NEWSLETTER



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Aanii kina wiya!

We are excited to welcome back our newsletter to the community!

As we begin this new fiscal year, we welcome a new council for their four year term. We also introduce new departments and programs to serve the great community of Atikameksheng Anishnawbek!

EDUCATION

An Education Van was purchased to support the Education Staff with travel and to assist with transporting students to and from school, to various events and appointments, as well as to psychological assessments.





The Education Services Team, in collaboration with the Library, hosted a **Mad Science Day** which brought the students together to learn about buoyancy, density, coding, gravity, and wind resistance. This was a fun-filled day aimed at helping the students to conduct experiments to learn basic science principles. **35 students** participated in this PD Day activity.

The Education Department is now located at **212 Maanii Street,** in the lower level of the library. This has allowed for greater space for the Education Staff to plan, collaborate, and prepare programming and activities.



The Director of Education has been supporting the Waasakwa Children's Centre Manager with the opening of the Daycare. They have been meeting with S. Burnett & Associates to design the daycare in a way that is culturally appropriate and relevant. They have also been meeting with the Ministry of Education to ensure that the building is aligned with ministry standards.



The Education Services Team hosted a **Solar Eclipse Party** on April 8th, 2024, which was a monumental experience as it was a wonder to witness. The Education Department purchased special solar eclipse glasses so that members could view this celestial event in a safe manner. Education staff were on site to teach the students about the significance of this phenomenon and to answer any questions they might have. The event was well attended, with **65 students** and guardians participating in this PD Day activity.

MINO BIMAADIZIWIN

The Mino Bimaadiziwin Department has been very busy this first quarter of the 2024 - 2025 fiscal year.

During the 1st quarter, the department supported the organization and external partners with:

- Sacred Fire requests
- Justice Conference
- External organization/agency requests for supports came from North Shore Tribal Council, Ontario Public Services, Akinoomoshin, Nogdawindamin/Great Lakes Cultural Services.
- Assisting Gimaa and Council with the Eagle Staff including coordination of a Sweat Lodge, meeting the Nokomis', Fasting Camp and, Eagle Staff update to the Community
- Lead Department with the coordinating of this year's Jiingtamok

Anishinaabe Aadiziwin Team

- Sacred Grounds rejuvenation project; removal of the diseased and hazardous trees have been removed. Top soil and leveling of the grounds is almost completed. Clovers and grass will be planted along with harvestable trees.
- Chainsaw Training has been completed by the whole team.



Photo taken by David Trudeau during this year's Annual Jiingtamok.



The Oshkaabewis continued with regular programming including Big Drum practice and provided and assisted with program support.

Upcoming Big Drum Practice - 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm at the Waasakwa Children's Centre

- September 9
- September 23
- September 30

The Evening Language Class is taking a break during the summer months to allow more time to be dedicated to restoring and refreshing of the Eagle Staff, support tasks for Jiingtamok, programs, and administrative tasks assigned.

LANDS AND HOUSING

Environmental Management Action Plan:

- The Lands Committee has begun the process of reviewing the draft Environmental Assessment Law with the goal of finalizing it by years end.
- A Deepwater boat has been purchased to better monitor Lake Panache.
- Lake capacity studies have been started for Whitefish Lake, Wakemi (Clear Lake), Nemag (Trout Lake), and Makada (Black Lake).

COMMUNITY & RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

On May 29th, 2024, a major announcement regarding a Battery Materials processing plant in Sudbury was announced with the signing of Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Greater Sudbury, Wahnapitae First Nation, Atikameksheng Anishnawbek, and Wyloo Metals.



"We look forward to continuing the conversation and developing a partnership with Wyloo for this project," said Atikameksheng Anishnawbek Gimaa Craig Nootchtai. "Working together ensures our traditions and culture are incorporated in the economic development of the lands."

Left to right: Wahnapitae First Nations Chief Larry Roque, Atikameksheng Anishnawbek Gimaa Craig Noochtai, Greater Sudbury Mayor Paul Lefebvre and Wyloo CEO Kristan Straub.

Invasive Species

The large population of knotweed in the Panache area has been cleared. Planning to do more clearing of knotweed in the Panache are and behind the Band Office.



Bat Tracking:
Two nights of bat tracking occurred in July. Up to eight bats were tagged and tracked with radiotelemetry.

Mission Monarch Expert:
Three plots have been laid out in the reserve to survey milkweed/blooming plants and monarchs.

Blooming plant surveys, immature monarch surveys, and mature monarch surveys will be conducted periodically throughout the summer.

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLNESS

Social State of Emergency – RHT Funds

Atikameksheng Anishnawbek declared a state of emergency for the RHT Funds coming into the community. Departmental meetings were held to discuss a safety plan for Atikameksheng Anishnawbek and an event was held in May at the Community Centre to provide members with information to support and assist them when receiving their RHT Funds. The Health, Social Services, Education, and Finance Departments have been providing programs such as, financial literacy training and fraud prevention. Promotion of counselling services are available through individual requests and through the flyer.

Northern Ontario School of Medicine Placement Students

The Health Promotions Manager coordinated this year's student placement plan and ensured they received great opportunities to learn about Atikameksheng Anishnawbek's traditions and culture. The students, Kira Gouchie and Julie Wallace, successfully their placement!





Community Hub

The Atikameksheng Community Support Hub, located on 66 Elm Street, is where Debendaagziwaad can go to for resources. The hub not only offers band services, and a place for little ones to play while parents meet with workers, but it is also a safe space to drop in, to talk, to smudge, and has a wide-range of services and referrals offered, all with community and culture in mind.

Emergency Response Team Meetings (MH&A State of Emergency)

A GAINS Assessments was provided for clients wanting Treatment.

Those seeking treatment please contact addictions.coordinator@wlfn.com

Lower Limb Preservation Sub-Committee

The focus of these meetings is to improve service pathways with all health professionals (federal/provincial) to minimize the number of amputations occurring in our communities. The Community Health Nurse actively participates.

SOCIAL SERVICES



Approximately **22** participants attended the Ribbon Skirt Making sessions in May!

Sewing and Craft Night

Don't forget to join us for sewing and craft night on

- September 11, 2024 (Frank will be in)
- September 25, 2024

For more information contact family.support1@wlfn.com

On June 1, a Community Pancake breakfast was held with information booths from Nogdawindamin & Family Advocacy. There were **over 120** people who attended the event.

Different Summer themed baskets were donated by departments from the Band Office for a prize draw!





Our Jordan's Principle Team participated in **Bear witness day on May 10th, 2024,** which was held in the tennis courts where drinks were provided and hotdogs served from the BBQ! They also provided resources, sharing information, and took referrals from community members. The 'Bear Witness Day' Event was very well attended, with approximately **75** participants/visitors; **20** children, **6** having already completed a Jordan' Principle application, and **9** new referral. Varies family supports and local agencies came to learn about The Jordan's Principle program in Atikameksheng Anishnawbek. During this event they handed out **20** 'Spirt Bear and Children Make History' books, **20** Bears with Blue and Yellow ribbons and many pamphlets.

Annual Traditional Gathering

On July 27 & 28, 2024, the 36th Annual Traditional Gathering, Jiingtamok was held! Chi-miigwetch to everyone who came out and made the weekend successful!! We are excited for next year!!





Head Youth Dancers Kade Naponse and Alice Cropper



Head Dancers

Naakwam Shawanda
&
Hope Osawamick



Head Elder
Art Petahtegoose



Host Drum
Young Tribe

Co-Host Drum
Chippewa Travellers







Emcee Darren McGregor

Co-Emcees Shawn McLaren & Dennis Cropper

DEBENDAAGZIWAAD DAYS

Debendaagziwaad Days is a time for us to gather and bring our members home before our Traditional Gathering, Jiingtamok. This year was our third annual Debendaagziwaad Days.

MONDAY

Library Re-Grand Opening







The Re-Grand Opening of the Atikameksheng Kendaasii Gamik (library) occurred on Monday, July 22, 2024, where the community came to explore what's new! Community members were able to sign up for a library card for a fast pass to services and resources! The library cards were designed by three Debendaagziwaad, Hannah Shawbonquit (Staff Card), Laila Cote (Youth Card), and Dahlia Piche (Adult Card).

Northland Wrestling Show



Atikameksheng's very own AJ Jones competed on Monday, July 22, 2024, in the Northland Wrestling Show.



You can learn more about her upcoming shows here https://www.northlandwrestling.com/





TUESDAY

Loonie Auction







The unofficial total raise at the Loonie Auction was $9,319.25

Comedy Night

Debendaagziwaad enjoyed a comedy night with special guest Don Burnstick. The night was opened by Shawn McLaren and Kevin Shawanda!









Swearing in Ceremony

Newly elected Gimaa and Council signed their Oath of Office followed by traditional ceremony on Wednesday, July 24, 2024.



(Left to right) Cheryl Miller-Martin, Darrell Grenier, Monica Homer, Art Petahtegoose, Tiffany Taylor, Jayde Naponse, Vance Nootchtai, Gimaa Craig Nootchtai.

Recognition Gala

Seven distinguished Debendaagziwaad were recognized for demonstrating characteristics of the Seven Grandfather Teachings.



Ashley Taylor
Courage



Gert Nootchtai
Wisdom



Sindy Fillator
Love



Declan Bedard Piche
Humility



Angela Demore
Honesty



Connie Nootchtai
Respect

Darren Solomon, who won Truth, could not attend.

Jays Care Special Scrimmage Game









THURSDAY

Golf Tournament

Thursday, July 25, 2024 was this year's Second Annual Golf Tournament!

Chi Miigwetch to all of the teams who came out and to our sponsors Bob Smoke Shop, JS Drilling, FCR, TD Bank, Hydro One, KGHM, Interfor, GSPS, Magna Mining, MLA Law, Walden Home Hardware, The Firelight Group, Walden Pet Food Plus, and CNTS!! A big thanks to Lively Golf Course for hosting the tournament!

We appreciate everyone's contribution and are looking forward to next years tournament!!

Together we raised

$55,910

to go towards our Dance Arbor and Youth Initiatives!







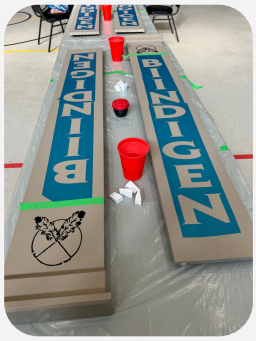


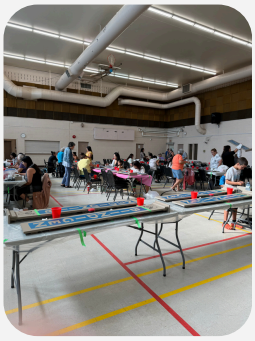




FRIDAY

Welcome Boards





Semaa Planting



Friday was a day of fun filled family activities for Debendaagziwaad to participate in!

Shout out to Amazen'Fun for all the outdoor activities for our youth to enjoy!

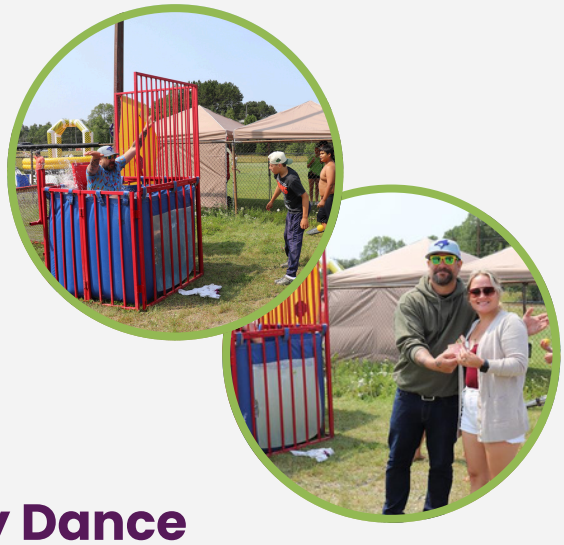






The dunk tank was a great hit! Councillor Grenier participated in **"Dunk a Councillor"** where every dunk he donated $5.00 towards the Atikameksheng Rookie League!

Councillor Grenier raised **$100.00** towards the Atikameksheng Rookie League!







Family Dance

The night ended with a family dance and awesome fireworks from Dreamcatcher Fireworks!