

2010

JULY

Mushkegowuk Council

lands and resources department



Vol. 1, Issue 2

Community Land Use Planning Contacts

Attawapiskat - John B. Nakogee

Chapleau Cree - Marshall Tannahill

Fort Albany - Meshan Sutherland

Kashechewan - Edward Sutherland

Missanabie Cree - Lori Rainville

Moose Cree - Lillian Trapper

Taykwa Tagamou - Bruce Archibald

Weenusk - Ivan D. Iserhoff

New Staff



Megan Laroche

Megan is joining the L&R staff as a summer student. She will be cataloguing files and transferring cassette taped community Elder interviews to DVD for preservation... amongst many other duties!

What is Bill 191 (The Far North Act)?

In July 2008, Premier McGuinty made commitment to undertake land use planning in the Far North. The proposed legislation would permanently protect at least half of the Far North of Ontario in a network of conservation lands and allow for sustainable development of the region's natural resources.

The proposed Far North Act, 2009 (Bill 191) would enable a community-based land use planning process that gives First Nations in the Far North a role in determining areas to be protected. Community-based planning would also identify where sustainable development of natural resources such as forests, minerals and renewable energy may take place. Under the planning process, sustainable development must benefit local First Nations and take into consideration ecological and cultural values.

One of the goals of Bill 191 is to protect at least 225,000 square kilometres – an area three times the size of Lake Superior – to safeguard habitat for more than 200 sensitive species. This would also help to ensure the boreal landscape continues to fight the effects of global climate change by maintaining its capacity to absorb and store carbon from the air.

The Mushkegowuk Chiefs recently sent a letter to Premier McGuinty expressing concerns over Bill 191 including:

- ▶ Funding has been inadequate and decisions are being made unilaterally by the Province
- ▶ The bill needs to acknowledge the desire of Mushkegowuk First Nations to work collaboratively
- ▶ All of the Mushkegowuk First Nations need to have a role in planning, not just the "Far North"
- ▶ Funding should be jointly managed by the Province and First Nations
- ▶ A joint Provincial/First Nations body should be created to guide planning in the James Bay region
- ▶ First Nations should be responsible to select and manage protected areas
- ▶ Staking should be paused until planning is complete
- ▶ Future changes to plans must be agreed to by both the First Nations and the Province

UPCOMING EVENTS For information contact Marlene Innes: 705-268-3594

August 10 - 13
www.creefest.ca

CreeFest, Fox Lake Reserve, Chapleau, ON.

For Inquiries: **Angela Fletcher**, CreeFest 2010 Coordinator
Chapleau Cree First Nation. (705) 864-0784

August 16 - 20

Missanabie Gathering, Missanabie, ON.

September 8 - 10

Land Management and Protection Conference
Days Inn, Timmins, ON.

ASKI NANA GA CHE TA WIN "Caring for the Land"
Information on back

Lands and Resources Staff
705-268-3594

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Marlene Innes, Information Mgmt
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Barb Duffin, GIS Specialist
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Annie Metat, Planning Facilitator
anniemetat@mushkegowuk.ca

GIS and GPS Training for First Nations

Planning Coordinators and community members from six First Nations had two a very successful GIS and GPS training sessions in May and June. Participants learned the fundamentals of GIS (Geographic Information System) and how to use a GIS to inventory data for analysis and create maps for display.

Traditional Knowledge gathering will start this summer in most First Nation communities as part of the first Phase of land use planning. The GIS training has equipped these individuals the skills needed to enter the data into a system that will preserve this knowledge and also be used as a development tool.



GPS (Global Positioning System) training was also given. A GPS is a hand held unit that can gather data or mark points, lines or areas of interest. Members learned how to take this information and use it in a GIS.

A fun activity that can also be done with a GPS is Geocaching... its like treasure hunting with a GPS. Millions of 'caches' are hidden around the world and using a GPS you try to find them. The group found one behind our training site. For information on what geocaching is about goto: www.geocaching.com

Training was provided by Ontario Nature and Barb Duffin from Mushkegowuk Council, Lands & Resources Department. Funding was provided by Mushkegowuk Employment and Training.



Photo by: Barb Duffin

Mushkegowuk Catchers!

Peter Hunter (Weenusk FN), Steve Caldwell (Chapleau Cree FN), Brian Wynne (Kashechewan FN), Brad Mercier (Chapleau Cree FN), Edward Sutherland (Kashechewan FN), Annie Metat (Lands & Resources), Lauren Nelson (Ontario Nature), Meshan Sutherland (Fort Albany FN), Isabell Souliere (Missanabie Cree), Waylon Kataquapit (Fort Albany FN), Jason Gauthier (Missanabie Cree)

FORT ALBANY Community Profile



Chief:
Andrew Solomon
705-278-1076

Fort Albany is located in the District of Cochrane on the south shore of the Albany River on Sinclair and Anderson Islands and the mainland approximately 12 km from James Bay. During the 1950's, old Fort Albany was abandoned. The people migrated into two distinct communities, Fort Albany and Kashechewan. The population is mostly Roman Catholic.

The community is accessible by air, by water and by winter road. The winter road links Fort Albany to Attawapiskat and Moosonee and is only used during the months of early or late January to early or late March depending on weather conditions. The road is maintained by local contractors and administered by Kimeskanamenow Corporation.

Fort Albany is a member of the Mushkegowuk Tribal Council along with six other First Nations in North eastern Ontario. The communities' leadership is comprised of a Chief, Deputy Chief and 11 Councillors plus one Elder. Local elections are held every three years.

Fort Albany has an on-reserve population of 900.

ASKI NANA GA CHE TA WIN "Caring for the Land"

An Educational and Empowering Conference for the Omushkegowuk on Land Management and Protection, which involves Mining, Forestry, Wildlife Management and Land Use Planning on First Nation Traditional Territories

September 8, 9, 10 Days Inn, Timmins, Ontario

Conference Goals:

- Explore steps to building Mushkegowuk Council First Nation community capacity in all areas of Natural Resource development and protection
- Expose community members to First Nation development in other areas across Ontario
- Network with other First Nation Leaders across Canada
- Building Relationships with our Neighbouring Communities
- Building a meaningful future through working together for the people of the Mushkegowuk Territory

For more information call or email
Marlene at: 705-268-3594
marleneinnes@mushkegowuk.ca