A Fort McKay First Nation Publication

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Harmony Gallup accepted by prestigious **Saint Michaels University School**



Proud dad Cort Gallup beaming with pride at his daughter's acceptance to Saint Michaels School.

aint Michaels University School (SMUS) is one of the most prestigious independent schools in Canada, maybe even the world. Founded from the joining of the University school of Victoria and Saint Michael's School, the alumni include NBA legend Steve Nash, a former Premier of Alberta, a NATO leader and an inventor of a heat-powered flashlight among others, along with countless quietly accomplished leaders in politics, diplomacy, science, arts, religion, business – pick a career path and the Alumni of SMUS have travelled down it successfully. The students are the brightest and best from around the world. To this list we can surely add a success-in-waiting. Harmony Gallup has been accepted into these dazzling halls of academic excellence, and as a community we congratulate her and wish her well.

SMUS is a school driven by success and it has a reputation for going the extra mile, and then further still. For example, it is the number-one school in Canada for "equity and excellence" in the College Board's Advanced Placement. What does that mean exactly? Well, it teaches University level courses to high school students, giving them a head start when they leave the school. The standards are high. Harmony's application process included multiple interviews and tests. Not only did she sail through them, along the way she qualified for the \$25,000 Indigenous Peoples within Canada Awards Scholarship.

"I'm super happy and proud of my Granddaughter," said Fort McKay's Elder of Elders, 91-year-old Lina Gallup. "She is an extraordinary young woman - takes after her Grandmother." Her parents, Alicia La Rue and Cort Gallup, echo Lina's sentiments. "This was all Harmony's effort," said her Father. "She did all the work throughout the application process. I am so proud of her and everything she has achieved so far, and excited about what is ahead for her." With this. Harmony's achievements just went from impressive to stratospheric. Just recently she was the first winner of the Elsie Fabian School's Cree award. the latest in a long line of scholastic achievements. Now, the world is her stage. Before all the examinations and interviews, Harmony was assigned a guide and leader to help her through the process The student adviser, an Ojibwe from Ontario, told Harmony that 'going to school at SMUS is like going to school with all your best friends.' She also left a challenge for Harmony. "As I am graduating this year you will have to replace me and represent our people well. Show the other students from all over the world how cool we are."

STILL WITH WILDFIRES

The Front Cover of this month's Red River Current was supposed to be a picture of our All Girls football team, the Northern Spirits, playing their last game of the season, at home, at MacDonald Island. The Game was postponed because the St Albert Valkyries couldn't get here.

Coach Dylan Elias is trying to reschedule the game for successful we will be there taking photos and reporting back to you, our readers. The reason why the Valkyries couldn't come? Their bus was diverted to help in the evacuation of a community under wildfire threat.

We're sorry the game didn't happen, and we hope it does. But the reason the opposition couldn't get here is a timely reminder that this is the worst wildfire season since you know

Please be ready if necessary. And like last time, the Charge of the 88 000, please be careful and please be safe.



FMFN LEADERSHIP TEAM

Raymond Powder, Chief David Bouchier, Councillor Crystal McDonald, Councillor Bobby Shott, Councillor Melinda Stewart, Councillor

Chris Johnson, CEO Alvaro Pinto, CEO Oilsands Development and Sustainability Stuart Randell, Director, Strategic Portfolio Investments

ADMINISTRATION DEPT.

Dorothy McDonald Business Centre, General Delivery, Fort McKay, AB TOP 1C0

Phone: 780-828-2430

Hours of Operation:

Monday - Thursday: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Closed daily: 12 - 1 p.m.

SUBMISSIONS

If you have any photos, stories or ideas for the Red River Current, please contact us via at email: communications@fortmckay.com

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Anna Mercredi awarded a RARA at just 8 years old

The quality, not the longevity, of one's life is what is important. Martin Luther King, Jr.



he Regional Aboriginal Recognition Awards (RARA) were started in 1988 to recognize the positive contributions that Aboriginal people (Metis, First Nation, Inuit) within the Region make in everyday life. It gives us all the opportunity to acknowledge individuals that have made a difference to the community at large. Most importantly, this recognition is from within; it is selected for the Aboriginal people of the region, by those selfsame people. The Awards, in the words of the RARA Vision Statement, bestow appreciation for the achievements of the people, and that the awards themselves should, through this recognition, make a positive impact on the lives of the people.

As a result, these presentations have been presented to many of our high achievers, Elders, and sports, culture, and business icons. Some of the categories speak to the years of experience recognized, while the lifetime achievement award is self-evident in the qualities needed for a winner. Even the junior achievement prizes are either acknowledging a specific talent, or some years of work at an art, sport or charitable event. From all of this you may conclude

that when Anna Mercredi was given an award this year, she had done something special. After all, Anna was only 8 at the time. And she had.

In Anna's case, she received this award for a lifetime of achievement.

How can that be, you ask. This is what the Principal of her school, Thomas Andrews, had to say.

"Anna was not nominated for this award for any one particular act. She has shown us through her actions and her words that she is passionate and proud of who she is, and her family heritage. She has been excited to share her culture with others here at the school, and has been active in our Indigenous learning opportunities as well. She has made us proud of the way she represents our school as one of our Elders Keepers as well."

The Deputy Principal, Nazia Hiscock, had more to say, all in the same vein. "Anna brings the strength of her Mother, Grandmother and Aunties to school events. She participated in a family feast and a round dance with traditional drummers from Onion Lake, Elders in the community and former Chief of Fort McMurray First Nation, Robert Cree. She also

has signed a contract with the Arctic Winter Games to honour her ancestors through a jingle dance."

A contract, for a jingle dance, at an international sporting event. Did we mention she's 8? The list is long. There was the time at the Christmas Concert where another student, without their EA for the event, was reassured by Anna, singing together with each other and holding hands. Then there is the special respect she has as an Elders Keeper for Mosom Robert Cree, a member of the FMPSD Elders Council. She welcomed him, offered tobacco and followed protocol to ensure his needs were taken care of.

She also has taken the opportunity at school to share her traditional learning and culture, talking to her class about the importance of Elders teachings, smudging and cultural respect. At assembly one monthshe used the teachings of the bear/courage to perform her jingle dance, with her Auntie Lydia, in front of over 500 students and parents, along with her Mom, Aunties, Grandmothers and other knowledge keepers. She also has performed her jingle dancing for FMPSD Board of Trustees Chair Linda

Mywaart and the other Trustees. She has been a leader, inspiring other Indigenous students who have begun their love of Pow Wow dancing. In her classroom, she has shared her traditional teachings of smudging during sharing circle, and with her teacher, shared the importance of her jingle dance regalia.

Note some of these points. She is showcasing her culture in front of large audiences, inspiring other indigenous youth to explore their culture and representing her people at the highest level. It's not just the 500 at assembly; the Arctic Winter Games had an international audience in five different countries when Anna danced for them. I'm sure we mentioned she was only 8 at the time. We'll keep an eye out for you Anna. After you have already achieved so much, it will be interesting to see how you deal with the heady heights of 9, or 10. The Swahili proverb - it takes a village to raise a child – means that no child grows to fulfillment on their own. We congratulate Anna as we also congratulate her Mom Lori-Lei and her 'village of relatives and other Aunties, all of whom have helped make Anna proud of who she is and where she comes from.

The Pool Guys. Roy and the Boys do well at the CCS

It was another good tournament for our Sticks Crew as they took part in the Canadian Cue Sport Association Western 8 and 9 ball Championships in Calgary at the Beginning of May Gilbert Estes continued the run of form he brought over from last month's Battle of the Bands where he finished fifth. This time he was the losing finalist in the C-Standard 8-Ball Singles. Second out of 54 is nothing to shake a cue at, and victory is surely just around the corner for Gilbert. The other team members all improved on their previous results. Roy maintains it's all about the

friendly competition, but as you can see in the pictures, the cheques sure don't hurt.



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FORT MCKAY HEALTH CENTRE

Please call in advance if you need to make an appointment with Dr. O'Connor.

Immunizations

Contact the Health Centre to make an appointment with the Public Health Nurse

For more information on other services offered at the Health Centre, please contact the centre at **780.828.2450.**

FORT MCKAY EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

The Employment and Training Center is there to help you with creating/ updating resumes, searching for and applying for jobs, and offering support for employment and training.

For more information or to make an appointment, please contact the office at **780.828.2478.**

FORT MCKAY 106.3 FM



STAY up to date with the latest music and news!!

Listening to Fort McKay's community radio station!

www.fortmckayfm.com

The Northern Spirits Football Team 2023. A Celebration.



















































Ice Time Congratulations to Dayton & Leanne

ur home-grown hockey has been having a better time of things than the Oilers. Congratulations to two of our local heroes.

Leanne Grandjambe

Leanne played goaltender with the U11 and U13 Wood Buffalo Huskies Girls Travelling Team this past winter and she had the kind of season you can only dream about.

Her team won Gold at the prestigious Alleys Angels Kelowna Under 13 Hockey Tournament. The Alleys Angels is named in honour of Alley Nyuli, a former Kelowna hockey legend and the tournament is considered one of the most prestigious recreational hockey tournaments in Western Canada, with teams from Albereta, Vancouver Island and the rest of B.C. as well the USA.

Leanne recorded 4 shutouts during the tournament, helping her team go all the way. In addition she backstopped the team in the final as they won the Gold Medal in overtime.

Congratulations Leanne.



Dayton Wilson

Fort McKay First Nation would like to congratulate Band Member Dayton Wilson for his success as part of the Championship team, the Triple AAA Canada Crushers, in the 2011-born category at the 2023 Canadian AAA Crusher Desert Classic hockey tournament.

Dayton, who just turned 12, played left wing and centre at the tournament held at the City National Arena in Las Vegas this weekend.



The competition was a slow burn for Crushers, who started off the tournament with one tie and three losses. They rallied big time to win their semi-final 8-5 over the On Top Hockey team. The Crushers locked down the championship, beating the Rocky Mountain Warriors 7-5.

The Canadian AAA Crusher Desert Classic featured Top AAA Teams from Edmonton, Calgary, Minnesota, Saskatchewan, BC, California, Chicago, Arizona, Colorado, Manitoba, Ontario plus other locations.

Congratulations Dayton! Way to keep that stick on the ice!

FORT MCKAY ELDERS

Elders Easter Bingo

hat's better than an Elders Bingo event? Why it must be Elders Easter Bingo.
The Team at Riverside arranged a fun event for all, with the Easter Bunny on hand to hand out goodies for all. True story; we tried to get a picture or Tara and the Easter Bunny together but we never seemed to catch them. We hop we'll be luckier next time.









What's happening in June

Iders fair at the Band Hall on Thursday, June 8th, from 11 am to 2 pm. Traditional lunch provided 12 pm to 1 pm. Tons of vendors promoting health and wellness for Elders. Giveaways and door prizes, plus Tea & Bannock on the fire.

Trip to MacDonald Island on Wednesday, June 14th.

June 15th, Father's Day Gift Deliveries.

Picnic Lunch at Gregoire Lake on Mondayday, June 26th.

June 1st, 22nd & 29th Lunch & Bingo at the Elders Center.



FORT MCKAY ELDERS BINGO!

Date

Thursdays

Time

Noon - 2:00 pm

Location

Elders Centre

Call Peggy for cards at **780-598-3575.**



CFWE RADIO BINGO

Date

Mondays and Saturdays

Time

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Location

Fort McKay Radio Canada



PROFILE: THE BOUCHIER GROUP



This year is a monumental year as Bouchier celebrates 25 years in business. To celebrate this milestone occasion, we are excited to partner on community initiatives such as Fort McKay Treaty Days. We couldn't think of a better way to say thank you for your support.

We are proud to present the 2023 Fort McKay First Nation Treaty Days. Come out and enjoy the fun. You don't want to miss the Corporate Tug of War. As entertainment sponsor, we hope to see you on Saturday for Stephanie Harpe Experience, Big Sugar and Johnny Reid.

Let's celebrate community, culture and connection!

About Bouchier

Bouchier, owned and operated by David and Nicole Bouchier, is proudly located in Fort McKay, Alberta.

Our story began with an idea, strong entrepreneurial spirit, and a used dozer. Built on the belief that we should always be a good neighbour, David and Nicole had a dream to create something that would benefit their community.

Thanks to our valued partners, and the relationships we have created along

the way, that dream was realized. Today Bouchier has more than 1000 employees, and 43% of our workforce is Indigenous.



YEARS OF INDIGENOUS EXCELLENCE

We are committed to supporting Indigenous communities and businesses in the areas of procurement, employment, community investment, and cultural support.

We invest in three areas that include community and cultural, youth, and female empowerment. Nicole and David are both actively involved in the community with David is currently serving his fourth term as a Councillor FMFN.



PROFILE: THE BOUCHIER GROUP



Through Bouchier, Nicole and David have built a family culture that engages and empowers people to be successful and make a meaningful impact. Together, our collective spirit unites us to care, to inspire and to deliver.



FORT MCKAY CULTURAL PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

DANCER AND DRUMMER PERFORMANCES

- Traditional Healing Assistance
- Round Dance / Dene Dance
- Cultural Workshops
- Moose/Buffalo Lake Summer Retreat
- Moose Lake Camps & Events
- Employment Opportunities
- Community & Special Events

CREE & DENE CLASSES

Every Tuesday Cree class on Zoom.

Every Wednesday Dene class on Zoom.

To register, contact culture@fortmckay.com

DRUM PRACTICE

Every Wednesday at 6 pm in the Band Hall.

All males welcome. Drop In, no registration required!

FORT MCKAY FIRST NATION MOOSE LAKE BAND MEMBER SUMMER RETREAT BOOKINGS

July 01 - September 24, 2023

If you would like to be a volunteer or be a Resource Worker for some of our programs or events, please submit an email, please include what events you are interested in, or what skill sets you can provide. First priority will be given to community members.

For more information about our upcoming programs, please contact:

Audrey Redcrow
Cultural and Special Events Lead
780-215-2384
Aredcrow@fortmckay.com



Lego Day at Cummins

hanks to Cummins and Girls Inc. three of Fort McKay's finest took part in a fun yet important Lego Day in the workshops of the largest Diesel Engine Manufacturer in North America.

Although the main goal was a fun event playing with Lego, Girls Inc. and

Cummins cleverly engineered this day to draw back the curtain on any assumed barriers that once existed. Sports and Recreation Manager Stefany Guillen took Mckenna, Samara and Gracie to the Saturday showcase and as you can tell from these pictures, everyone, adult included, had a good time.









UPCOMING EVENTS

Day	Date	Event	Details
Sunday	June 11, 2023	Father's day Bowling and Pizza - Register by May28th.	2:30-5:30pm. Shilla 780.828.2420, edmontonoffice@fortmckay.com
Monday	June 12, 2023	Boys Workout Program. Workout A 5:30- 6:30pm. Ages 12-20	Strength Training, Weight Training, Health and Fitness Support
Monday	June 12, 2023	Grad Day Pictures Grade 12: 10am-6pm	In the Youth Centre
Tuesday	June 13, 2023	Adult Volleyball	7pm-9pm at the school gym
Tuesday	June 13, 2023	Cree Class	6-7pm Instructor- Edith Orr
Tuesday	June 13, 2023	Global Energy Show, Calgary	Tentative - Keep the Date
Tuesday	June 13, 2023	Volleyball Clinic at the School	7:30-9:30pm. Ages 16+
Tuesday	June 13, 2023	Boys Workout Program. Workout B 4-5pm. Ages 12-20	Strength Training, Weight Training, Health and Fitness Support
Tuesday	June 13, 2023	Grad Day Pictures 10am-6pm	In the Youth Centre
Wednesday	June 14, 2023	Acupuncture at the Health Centre	Please make an Appointment
Wednesday	June 14, 2023	Dene Class	6-7pm Instructor- Janette Flett
Wednesday	June 14, 2023	Elders Trip to McDonald Island	Detailks to follow
Wednesday	June 14, 2023	Global Energy Show, Calgary	Tentative - Keep the Date
Wednesday	June 14, 2023	Mens Pow Wow Drum Practice	Band Hall, 6-7pm
Wednesday	June 14, 2023	Youth Entrepeneur Program fun by Community Futures Wood Buffalo	Youth Centre, 6pm-7pm
Wednesday	June 14, 2023	Boys Workout Program. Workout C 5:30- 6:30pm. Ages 12-20	Strength Training, Weight Training, Health and Fitness Support
Wednesday	June 14, 2023	Grad Day Pictures 10am-6pm	In the Youth Centre
Thursday	June 15, 2023	Elders Father's Day Gift Deliveries	
Thursday	June 15, 2023	Adult Volleyball	7pm-9pm at the school gym
Thursday	June 15, 2023	Arts Night at the Youth Centre	Fun for the whole family
Thursday	June 15, 2023	FMFN Treaty Days	Celebrating Community, Culture and Connection
Thursday	June 15, 2023	Global Energy Show, Calgary	Tentative - Keep the Date
Thursday	June 15, 2023	Treaty Days celebration Golf Tournament	More information to Follow
Friday	June 16, 2023	FMFN Treaty Days	Celebrating Community, Culture and Connection
Saturday	June 17, 2023	FMFN Treaty Days	Celebrating Community, Culture and Connection
Sunday	June 18, 2023	FMFN Treaty Days	Celebrating Community, Culture and aaConnection
Monday	June 19, 2023	School Culture Week Celebration	Details forthcoming
Tuesday	June 20, 2023	Adult Volleyball	7pm-9pm at the school gym
Tuesday	June 20, 2023	Cree Class	6-7pm Instructor- Edith Orr
Tuesday	June 20, 2023	School Culture Week Celebration	Details forthcoming
Wednesday	June 21, 2023	Acupuncture at the Health Centre	Please make an Appointment
Wednesday	June 21, 2023	Dene Class	6-7pm Instructor- Janette Flett
Wednesday	June 21, 2023	Mens Pow Wow Drum Practice	Band Hall, 6-7pm
Wednesday	June 21, 2023	School Culture Week Celebration	Details forthcoming
Thursday	June 22, 2023	Adult Volleyball	7pm-9pm at the school gym
Thursday	June 22, 2023	School Culture Week Celebration	Details forthcoming
Friday	June 23, 2023	Last Day of School	Alice Cooper Day
Friday	June 23, 2023	Indigenous Art Program at MacDonald Island	Quilting, beading, family event.
Tuesday	June 27, 2023	Cree Class	6-7pm Instructor- Edith Orr
Tuesday	June 27, 2023	Graduation	Details Forthcoming







WEEKEND SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, JUNE 15			
TIME	EVENT/ACTIVITY	LOCATION	
7:00 P.M 5:00 P.M.	FORT MCKAY GROUP OF COMPANIES CORPORATE GOLF TOURNAMENT	MISKANAW GOLF CLUB	
5:00 P.M 8:00 P.M.	COMMUNITY BINGO	BAND HALL	
6:00 P.M 9:00 P.M.	YOUTH MUCH DANCE	ELSIE FABIAN SCHOOL	

FRIDAY, JUNE 16		
TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
7:00 A.M 9:00 A.M.	STAFF/VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION BREAKFAST -ESS	BAND HALL
9:00 A.M 5:00 P.M.	REGISTRATION OPEN	FRONT OF BAND HALL
9:00 A.M 5:00 P.M.	MERCHANDISE TENT	FRONT OF BAND HALL
9:00 A.M 11:00 P.M.	VENDORS FOOD & CRAFT	LOWER ARBOUR
9:45 A.M 10:00 A.M.	KIDS BIKE PARADE	MAIN ROAD
10:00 A.M 11:00 A.M.	MAIN PARADE	MAIN ROAD
11:30 A.M 1:00 P.M.	OPENING CEREMONIES	UPPER ARBOUR
1:00 P.M 4:30 P.M.	FORT MCKAY TREATY ANNUITY PAYMENTS	BESIDE BAND HALL
12:30 P.M 1:00 P.M.	ELDER LUNCH SERVICE	BAND HALL
1:00 P.M 3:00 P.M.	BBQ LUNCH – STEAK AND LOBSTER (FOOD TENT)	BESIDE BAND HALL
2:00 P.M 3:30 P.M.	CORPORATE TUG OF WAR	BEHIND BAND HALL
1:00 P.M 5:00 P.M.	KIDS DISCOVERY ZONE	FORT MCKAY ARENA
1:00 P.M 5:00 P.M.	TEEN WONDER ZONE	YOUTH CENTER
1:00 P.M 5:00 P.M.	CULTURAL VILLAGE	CULTURAL VILLAGE
2:00 P.M 5:00 P.M.	DENE HAND GAMES	CULTURAL VILLAGE
4:30 P.M 5:00 P.M.	ELDER COMMUNITY SUPPER MEAL SERVICE	BAND HALL
6:00 P.M 8:00 P.M.	COMMUNITY SUPPER (FOOD TENT)	BESIDE BAND HALL
6:00 P.M 10:00 P.M.	LAWRENCE "BULL" POWDER ANNUAL MEMORIAL SLO-PITCH TOURNAMENT	BALL DIAMOND
7:00 P.M 11:00 P.M.	FORT MCKAY IDOL & JIGGING CONTEST – MUSIC BY NICELY PUT TOGETHER BAND	UPPER ARBOUR

SATURDAY, JUNE 17		
TIME	EVENT/ACTIVITY	LOCATION
10:00 A.M 5:00 P.M.	REGISTRATION, INFORMATION, AND MERCHANDISE TENT	FRONT OF BAND HALL
9:00 A.M 11:00 A.M.	VENDORS FOOD AND CRAFTS	LOWER ARBOUR
9:00 A.M 6:00 P.M.	LAWRENCE "BULL" POWDER ANNUAL MEMORIAL SLO-PITCH TOURNAMENT	BALL DIAMOND
9:00 A.M 11:00 A.M.	COMMUNITY BREAKFAST	BAND HALL
11:00 A.M 2:00 P.M.	CANOE RACES	RED RIVER - BRIDGE
1:00 P.M 5:00 P.M.	CULTURAL VILLAGE	BESIDE BAND HALL IN CULTURAL VILLAGE
12:00 P.M 5:00 P.M.	KIDS DISCOVERY ZONE	FORT MCKAY ARENA
12:00 P.M 5:00 P.M.	TEEN WONDER ZONE	YOUTH CENTER
1:00 P.M 5:00 P.M.	DENE HAND GAMES	CULTURAL VILLAGE
1:00 P.M 3:00 P.M.	COMMUNITY TUG OF WAR	BEHIND BAND HALL
4:00 P.M 4:30 P.M.	ELDER COMMUNITY SUPPER MEAL SERVICE	BAND HALL
4:30 P.M 6:00 P.M.	COMMUNITY SUPPER (FOOD TENT)	BESIDE BAND HALL
6:00 P.M 6:45 P.M.	LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT - A.B.O.	AMPHITHEATRE
7:00 P.M 8:00 P.M.	STEPHANIE HARPE EXPERIENCE	AMPHITHEATRE
8:15 P.M 9:30 P.M.	BIG SUGAR	AMPHITHEATRE
10:00 P.M 11:30 P.M.	JOHNNY REID	AMPHITHEATRE
11:30 P.M 12:30 A.M.	FIREWORKS & DRONE SHOW	BEHIND AMPHITHEATRE

SUNDAY, JUNE 18			
TIME	EVENT/ACTIVITY	LOCATION	
10:00 - 7:00 P.M.	LAWRENCE "BULL" POWDER ANNUAL MEMORIAL SLO-PITCH TOURNAMENT	BALL DIAMOND	

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY, CULTURE & CONNECTION

ALL EVENTS ARE ALCOHOL AND DRUG FREE