost any vegeta-



ble, herb or flower.

Due to "aeroponics" the towers requires as little as 5 percent of traditional growing nutrients & water and can produce crops in a fraction of the time it takes to grow in soil.

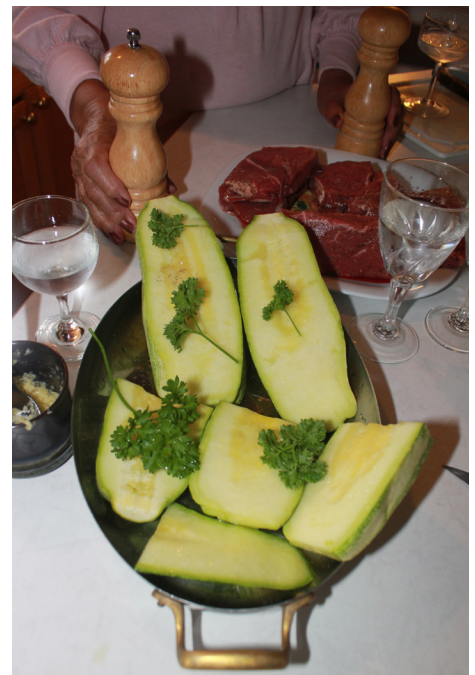
Buffalo says the Garden Towers are being used around the world, in elders' homes, in restaurants and by people that live in condos or have rooftop gardens. There are also different community gardens where they have several Garden Towers so people living on the street have access to fresh produce.

The Garden Towers can also grow indoors with attachable artificial lightning. The Fort McKay School may be involved in the winter growing pilot project. Food from the towers has proven to quite edible and tasty.

To inquire about the Garden Towers call Karla at 780-828-4086.



Plants grown in Fort McKay include: beefsteak tomato, cucumber, Alaska mix lettuce, nasturium, tri-colour beans, tiny Tim tomato, ruby lettuce, buttercup squash, Swiss chard, kale, blue leaf scotch, sweet peas, butter crunch lettuce, peppers, cabbage, gourmet lettuce, pansy, basil, dill, spearmint, parsley, chives, cilantro, coriander, sage, oregano. Below: buttercup squash ready for the BBQ.





# MR. FREEZE



He is from the land of ice and he is an icemaking guru. Simon Adams is the iceman. Adams, Fort McKay's First Nation Arena Manager/Acting Director of Community Services has installed over 80 ice rinks/curling rinks in the last 21 years. Adams installed all the ice for the 2002 Arctic Winter Games in Iqaluit, Nunavut (2 hockey rinks and 1 curling rink). He also installed the ice for the Oil Barons outdoor Winter Classic in Fort McMurray and the nationally televised Hockey Day In Canada in Iqaluit, Nunavut. "You used to have paint every-

thing by hand, even the big logos. Now, with the new products, it takes about 20 minutes to do a big logo. It used to take about 4 hours. You would be frozen by the time you were done," laughs Adams who is also an Instructor for Arena Level 1, Ice Installation, for Alberta Recreation Facility Personnel. The first ice in Fort McKay's new hockey arena was installed by one of Adams' students, Cort Gallup of Fort McKay. Gallup says many other Fort McKay members helped him at different times with the installation. His helpers on the

first ice were all hockey players who were excited to play hockey on their very own hockey rink. "It took me about a week and then it was game on," says Gallup. There are now five certified ice installers in Fort McKay. They are: Matt Gladu, Johnathan Boucher, Bubbins McKenzie, Simon Adams, Jessie Rodriguez and Cort Gallup. Installation of Fort McKay's ice for the 2013-2014 Season will begin on September 23. People that are interested in helping out are asked to call Simon Adams at 780-881-9096.



**First,**

10-12 spray mist seal coats are applied to create solid bond (no air) to the cold concrete pad. ...



Then open hose floods and





Then the all the face off circles, lines and goal creases (which are all made of cloth) are all installed using scribes and a measurement system...



coats of the white paint are sprayed on, followed by 10-12 spray coats of water to protect the white ...



Then the logos, that are printed on 4 ft. wide strips of plastic mesh, are installed...



When the white paint is mixed, 40 bags, 6 buckets...

Then the ice is built up to 1-1/4 inches thick by using open hose floods again...

Then the ice is tempered with the hot water from the Zamboni...

# Then it's GAME ON!



Water applied until the ice is 1/4 inch thick...



ICEMAKERS: Simon Adams, Johnathan Boucher, Matt Gladu, Bubbins McKenzie, Rayanne Mercredi, Gary Lacorde, Christian McDonald, Tyler Young, Dillon McKenzie and Cort Gallup.





*Hula hooped* Above left: Carmen Ahaysou demonstrates her Hula Hoop skills at the Family Fun Day on August 23 while B.J. Fitzpatrick (above right) demonstrates his juggling skills. Below: Family Fun Feast. For complete photos of this event and other events see our facebook page at FORT MCKAY First Nation.





# Z P H O T O S

## NEW INDOOR SPORTS EQUIPMENT



**ARENA SERVES UP NEW COURTS** Fort McKay children play on the arena's new Sport Court floor on recent afternoon. The plastic surface can convert from a badminton court to a basketball court. The arena now has basketball nets, badminton nets, ping pong tables and indoor soccer and floor hockey nets.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY JOHN!

John Boucher celebrated his 67th birthday in grand style with a live band (Nicely Put Together) at the Elder's Centre last month with family and friends. For more photos see our Facebook page at FORT MCKAY First Nation Photos: Leona Grandjambe





# HISTORICAL PHOTO OF THE MONTH



*Albert Grandjambe*

**At home in Fort McKay or Moose Lake, Albert Grandjambe** would always welcome people with, “Pehtikwe, Noosism (let’s talk my grandchild). The Cree speaking Fort McKay trapper was the son of a Baptise Grandjambe who, in search of prime beavers, ventured into the Chipewyan region in the late 1800s. His Father was from the Stoney Tribe and settled in Moose Lake, fishing, hunting and trapping. He was the youngest of three brothers and five sisters. Grandjambe sired seven sons and four daughters all of whom resided in Fort McKay (Katy, Rosa, James, Tommy, Edward, Flora, Marie, Edward (James), Flora, William,

Wilfred and Magloire). He was very fond of his days in Moose Lake where his Father trapped, fished and hunted. Grandjambe used to make trips from Moose Lake to Fort Chipewyan turn in his catch of furs to the Hudson’s Bay Company, before Fort McKay got its own trading post. He then became a Hudson’s Bay buyer, travelling from camp to camp buying furs and trading goods. Once all the people of Moose Lake migrated to Fort McKay, he became a river freighter, navigating the waterways from Athabasca Landing to Fort Chipewyan, and at times to Fort Fitzgerald and Fort Smith. Grandjambe laboured chest-high water

everyday, sometimes all day in the water, pulling the freighter scows. The work was the toughest there ever was, hauling 200 pound bales of fur and soaked scows over the land at the portages around rapids. The menu of those days was bacon, beans, bannock and tea. Working as a freighter during the summers and trapping in the fall and winter seasons, Grandjambe was a provider for his family. He raised his family well, his children never went hungry. He provided for his family with traditional means, like moose hunting, and with seasonal employment. He was proud of that. He was a man of pride and above all, an honest man.





# RECLAMATION MILESTONE CELEBRATED

On August 26, Elder Clara Boucher, represented Fort McKay at the unveiling of the Nikanotee fen. The 'Nikanotee' Fen research project is funded by Imperial Kearl, Shell and Suncor. A fen is a specific type of peat-accumulating wetland, common to the region. Suncor is one of the first companies in the world to attempt reconstruction of this type of wetland, and has been doing so in cooperation with a number of university researchers from across North America. The project was largely brought forward by Carol Jones and Ann Garibaldi by their participation at CEMA's Reclamation Working Group 7 years ago. "Contributing to this type of

research is now part of Suncor's current approvals. If the fen can successfully accumulate peat then it will hopefully improve the the likelihood of restoring more wetlands in the Boreal Forest," - says Daniel Stuckless, the Sustainability Department's Manager of Environmental Affairs. Suncor's Advisory Committee from Fort McKay got to see the fen first hand a few weeks ago. Mark Little, Suncor's executive vice-president, Oil Sands and In Situ said "I look forward to continued collaboration on this great project, as we are deeply committed to returning land to a natural state for future generations. Looking ahead, I expect we and others in the industry will

continue learning as we share the knowledge gained so far, and as we progress together through the Nikanotee Fen's monitoring phase." At the celebration, Elder Clara Boucher was able to plant sedges in the fen along with Elders and youth from the other First Nations and Metis in the region. The event also acknowledged the student who won a contest earlier this year to name the fen. Emma Curtis, who recently completed grade four at St. Martha's School in Fort McMurray, chose the name Nikanotee (pronounced Nee-ga-no-tee) because of its meaning as the Cree word for future.



ELDER Clara Boucher plants sedges in the Nikanotee Fen, alongside Metis Local 1935 President James (Dickey) Dragon and Fort McMurray Mayor Melissa Blake.





# SMOKE SIGNALS

## Fort Mckay Group of Companies LP Community Job Fair



\* Please stop by and meet with the FMGoC Recruitment Team and discuss potential employment opportunities with FMGoC.

**September 26, 2013, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

**Fort Mckay First Nation Community Hall**

Lunch and refreshments will be provided

### **FORT MCKAY RECREATION 780-714-7094**

**Volleyball 18 yrs old+ only**  
Starting Sept 9th  
Monday and Wed 7-9pm  
Tuesday and Thursday 8-10pm

**Fitness Classes:**  
Workouts. Monday and Wed 12-1pm  
Yoga. Tuesday and Friday 12-1pm  
Mommy and Baby Workout Fridays 10:30-11:30am

**Preschoold Fun! 4-5pm at the arena Starting Sept 9th**  
Tuesday: Craft  
Wednesday: "let's do a project!"  
Thursday: surprise (from craft,

sport, outside play, etc)

**Family run-** will take place in town. Registration is mandatory. Family bbq and concert after on Sunday Sept 15th  
1k, (3-8yrs)  
3k, 5k, 10k, half marathon (8yrs+)

**MEN'S GROUP 780-742-4786**  
Every Tuesday, 7-9 p.m. at the Family Support Centre. Come share your thoughts, concerns and feelings with other men. Anonymity will be respected. All ages are welcome. There will be open discussion meetings. For more info call Victor.

### **SHARING CIRCLE 780-742-4786**

**Every Thursday, 7-9pm, at the Family Support Centre.** We welcome Men and Women of all ages in the community to come enjoy an evening at the Family Centre. There will be an open discussion sharing circle. Come share your thoughts, feelings and concerns. For more info call Victor.

### **GROWING TOGETHER FOR OUR SUSTAINABLE FUTURE 780-828-2480**

**September 11, join us at the 2013 Sustainability-Industry Trade-show at the arena, 11am-5pm.**

### **Granny**

