

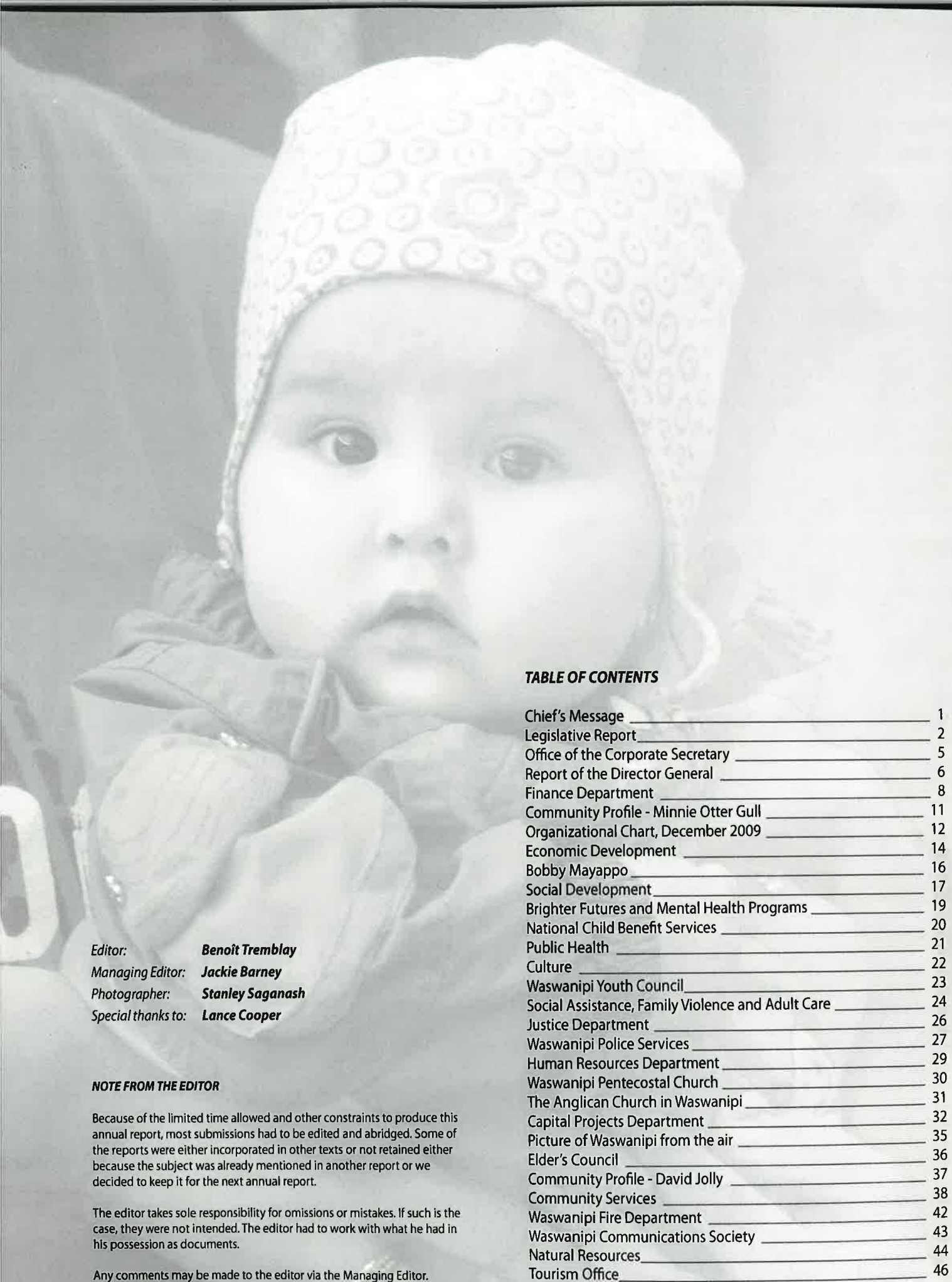


Annual Report **Waswanipi Post**

Issue Number 5

December 2009





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Managing Editor: **Jackie Barney**
Photographer: **Stanley Saganash**
Special thanks to: **Lance Cooper**

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Because of the limited time allowed and other constraints to produce this annual report, most submissions had to be edited and abridged. Some of the reports were either incorporated in other texts or not retained either because the subject was already mentioned in another report or we decided to keep it for the next annual report.

The editor takes sole responsibility for omissions or mistakes. If such is the case, they were not intended. The editor had to work with what he had in his possession as documents.

Any comments may be made to the editor via the Managing Editor.

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CHIEF'S MESSAGE



It has been over 3 years since my election as Chief and I am pleased to present you with this report on what my administration has achieved and provided for our community.

Our dedicated staff played a big role in bringing you the many programs and services that have reshaped our social well-being. Along with my Council, we were eager to support and finance many programs that provided employment and training opportunities for our members. I commend my staff for implementing Chief and Council's vision for our ever evolving community.

There are many areas in this report that will give you an in-depth look of what we realized for our people. I am pleased that my Council provided each of us with the support needed in bringing positive change to Waswanipi.

I also want to express my gratitude for the hard work and dedication of my Council. Our teamwork, in reshaping our financial situation for our future generations is moving ahead in a positive direction. In addition, our Finance Department played a big role in implementing difficult decisions and we are greatly satisfied with the results. We will continue to take the necessary positive steps so that public finances reflect our commitment to transparency, good governance, and better accounting practices.

As for my office, a never ending stream of issues and requests land on my desk for careful consideration. I am pleased by the effective and professional support I received from my Political Attaché, Jackie Barney, Corporate Secretary, Lance Cooper and Administrative Assistant Gwen Shecapio. Their hard work and dedication made a solid and positive impact on my office.

As you read this report, I want you to convey to each of you that we are conscious of our responsibilities and duties to the community and to its people. From making certain that services are available to all, to building an elder's home for our elderly people as well as providing programs and events for our young people, I am satisfied that we were able to reach every age group and to make a difference in our community.

There is much to be done, and much to improve, but Council has shown its ability to take on the many challenges it faces, mainly because of the unique dedication of each of Council's employees and the leadership of all of our Council members.

Thank you and I look forward to the years ahead where we will continue developing this vision for our community.

May God protect each and one of you, and may he bestow us with the strength to live peacefully with one another.

Chief John Kitchen



Chief and Council

top row left to right:

Marcel Happyjack, Derek Neeposh, Rhonda Oblin, John Jolly, Joey Blacksmith.

Bottom row left to right:

Allan Happyjack, John Kitchen, Paul Gull.

Legislative Report

Since the September 2006 election, local government in the form of Chief and Council, has had a progressive approach to their various mandates. Important legislative initiatives were considered and adopted alongside decisions to be taken to respond to the collective and individual needs of community members and associations. Council was also mindful of the effect regional plans and decisions from the GCCEI/CRA had on the community, especially in matters of justice, police and programs such as housing allocation.

Many difficult decisions were taken by Council in the past three years to ensure that the best interest of the community was taken into account.

As I took office, the community provided me with a distinguished group of people on Council. Those who have had previous experience on Council provided knowledge and wisdom, and those who were new and young provided new ideas. This convergence of personalities accounted for spirited and lively debates of ideas and initiatives and timely responses to the many challenges of the community.

Upon taking office, the financial outlook of Council was at best sombre. Over time, Council allocated yearly funding with a view of shrinking an unacceptable level of accumulated deficit. With these measures, our financial picture is gradually improving under the firm guidance of our local government and administrators of the Cree



private gains. The passage of both by-laws represents an important and significant milestone in the political evolution of our local governance.

I am mindful that the effective application of such by-laws must be subject to an evaluation by Council to ensure that the spirit and the letter of such by-laws be fully respected by those concerned. This evaluation may lead to the adding or modification of certain dispositions to improve the delivery of those by-laws.

For reasons that are partly due to the financial crisis affecting the world surrounding the collapse of the values related to natural resources, notably in forestry, the unemployment rate in Waswanipi was at a all time high. There were many who had been employed who are now receiving government social assistance. This represents a major concern for Chief and Council. Taking into consideration our financial picture, Council took the necessary steps in order to bring back employment to our community.

In order for Nabakatuk to move forward, meetings were held to deal with Domtar's status as a partner. Mishtuk Corporation provided the necessary funds to buy out our shares in the agreement. Chief John Kitchen and Council then gave Mishtuk the mandate to search for a new partner and come up with a plan to start up the Nabakatuk Sawmill. Council is getting closer in bringing back the much needed employment to our community members.

Cree Human Resources Department's responsibility is to provide job opportunities to the community with an employment program called Community Action Program. This initiative gave community members openings to gain valuable work experience with many departments and offices of our administration. In 2007-2008, Council allocated \$50,000 to provide our community members with work experience. Since this program was very popular and provided local economic spinoffs, Council decided to double its contribution to \$100,000 for the following fiscal year to provide for more work opportunities for our people. Along with the Director of Human Resources, Naomi Awashish, it is Council's hope that many of our community members will benefit from this program.

Over the years, the community has faced a serious backlog in housing allocation. There was a growing fear concerning the safety of some of the current living arrangements due to the aging of the structures and overpopulation. This issue was brought to Council's attention. Chief and Council has taken appropriate action to ensure that adequate and affordable housing be made available to community members. As a result, many houses and apartment units have been built during the present mandate of Council. Fortunately many young families and community members have been given the opportunity to have their own home.

Waswanipi is afflicted with many social problems that affect most First Nations communities in this country. Chief and Council recognize the seriousness of these issues facing our people. It has decided to confront the effects of illicit drugs and alcohol in the community, some of which are the result of outside influences. Taking into

First Nation of Waswanipi. Council has taken upon itself the responsibility to ensure that our future generations will not inherit our past public debts.

Our community had to face many issues concerning the awarding of public contracts. Many times this sensitive issue was raised and discussed at General Assemblies. This public concern on the lack of transparency in the adjudication process has led Council to prepare and adopt a by-law dealing with the awarding of public contracts (contracts offered by Council). With this bylaw, Council wished to facilitate unbiased access to public contracts, encourage competition between bidders, and reflect fairness in the spending of public funds. The passage of this by-law was important to support long-term community development and the attainment of local objectives, including our economic development and the promotion of Waswanipi's work force.

Community members also raised the important issue of ethics as applied to our elected officials. In response to this concern, a Code of Ethics applicable to the Chief and Council members was considered and adopted. With this bylaw the Chief as well as Council members would treat their service to the community as a sacred public trust with a fiduciary aspect with regards to the community. This required, among other dispositions, that our elected Council members place loyalty to the community and its laws above personal and

account demands from community members, local government has introduced and adopted a new bylaw that offers the possibility to banish from the community those who provide illegal drugs and alcohol (pushers) to minors and the community in general. Council is aware that this measure cannot on its own solve our problems, and the solution can only come if we come together as a people, in cooperation with our police department and social services. Among other effects, this Banishment By-law encourages those who are providing drugs and alcohol to seek appropriate help and given the opportunity to give back to the community in a positive manner. Should the offender continue to provide these illegal drugs, then banishment will be used as a last resort. Consequently, Council has applied this bylaw on several occasions. Although social problems associated with drugs and alcohol are notoriously difficult to solve, Council will continue to work tirelessly to have this community drug and alcohol free.

Waswanipi is well-known to be the only Cree community of Eeyou Istchee still using a dilapidated building to house local government offices. Due to the lack of office space in the current building, we have been forced to spread our staff in other buildings in the community, some in no better shape than the main administrative building. Our local government has suffered this situation for too long. Prior to the election of Chief John Kitchen and Council, plans were already in place for the establishment of a new government and administrative building. The original plans provided for an administrative structure that was too expensive and impossible to finance with regards to the current financial situation of Council.

Chief and Council along with the Capital Works department worked together to downsize the administrative building project to make it

more affordable while taking into consideration the foundations that had already been built under the previous administration. It was an interesting exercise to bring the building costs down in half when compared to the original estimations while using the existing foundations. We anticipate that the administrative building project be completed by the summer 2010.

In addition, Chief and Council along with a committee consisting of representatives from the Recreation Department, Capital Works and community members are working together in developing a plan for constructing a Community Center. Funding is being provided by the Cree Regional Authority. Presentations and consultation have been made and we hope to have a building in place where our community members can gather for future community events.

Though times may have been tough, Council and myself are working progressively for a better community. Though it is understood that all wishes cannot be accommodated, Chief and Council have striven to accomplish many projects on behalf of the people of the community.

Much remains to be done, but if the past is any indication, Council will exert itself even more to serve the people in a way that they deserve. Chief and Council members are grateful for the support received by the people and the role they assume in the good governance of this great community.

Chief John Kitchen

Gwen Shecapio, Jackie Barney, and Chief John Kitchen



Office of the Corporate Secretary



The office of the Corporate Secretary serves as an important function within the administration as it works directly with Chief and Council. This officer holds his position in application of the Cree Naskapi Act, and is one of the few named positions found in the law, alongside that of Chief, Deputy Chief, Councillor, and Treasurer.

Under the direction of the Council of the Cree First Nation of Waswanipi, the Corporate Secretary is responsible for the safekeeping of all books, records and documents of the Band, and the preparation of the minutes of all Council, Management Committee and General Assembly Meetings.

The Corporate Secretary from time to time advises Council on technical matters under its control or direction by providing it with background material and information enabling it to make sound decisions and by submitting recommendations for the efficient operation of programs, projects and Band activities.

The Corporate Secretary also provides technical assistance to the Office of the Chief. The preparation of draft correspondence is one of the main functions of the position to enable the Chief to respond to requests made to him or by ensuring that his proposals, comments, and demands are expressed to conform to his intent and will. The same assistance is also provided to the Deputy Chief.

The Corporate Secretary's office is a non-political function in which the holder of the position is considered as the keeper of Council's governmental records, and makes sure that the integrity of the official archives, composed mainly of resolutions, minutes, and by-laws, is maintained at all times.

Lance Cooper
Corporate Secretary



REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

Since fiscal year 2008-2009 is completed, I am providing a brief account of the main activities and events that have taken place during that period.

Financial constraints

Council was faced with financial constraints these past few years which have affected the administration of our departments and programs. The reality is that the deep recession experienced by Canada and Quebec and the financial markets as well as our fund providers, has struck home and made it difficult to manage the financial aspects of Council's finances. This has forced our leadership to review the financial administration of Council. Corrective measures were introduced to improve the state of our finances while strengthening effective delivery of services to meet the expectations of the people of this community despite the tightening of financial resources.

Nonetheless, I am pleased to report that based on the Financial Statements for the period ending on March 31, 2009, Council has been able to show a yearly surplus of \$389,698 under the General Operating Fund, which goes to show that there we are experiencing a substantial improvement in the performance of our general financial administration. But the challenges are still there and we need to meet them.

Review of the organization's structure

The organization has undergone necessary restructuring with a view of producing an organizational chart to reflect our commitment to good governance principles. For example, public works was placed under the responsibility of the office of Director of Community Services. The success of this restructuring effort will be measured following an evaluation to be made concerning the quality of our ability to administer our finances and to provide the services expected by the people.

Need for improvement

We still need, however, to encourage better management of several projects, events, and activities that still operate with deficits under the Special Projects Fund. As a result of this observation, plans are progressively undertaken with a view to deal with this issue. Nevertheless, we are already seeing some improvement following decisions taken by the leadership. The current fiscal year should give us better indications as to whether we will be able to solidify those improvements.

I was also given the responsibility to oversee the local aspects of decisions taken at regional level concerning police and justice.

Police services

Services provided by the local police department have been under review for the past few years and have partly resulted in the appointment of a new Director of police services in the person of Joe Saganash. Our short term goal is to ensure the safety of the people of the community and the protection of homes as well as public buildings and property. We have to understand that public safety has always been a challenge and there are no easy answers when it comes to improving policing and public safety.

However, negotiations are ongoing between the Cree Regional Authority and the Government of Quebec to establish a Cree regional police force. As present, we have no indication when this initiative will be implemented, although it will have a profound effect on the administration of police services in each of the Cree communities.

As a community, we need to support our police officers in the performance of their duties. Police officers will offer better services if they know that the community and its members are working in cooperation with the department. Public safety, I must stress, cannot be place squarely and solely upon the shoulders of the police department: public safety also depends on the commitment of each individual member of the community to do what is right and to consider police officers as partners in our collective safety.

I must add that Waswanipi's police department is also presenting its annual report of its activities for the past fiscal year.

Cree regional justice

Negotiations at the regional level have taken place during the course of the past few years and have now successfully concluded with the signing of an agreement with Department of Justice in early 2008.

Under this agreement, the community will progressively access and benefit from a number of services that until now have been limited when administered at provincial level. Concretely, plans are being implemented to build justice facilities such as courthouses in each of our communities throughout Eeyou Istchee.

As everyone knows, the community is steadily expanding and as the population of Waswanipi grows, so does the demand for services. This leads to challenges that we must confront collectively in order to meet changing times in a positive manner. Our ancestors have shown us the path, it is for us to take the responsibility to honour their vision.

Samuel C. Gull
Director General

Eva Icebound and Glenna Icebound





FINANCE DEPARTMENT

The following represents the condensed annual financial report of Council for fiscal 2008-2009 and was prepared in order to inform the population of the general aspects of the financial situation of Waswanipi as of March 31, 2009.

Financial operations of the Council of the Cree First Nation community of Waswanipi

A) General Operating Fund

The General Operating Fund (GOF) is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be reported for in the other funds as described below. This is the largest of Council's funds and is used to cover the operations of most of Council's activities including essential services to the population of the community. The department strives to keep this fund according to budget. We are pleased to report that the GOF is showing a surplus of \$230,196.

B) The Special Projects Funds

The Special Projects Fund showed a net loss of \$1.2M. The loss is mainly due to our investment in Mishtuk Corporation which reported a loss of \$2.5M.

Many projects are reporting accumulated deficits. I am satisfied however that Chief and Council are continuing their efforts to shrink those deficits with NRA funds and that in the foreseeable future the financial picture of this fund will improve.

C) The Capital Additions Fund

Housing Projects has been showing a deficit and that is explained by an unexpected change in the funding agreement. Chief and Council intend to finance these projects through bank loans during the present fiscal year.

Now that proper financing has been set-up, the process of constructing the new Administration Building has started again. I am confident that this important community project will be realized.

D) Rental Housing Fund.

As was the case in past years, this fund continues to show poor financial results. It is also experiencing cash flow problems. Rent collection rate was lower than was foreseen in the budget. It is the mandate of the Housing Administrator and the Housing Commission to find ways to improve rent collection and we hope to see that particular department show better financial results at the end of the current fiscal year.

Finance personnel

At the beginning of fiscal 2008-2009, Council appointed Laurie Neeposh as the Assistant Senior Accountant. One of her responsibilities is to look after the Special Projects Fund. As for myself, I was appointed Treasurer and Nick Whitbread is our financial consultant.

I am pleased to welcome Sharon Gull who has joined our department in April 2008 as our Financial Administrative Assistant. Julia Gull went on maternity leave early in January. Evelyne Cooper is our Purchasing Agent while Shirley Matoush is our Payroll Clerk and Annie Trapper our Financial Clerk.

The people of the Finance Department administer approximately 120 programs and projects on a yearly basis. I thank all our finance employees for their hard work, their patience and their dedication. Keep up the good work, and I am looking forward to another year with you.

This past year has been very interesting and challenging for all of us. With new funding agreements being signed and with the continuous growth of the community, our future looks very bright indeed. Let's work together to make Waswanipi a better and safer place to live.

Cheryl Trapper
Treasurer

left to right: Annie Trapper, Madeleine Dixon, Evelyn Cooper, Cheryl Trapper, Shirley Matoush, Laurie Neeposh, and Nick Witbread.



Summary of Financial Results:

	2007	2008	2009	2010
General Operating Fund	650 464	172 551	389 698	
Special Projects	230 202	-(510 477)	606 420	
Police Force	-(128 776)	-(257 513)	-(153 473)	
Waswanipi Development Corp.	-(539 858)	-(48 414)	366 135	
Mishtuk	1 385 945	-(982 268)	-(2 214 857)	
Mishtuk - liquidation of Shares	-	-	-(2 119 038)	
Rental Housing - pre-1997	-(411 049)	-(341 787)	-(569 403)	
Rental Housing - post-1997	-(6 266)	-(65 796)	-(70 579)	

Capital Additions Fund :

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Community Housing	\$ 68 594	-(46 713)	-(464 701)	464 701
Infrastruture Program		-	-	-
Essential Sanitation Services			-	-
Water Pump Station				
Lift Station	-(155 035)	52 399	66 010	
Housing Proposal	-	-(571 565)	571 565	
Housing - New Relationship			-(683 738)	683 738
Housing Renovations1	30 227	75 975		-
Mutipurpose Building		-		-
Pentcostal Church	-	-	-	-
Jackpine Duplexes	323 953			
Administration Building	421 043	247 531	-	-
Multi Service Center	441 657	95 392	-(1 622 636)	1 622 636
Trailers	786 627	246 300		
Cree Health Board Units	-	-(86 655)	86 655	
Band Housing Units	-	-(125 391)	33 581	-
Sports Field	-			
Revolving Fund Heavy Machinery			-(13 963)	-
Other Capital Expenditures	302 535	98 883	-(86 515)	-
	\$ 2 319 601	-(13 844)	-(2 113 742)	2 771 075

Community Profile

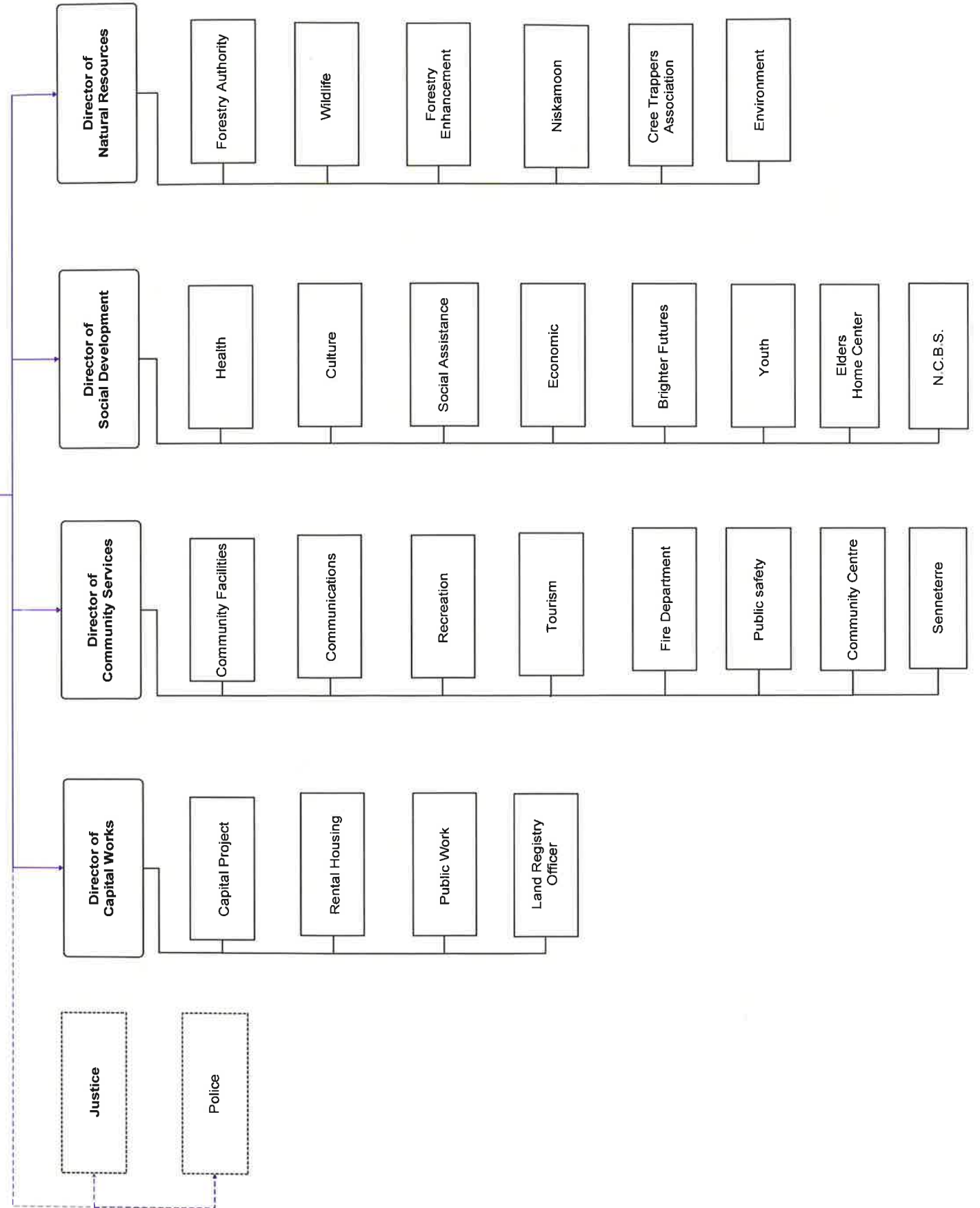
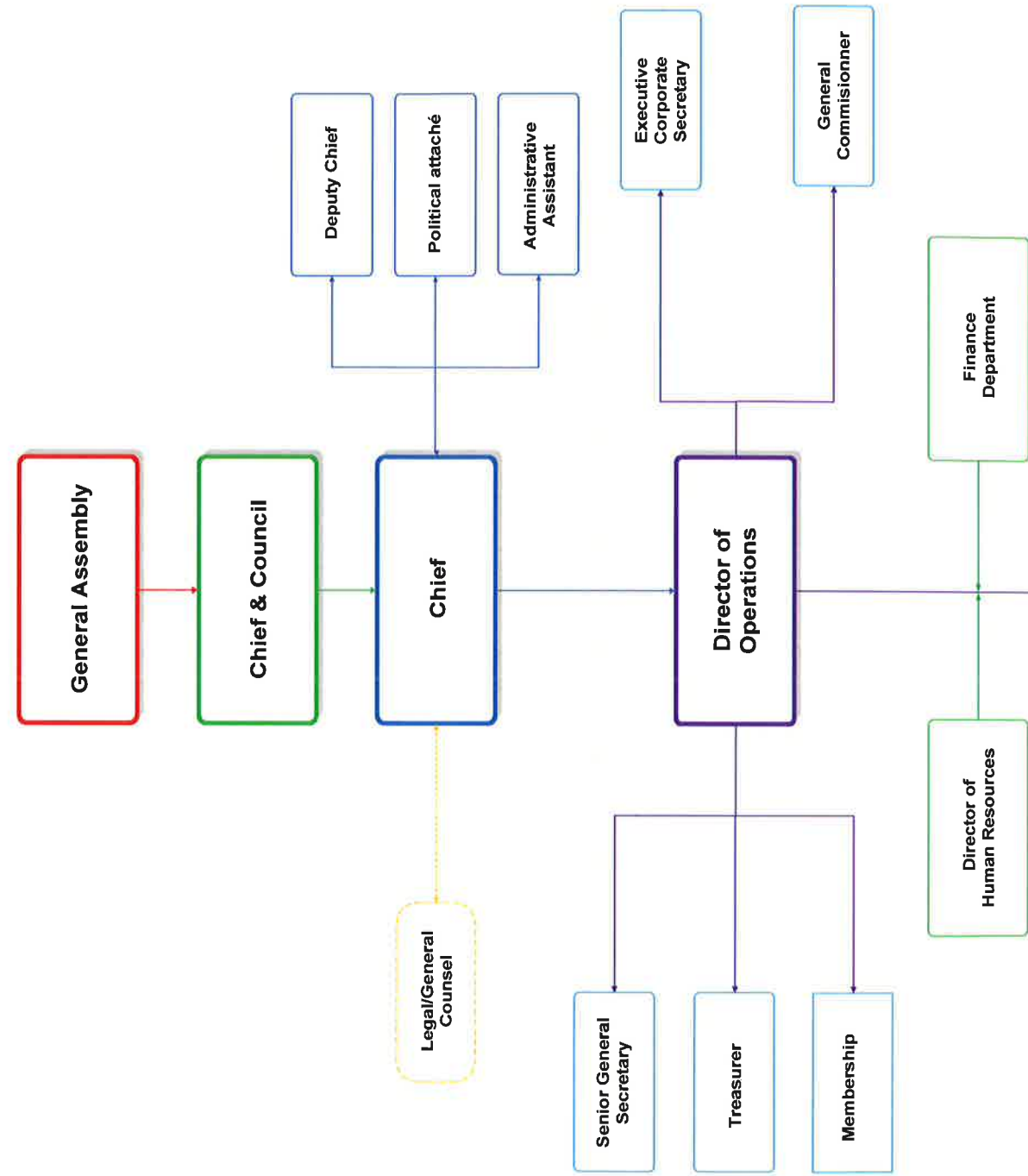
MINNIE OTTER GULL



Minnie Otter Gull was born on April 4, 1915 to Nancy Nayassit and Jimmy Otter. As most of her people she was raised by her parents in the bush until she married Edward Gull at the age of 18 on July 10, 1933 at Waswanipi Old Post. This marriage was partly arranged as Minnie had been already chosen by Edward's mother, but the young man had to chase his bride-to-be for awhile until she said yes. When asked about her thoughts on the anxious suitor when she realized she was going to marry him, all she could say was "Ekwesah!" When she was asked if he was her first love, she responded that he was her only love, and when her parents agreed to the request, then that was that, she was told "Ekawee Memegeedea." Minnie and Edward had a total of eleven children of whom three went to residential school. As a young girl, Minnie was an obedient daughter: what her parents said and expected, she listened and did what she was told, whether she liked it or not.

When Minnie was asked what she thought about being the oldest person of our community, she responded that she did not believe that she was the eldest. Minnie is now living at the Mistissini Elder's Home, but she is eagerly waiting for the Elder's home project to be completed in Waswanipi. She feels lonesome over in Mistissini, and she would like to have more visitors.

The Cree First Nation of Waswanipi Organizational chart, December 2009





ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The primary mandate of the Economic Development Department is to promote the establishment of local business initiatives, to foster the economic awareness of people in the community, especially those who wish to start a business, and to organize career fairs to increase the chance of community members of finding a meaningful employment.

This is the annual report of the Waswanipi Economic development Department for fiscal 2008-2009. This report will include events for fiscal 2007-2008.

We have organized or coordinated the following activities:

1. Career Fair 2007 held on August 27 to 29, 2007 under the theme 'Preserving our Eeyou Istchee: Taking Care of Business.'

During three days, we received 300 students from Ouje-Bougoumou, Mistissini, Nemaska, Chisasibi including the secondary 4 and 5 of WJHMS and some from the Vocational Training Centre. The event was coordinated by Eli Moore, and we had cooperation from WJHMS, Randy Martin, the Vocational Training Centre as well as from Julie Ann Cooper from the local Tourism Department. Funding from the event came from CHRD for \$32,000, Cree School Board for \$7,800 and local entities which contributed for \$10,000 for a total of \$50,000.

2. Economic Development Projects

We participated in the work leading to the eventual establishment of the Aboriginal Chamber of Commerce, a Business Incubator which should assist in the setting-up of new businesses, and the preparation of a 5-year Economic Strategic Plan. However, work on the Lake Goeland file was suspended until proper funding be allocated for this particular project.

3. Staff Christmas Event

Along with the Tourism Department, we organized the December 18, 2008 Christmas dinner for about 150 employees and spouses in Ottawa. Special thanks our staff as well as to Colleen Moore and Julie Ann Cooper for their tireless efforts in making the event a success.

4. Career Fair, 2009 held on April 7 and 8, 2009 under the theme 'Creating Pathways to Success.'

The event was held at the WJHMS and was coordinated by Madeleine Dixon. During these two days we received about 150 students from Mistissini and the whole contingent of secondary level students at WJHMS. The event was sponsored by CHRD for \$12,600, Waswanipi Council for \$10,000 and other local entities for \$19,850. To interest our young people in the business of entertainment, we had a group called BC 7th Generation that conducted workshops on how to get into the music business world. We also had two very popular workshops, Turtle Concepts for Fashion Show and Empowerment for youth, which were jammed pack with people. On the second evening, 7th Generation Band entertained us with a concert, and on the final evening Turtle Concepts marvelled us with a fashion show with the participation of local youth. This event was realized with the collaboration of the WJHMS as well as the Vocational Training Centre.

5. Budget Process 2008-2009

Within the framework of the budget process, financial funding for projects were requested, and we were approved for another Career Fair. Concerning the latter item, the approved amount was fixed at \$50,000 of which \$10,000 shall be forthcoming from Council.

In addition we requested financial support from CHRD for the training of support staff, secretaries, and receptionists as well as for the Economic Office Agent. An amount of \$80,000 was approved of which 15% coming from Council.

6. Christmas Event

Again this year we have been mandated to organize the Christmas dinner for Council employees and spouses, in all some 250 persons in Ottawa. Our staff worked with Julie Ann Cooper, Marlene Dixon Sam as well as Judy Dixon Ratté.

7. Economic Development Projects

Work was carried on the Chamber of Commerce, the Business Incubator, and the 5-year Economic Strategic Plan. The files of the Lac Goeland Outfitting project have all been transferred to WDC.

Marlene Iserhoff Kitchen
Director of Economic Development



Bedabin Gas Bar, Bobby Mayappo, wife and family

Bobby Mayappo

One day Bobby Mayapo came into Council offices with a proposal to open a gas station in the community. Little did he know that he was to work for long months in order to fully realize his and his family's dream. But with tenacity and determination he prevailed and managed to obtain from Council the necessary authorizations to start the lay-out and construction of a gas station that will serve the community and the needs of any traveller passing by on the highway. Chief and Council wishes to congratulate Bobby Mayapo and his family with their success.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

I am fortunate to work with a group of dedicated persons who form the Social Development Department. Our department heads have a variety of experience and knowledge which they bring to community programs. Our departments and their respective teams take their public responsibilities at heart when they develop and implement programs that target specific goals or groups of individuals. Within this report, it is our hope that the information contained here will provide you with some insight on the programs offered by the departments.

The main goals of the social development department is to ensure that our programs are adapted to a rapidly growing community, that it strengthens our social safety net by developing and organizing activities and events that sustain the cultural well-being of the community.

Some of the programs within the administration have met their program objectives and will require new goals. We will be in the process of reviewing what we have accomplished and where we can possibly go over the next years. A planning session will be proposed to thoroughly review our recent activities and events in order to lay out a new strategy for the coming years.

At the beginning of Council's current mandate, the leadership has required that programs become more rigorous in controlling their expenditures. I am pleased to report, that as of the publication date of this report, I can inform our people that our program coordinators have remained within the limits of their budgets.

Our buildings have seen some improvements over the course of the past two years. The old clinic building that shelters the National Child Benefit strategy, Social Assistance and the Aboriginal Healing Foundation have benefited from much needed improvements. On the other hand, Brighter Futures will require further repairs especially to the roof.

We have experienced considerable funding cuts to both the Economic Development and Tourism departments over the past two years. This



has led to a reduction in some activities and even a temporary lay-off of the Tourism Coordinator. It is said that the cuts are temporary and will hopefully be reversed in the coming years.

The department has seen some key changes in terms of personnel such as the departure of our long-time coordinator, Caroline Grant. Melanie Moore has replaced her on an interim basis. Furthermore, Diane J. Cooper has left on maternity leave and Johnny A. Grant will replace her at the Cultural department. Lastly, Marjorie Icebound has left us while Sara Ottereyes replaces her on a contractual basis. We wish our former employees well and welcome the new coordinators to our organization.

Concluding in August 2009, the departments underwent some reorganization: the Tourism department joined the Community Services program while the Youth department now works with the social development team. On the latter movement, it is hoped that we implement programs that are vital to the positive development of the community's youth.

On a personal note, I have had the opportunity to do some work with the forthcoming Cree Research and Development Institute. We have had preliminary meetings with the five Cree communities affected by forestry and we have begun to develop a collaborative research agenda for the upcoming fiscal year. The goal of the CRDI is to develop sustainable forest management research that is culturally relevant to the Crees.

At the Social Development Department we hope that you will provide us with your ideas and feedback by visiting us at our offices. Our doors are always open to the public.

Jonathan Sutherland
Director of Social Development



BRIGHTER FUTURES AND MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

At Brighter Futures, our main objective is to provide activities and services in which children and families can strive, ultimately "building a healthy community." Brighter Futures includes the following components:

Mental Health

The goal of this program is to promote the development of healthy communities through community-based mental health programs, services or activities. Grieving Workshops, local wellness camps and conventional/traditional counselling are among items that fall under this category. These activities may include collaborations with Aboriginal Healing Foundation, the Clinic, or the Recreation Department.

Child Development

This program aims to ensure that children receive the nurturing they need to reach their full potential. A wide variety of community-based programs and activities have been funded through this, such as our National Child Day celebrations, Pageants, contribution to Bullying Campaigns, Summer Day Camp (some in collaboration with NCBR), Summer Camping Excursions.

One of our most active undertakings is the Preteen Program which runs throughout the year. Under this program we are open for preteen drop-in every Monday-Thursday from 15h30 - 17h00 (3:30PM to 5:00PM) during the school year. The drop-in centre is intended for preteens as a place where they can go to if they need help with their homework, or just a safe place to relax with their peers. We also try to provide one evening activity per week, all of which are age appropriate and include topics that interest them.

The preteen program is gradually changing and evolving to better meet the needs of this special age group in Waswanipi.



Parenting

This year we have invited an aboriginal facilitator who delivered parenting workshops in three different age groups, being, Parenting 1-4 years old, Active Parenting of 5-12 years old, and Active Parenting of Teens. These workshops were based on the Active Parenting Series, but were delivered with an aboriginal perspective.

Healthy Babies

Activities concerning Healthy Babies is done in collaboration with local Community Health representatives (CHRs) and Nurses. The workshops consist of pre-natal, post-natal classes and baby-food-making workshops.

Injury Prevention

The intention of this program is safety. This year Brighter Futures has re-introduced a Babysitter Training Course through the Canada Safety Council, which is one of the oldest and most recognized babysitter training courses in Canada. In total, 21 youth from 11 to 17 years old completed the course and passed the final examination. The course was facilitated by a qualified local person who delivered the course in both English and Cree.

Over the years Brighter Futures has been involved in many community activities and events. The Brighter Futures initiative is intended for you. What are your needs? Your family's needs? What kind of activities would you like to see? If you have any ideas, please drop by and voice them, we are waiting and interested in hearing from you.

Melanie Moore
Interim Brighter Futures and
Mental Health Program Coordinator.

National Child Benefit Services



I am taking the opportunity to show my appreciation by thanking my support staff Caroline, Betsy and Johnny for their wonderful work and true involvement in our programs. I love working with you all. Also, a big Thank You to all other staff from the Waswanipi Cree First Nation. Mistee Meegwetch!

The First Nations National Child Benefit Reinvestment (NCBR) has been in our community for several years now. Its involvement and contribution to various group activities and groups at a local level is geared towards the participation of our less fortunate community members and their families, more so for children and youth. NCBR targets two main national objectives, which are the reduction of child poverty and the integration of low-income families to the job market. NCBR is temporary in nature and may not duplicate existing programs.

Breakfast and Lunch Program. This program seems to be misunderstood by some: children seem to be stigmatized when they are perceived as benefiting from the program, and yet they are equal to all others. Beneficiaries of our program do get bullied because they are labelled as "poor". Low income people should not be targeted or treated differently simply because NCBR is assisting them.

Benefits. Most if not all of those who have participated in our programs workshops have been seen to be talented children and youth. This is noticeable with each step they take when they hear the drumming of our pow wow protocol workshop. Or with the use of their hands at our annual birch bark wood workshop at Chiwetau. In either workshop, we discover talent in each child, evidenced by the way their faces light up when they are praised or simply given responsibility.

Food Bank is open once a month upon availability and eligibility. Priority is given to families with children with children and diabetics. The clothing bank is open to the community. This is supplied through donations whether the clothing are used or new. We hope that in the near future to have enough space for used furniture. There is so much being wasted in our community while so much could be made available through recycling and reuse.

Waswanipi Day 2009. NCBS has made it possible to offer a hot air balloon experience, a first ever event of this kind in our community. Children and their parents shared the delights and wonders of a short captive flight down by the river side. Thanks Brighter Futures for their share of the costs. On another note, the suicide prevention walk was initiated from our office: this is a yearly event that has met with great success.

Project developer/labour. As a small scale pilot project, NCBR is slowly tapping into the idea of agriculture with a small potato patch behind our office building. We believe that this experience would strike an interest in children and youth since there is no better feeling than that which comes with hard work and its rewards. We at NCBS wish to foster a sense of self sufficiency, pride and self esteem to all those who experience the work involved in growing their own fresh vegetables for healthier eating habits. One small group has even experimented small-scale gardening notably with a very productive greenhouse. We hope that this initiative will catch on and encourage people to develop a sense of personal independence by being able to partly provide for oneself through gardening. It must be remembered that our ancestors used to keep a potato field at the Old Post in times past.

It has been a pleasure helping and assisting our community with contributions and staff involvement in various activities while maintaining our two main targets. In the meantime we are hard at work to develop other activities emphasizing healthy choices in every aspect of our lives.

May you be blessed with enough of everything for you and your loved ones.

Bianca V. Albert, National Child Benefit Coordinator

PUBLIC HEALTH



Elders' Home

The Elders' Home project has evolved over 20 years. Despite the passage of time, it seems that our local government intends to move forward. In the past year, the file has been subject of many discussions and planning at Council level. Besides numerous Board of Directors meetings, we plan to meet with the Government of Quebec and the Health and Social Services Commission of the Assembly of First Nations to raise the question of funding of this residence.

This projects benefits from the support of resolutions from the General Assembly and of Council. We are pursuing our activities related with the planning and operational aspects related to the Elders' Home. The older people of our community deserve that we take care of them: they have passed their lives taking care of us.

The current board consists of Allan Happyjack, President, Lily Sutherland, Vice President, Matthew Happyjack, Treasurer, Irene Otter as member, and Jackie Barney as ex-officio member. On the Cree Health Board side, Luc Lamarche, nurse for Elder care and Elise Rajotte, physiotherapist, as well as Marlene Dixon also participate in meetings on this initiative.

The Elders' Home of Waswanipi is located on West Jack Pine Street at the Multi-Service Day Centre building. It consists of 16 rooms that are equipped with hospital beds, table and closet. There are 5 larger units for couples or 2 beds in a room. All rooms are wheelchair accessible. The home consists of a larger commune living room, a small sitting room for privacy of families, a dining room and a reception area. There is a reception area, a co-ordinators office, pharmacy, doctor's office, and a laundry room.

The Caisse Populaire and Cree First Nation of Waswanipi have contributed financially to this project as well as the local people through fundraising activities.

Aboriginal Healing Foundation

The contribution agreement has finally ended. The Residential School Survivors Gathering at the cultural site turned out the last funded activity under this program. The purpose of this gathering held in August 2009 was to enable local survivors to tell their stories and to describe how they progressed from their traumatic past. We will be able to read some of these stories although some of these shall remain confidential because of their sensitive contents. It is our hope that we could put forward some ideas concerning the social healing of the community. At the site of the gathering, five resolutions were adopted, and those will be handed over to Chief and Council for their consideration. A report was delivered at the 2009 summer General Assembly.

I wish to remind us that some of us had participated in a special and emotional gathering of residential school students of the La Tuque school at La Tuque on February 2, 2006 before it was demolished.

I have been involved with the activities and meetings of the National Residential School Society Survivors (NRSSS) meetings. These meetings concerned themselves with issues related to residential schools across Canada in addition to following up with correspondence with governments and the Assembly of First Nations. Many questions regarding the Residential School Agreement, Truth and Reconciliation hearings and procedures, and the Independent Assessment Process were forwarded to the NRSSS from residential school survivors.

Health Committee

Here, the Health Committee has met once last year and plans to meet before the end of the current year. The Cree Trappers Association (CTA) building was demolished as a result of unbearable health concerns. This has caused some setbacks in locating and organizing files. The Public Health office was moved about three times since May 2008, which also resulted in further setbacks in our work.

Lily Sutherland
Public Health

Culture

Chiiwetau

Since June 2009 the Culture department has been busy, especially in helping coordinate the events of "Chiiwetau". As many know, Chiiwetau is a yearly activity where people go back to the old ways by living in tent frames with wood stoves. This tradition started many years ago at the "Old Post" by then Chief Abel Kitchen in July 1989. It is our responsibility to preserve the ground upon which our ancestors walked on from damage and destruction. We now strive to maintain this special activity in remembrance of our past. Let us remind ourselves that the summer of 2009 represented the 20th anniversary of the holding of Chiiwetau!



Culture Department Staff

This year Chiiwetau was held between July 20 and August 1. It was prepared mainly as a family friendly event for the people of Waswanipi and open to visitors from everywhere who are welcomed to stay among us to celebrate the survival and distinct culture of our people. One of the most followed events was our Walleye Fishing Tournament. We have, in addition, all manner of activities for all age groups, some of them prepared by various Waswanipi departments, programs and Youth Council. Among those who were involved in activities were Melanie Moore of Brighter Futures, Desire Blacksmith of Head Start Programs, Bianca Albert of NCBS, David Happyjack of Minor Sports, Jonathan Sutherland, John Jolly as coordinator, Mary Ortepi of MSDC, Jack Ottereyes of the Youth Department, Johnny Grant of the Cultural Department and Allan Cooper as Supervisor.

The overall budget for Chiiwetau this year was \$170,500. Among the activities were a Karaoke from the Recreation Department, Potluck supper, a demonstration of boat safety from the Fire Department, a talent show, a marshmallow bonfire, a science camp, a birch bark and wood workshop from NCBS. Elder's workshops in Medicine teachings as well as sewing and carving techniques, church services, canoe races, even a mini fitness challenge, and many other activities.

Cultural Site

At the Culture Site in Waswanipi located on the river, people came down to cook traditional foods, either using an open fire or by means of a wood stove. The staff there is requested to cook for different Cree entities, either from our community or from the regional level, such as the CRA and Council Board meetings. Meetings are held at the site where our cooks provide traditional foods, lunches, dinners or snacks. Also com-

munity members brought and cooked their traditional foods for their own wedding feasts, birthdays, baptismal or other ceremonies. The site receives a small budget from Council but we also continually solicit donations of traditional foods, wood and volunteer time to cook the foods, cut and split the wood.

Moose-hide preparations have taken place during fall and we had Elders come and teach the correct ways to do these traditional activities such as green bough picking, hunting, trapping and snaring rabbits.

When people gather, there is always a lot of laughter and we consider our sense of humour as a healing, like the day I came to work with two different pairs of socks on. There is a story known as the tea bag story. It is about a hunter that threw away all his used tea bags at various places where he camped. Finally at his next stop (he was walking on snowshoes in the winter) he realized that he had no more tea bags. He then went back to his last camp spot and reused his old tea bags that he had discarded.

The knowledge of Elders

Please learn from the Elders our traditional and cultural ways, if we do not, who will pass this knowledge on to our children and grandchildren?

Johnny A. Grant
Interim Cultural Co-ordinator

With a special contribution from former Chief Allan Happyjack P.Eng. in providing some historical insight on Chiiwetau. During his administration (1990-1993), he made sure that Chiiwetau survived as an essential and important cultural activity for the community.

WASWANIPY YOUTH COUNCIL

Please find here our annual report to the members of the Cree First Nation community of Waswanipi. We take this occasion to thank Chief and Council for their continuous financial support. We also offer our thanks to our other financial contributors, FRIJ, CRA, CHRD and Niskamoon. Without this combined support there would have been no projects for our youth.

Winter of 2008-2009

December was a very busy month for our Youth Council. We carried activities during the Holidays and we also enabled 16 young people to attend the suicide prevention conference in Montreal. Among other activities, we had a youth Christmas Supper, a youth exchange project, a Youth Achievement Award ceremony, and of course, New Year's celebrations.

From January to April, we mainly concentrated our activities in our leagues which are held in the gymnasium. We oversaw activities such as those of the Waswanipi Floor Hockey League, the local Street Hockey League, the Waswanipi Poker series. In addition we worked on a new budget proposal for Youth Council for the new fiscal year.

Spring and Summer 2009

May through September is the busiest time of the year for the Youth Council. Our first mandate before the summer months is to organize a planning session where, together we prepare summer activities for our youth. We have had a planning session for the past three years and it's a great way to connect with our youth since they come and share ideas with us. In addition to the planning session we organized or oversaw the following activities: goose break festivities, summer student program, Chiiwetau activities, canoe expedition, beach and BBQ days, fishing derby and participation in the Waswanipi Day activities, a summer trip to New York City, and summer camps.

Fall of 2009

This is the time of the year where we concentrate in maintaining our building and equipments. We had our building inspected for renovations. We realized that we were in need of major renovations. We suffered some flooding to the structure and leakage from the roof. Despite these, we managed to hold activities for our youth, such as: a Fall canoe expedition, moose hunting training, Halloween activities of which a Haunted House at the Youth Centre, the start of hockey league activities as well as those of the floor hockey league.

All our activities are held for the benefit of our youth. If you require more information on our projects, feel free to ask us, and it will be a great pleasure to exchange with you on all aspects of our activities.

Here follows the composition of the Youth Council:

Joey Blacksmith, Youth Chief
Jack Ottereyes, Deputy Youth Chief
Shannon Nakogee, Irene Blacksmith, Glorianna Neeposh, Stephanie Gull, Bruce Saganash, Youth Council members.

Angus Kitchen
Youth Coordinator



National Child Benefit Staff

Social Assistance, Family Violence and Adult Care

The following is a short overview of Social Assistance, Family Violence and Adult Care programs for fiscal 2008-2009.

For the past year budgetary figures for the three programs present themselves as follows: Social Assistance \$1,588,020, (which includes SAT and funeral expenses), Family Violence, \$18,075 (adding to a deficit of \$2,416), Adult Care/Disabled \$2,882 (showing a deficit of \$450).

Family violence: the following activities were held in order to strengthen the idea of family. Many of these activities are the result of expense sharing with other programs.

Family Violence Program (Contact person, Diane M. Cooper)

Waswanipi Day 2009. This annual event was considered a success. Family and friends came together to celebrate and share their culture. People felt good and strove to keep peace and harmony among community members. Among the activities held during the event were the toonie brunch, the cleanest booth, the most business-minded booth, the most smart idea seller, enthusiastic Elder of the day, as well as games and prizes for all age groups. Michael Neeposh was the coordinator.

Massage Therapy. An energy worker was requested to work on various people who need to relieve stress and depression. Having no massage table, we took the initiative to purchase such an equipment to be kept within the AHF Department since we desperately require one. The Aboriginal Healing Foundation invites massage therapist, healers, and others to assist us with psychological trauma, such as spiritual, physical and sexual abuses. Diane M. Cooper, "In Trust."

Speaking From the Heart. A facilitator from another Nation came to offer a workshop on "Learning to speak from the heart." This was accomplished by sharing with others, by exploring and developing positive awareness. Emphasis was placed on the following principles:

- In order to build on relationships we need to have positive communication;
- Bring our heart, body, and spirit with a traditional outlook;
- Have more humour to break up tension in order to reduce stress and help create bonding friendships.

The facilitator was Chris George.

Workshops. The National Child Benefit Coordinator requested a contribution for a workshop to be held during Chiiwetau. These workshops were led by three facilitators who shared their skills with the



participants. Activities ranged from how to work with birch bark, on how to fix baskets, tipis, small canoes and paddles, and other such skills. These workshops involved a lot of learning, enjoyment and the mutual exchange of skills. Those workshops were made possible by NCBS and the contributions from several entities.

Dialogue for life conference. This event happened (which also included training for some in suicide intervention training) in Montreal in December 2008 and involved people from many backgrounds including a mother who experienced suicide attempts within her family. This event was also deemed to be a success. The coordination came from FNISPAQL. The driver was Norman Ottereyes.

Cree spiritual practices. For this activity, we invited a facilitator from another community. Harry Snowboy is a spiritual and ceremonial leader and trained in traditional philosophy. He and his wife came to offer workshops on Honouring our Children Rites of Passage, the purpose of which was to bring awareness on the history of Cree spiritual practices. Meanwhile Julianne Snowboy concentrated on spiritual healing workshops, the conduct of healing sweats for men and women, drug and alcohol awareness seminars and other activities involving spiritual healing. Facilitators: Harry and Julianne Snowboy.

Skill building and Communication skills. For two days, two facilitators proposed workshops in order to build up self-esteem destined

to adults and youth of 12 years-old and up. This event was a success with the youth. A number of them attended the workshop held at the Youth Centre where they did some ice-breaking sessions that lasted three to four hours, beyond the allocated time because they became so interested in participating. Facilitators: Chris George and Ben Ninham.

Family get-together. This event was designed to encourage families to be together, enjoying good times during a fishing derby. Later everybody shared a shore lunch. The emphasis was put on families being able to be at peace with each other and participate in activities that foster a sense of togetherness. Organized by: Derrick Neeposh.

Challenges and Lessons. This past year there was a great demand for various activities and we did as much as we could to bring in out of town facilitators. At times we had some difficulty in finding accommodations, but thanks to other entities we managed to provide adequate shelter for everyone.

The important lessons we valued this past year is that good team-work works and we realized that the community of Waswanipi never gives up, even when considering last minute requests. We also learned to remain focused as front line workers and to sense the importance of stress relief which enables us to strengthen ourselves to meet the challenges of life.

The application of programs always succeeds when we seek out the contribution of other entities in the development and realization of group activities, conferences and training sessions. Things happen for our people when we work together to ensure the success of initiatives and activities.

Adult Care/Disabled (Contact person: Diane M. Cooper)

Food Bank. With the cooperation of NCBS we established a food bank within the department that is especially geared to serve the disabled on special needs and who are on social assistance. Staff delivers the provisions at the end of the month when it is required. The costs are shared with NCBS.

Driver service. We have hired a driver to accompany a special needs person who is not familiar with city environment in order to bring that person from a treatment centre in Montreal. Driver: Allan L. Cooper.

Showing our appreciation. We required culturally appropriate gifts for those facilitators that took the time to come in our community on workshop assignments. We have asked a person to sew some arts and crafts to show our out of town facilitators our collective gratitude for having shared their knowledge and wisdom especially with regards to wellness healing, and taking care of ourselves. with us. Artisan: Katherine T. Ottereyes.



JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

I have represented the community's justice department for the past 20 years, and I have seen many changes that tell me that we are still evolving in the way we conceive justice at the local level. We have been able to manage our community laws for over 10 years now although I am proposing a review of the Waswanipi Peace Act (1999) in order to update its presentation and its contents. The Cour du Québec (Quebec's provincial court) has recognized the validity of our communal law system and we have hired a lawyer, Claude Boulianne, to act as prosecutor. Moreover the members of our police department are present at hearings. Of course, it took awhile for people to get used to the system, but nowadays, people are now paying their fines and generally obeying the ordinances of the court.

For now, court hearings are held in Chibougamau for lack of suitable facilities in Waswanipi. The solution to this situation is now coming out of the regional level. I am proud to report that the justice file is moving along in such a way that the Cree people of Eeyou Istchee will manage their own regional justice system within the framework of an agreement signed with Quebec. One of the consequences of this agreement is that Waswanipi shall be equipped with a new justice centre that will include a courthouse. The construction of this courthouse should be concluded by the year 2010. I hope that these essential developments will generate a nation-wide discussion on the meaning of justice for us, and how to apply it while taking into account our traditions and customs. Let us not forget that Waswanipi was a pioneer in developing a community-based justice system. In parallel, the Cree Nation shall be eventually setting up a regional police force. This important evolution of the justice and police files is an indication that the Cree Nation is effectively exercising its jurisdiction over our traditional territories.

Meanwhile, on a personal level, I still serve the people of Waswanipi by carrying out legal assistance work and acting as a Commissioner of oath. I have helped former residential school students in filing their forms for themselves or succession beneficiaries in the case where the former residential school student passed away. I also work closely with Native Court Worker Emily Desbiens from Val d'Or. She assists the accused and the victims if they are due to appear in court.

I want to mention that lawyer Benoit Tremblay is no longer serving at Council since 2008. He is now general counsel with the Abitibiwinni First Nation at Pikogan. He is, however, still available, in a limited way, to assist me when I have questions to ask him.

Flora Blacksmith
Waswanipi Justice Department

Waswanipi Police Services

First, I would like to introduce myself - my name is Joe Saganash - newly appointed Police Director for the Waswanipi Police Service as of February 2009.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to everyone in our community for their continued prayers and thoughts for our Police Officers as we keep peace and maintain order within our community. In addition we thank you all for the support you have shown us during our difficult times throughout the past year. Without your prayers and encouragement, the obstacles and challenges that we face would be greater and of heavier burden.

It is my honour to represent the dedicated uniform and civilian members of the Waswanipi Police Service. Those women and men are to be praised on their commitment to the safety and security of our beautiful community and valued for their leadership to the community members of Waswanipi.

We are waiting for the latest development concerning the establishment of a Cree Regional Police force whereby our local police department shall be integrated into the regional entity. Once details shall be known, I shall certainly offer a report to Chief and Council on the integration process.

It is with great pleasure that I submit a short version of Waswanipi Police Service Annual Report

Our statistics for 2008 show that the department has been quite busy in Waswanipi. Our latest statistics cover the year 2008 and they offer a glimpse of the kind of events that keep us occupied. The department has opened that year about 1,650 files, of which the following: summons and subpoenas 246, breaking and entering 81, assault level 1, 89, failure to comply with conditions, 24, bodily harm level 2, 15, Aggravated assault level 3, 3, various mischief 111, sexual assault 8, attempted suicides 25, arrest warrants 80, alarm calls 105,



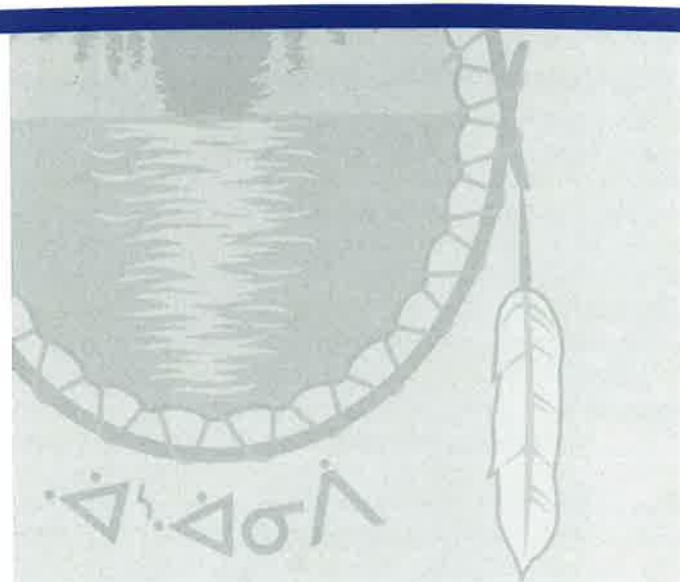
disturbances 10, assistance to the public 107, impaired driving 22, Highway safety Code infractions 58, possession for the purpose of trafficking 7, and the rest.

On the budgetary aspect of our operations, our revenues totalled \$1,084,593. However our expenditures amounted to \$1,342,106 for an operational deficit of \$257,513.

The Waswanipi police service is composed of the following people: Police Director: Joe Saganash, Senior officer: Tommy Grant, Investigators, Johnny Awashish and Peter Longchap, police officers: Donathan Saganash, Michael Blacksmith, David Larivière, Wasesguin Gunner, Bobby Happyjack, Brenda Moore, Ryan Moore, Shannon Nakogee, and Victoria Longchap. Our support staff consists of Clara Ottereyes, secretary and Danny Roy, cell guard.

For more information on your police department, do not hesitate to call me. I would like to remind all that it is our individual and collective responsibility to live in peace with each other, and to respect one another. We are here to serve and to protect.

Joe Saganash
Police Director



Waswanipi Police Services Staff



Human Resources Department



Here is a short presentation on the responsibilities of the Human Resources Department.

Among other things, we are responsible for the hiring of staff at Council, writing up job descriptions, making sure that benefits are paid, that employees fill-in their time-sheets, that disciplinary decisions are implemented, and that Council offers a harmonious working environment. In other words we make sure that Council employees are productive and happy.

On a lighter mode, our employees are looking forward for good Christmas parties, and their new "Band Office".

Naomi Awashish
Director of HRD

Human Resources Staff, Naomi Awashish & Nathalie Icebound



Waswanipi Pentecostal Church

The Pentecostal church was established in the 1980's. We have an active congregation of about 200 people in this community. Pastor Allen Etapp has taken care of us for 20 years now and the assistant pastor Alfred Jolly has been a comfort to us for many years as well.

Within the church we have a board that oversees all the ministries in the church, which are: the Men's fellowship, the Women's Ministry, the Youth Ministry and the Children's Ministry.

The ministries work together when it comes to organizing special services or activities in the church.

The Men's fellowship attend two major events every year in Pembroke and in Mississauga, both being in Ontario. The men have their monthly meetings for planning purposes or to give and offer support to one another.

The Women's Ministry attend a conference every year in Val D'Or and that has been on-going for the past 20 years. One of the events we participate at that conference is a penny march where the Women's ministry collect pennies and the proceedings are used to help build churches. We also fill containers with clothing or hygiene products and send them to foreign countries to people in need. There is also a

love offering or donation to missionaries to help and support them as they travel to Africa or other parts of the world where our Church is active in its good works.

The Youth Ministry organizes a Youth Rally every year. They have their youth services every Friday nights.

Every Sunday morning is reserved for children from ages zero to twelve years old.

There is a monthly calendar we follow, meetings for the ministries on what needs to be done, to discuss up-coming events. We do a lot of the planning together.

We have our big tent family camp meeting every summer at the end of June. This are a regional events where people from all over come. This tent camp meeting travels from community to community from June to August during summer time.

The Pentecostal Church is an integral part of Waswanipi, and we aim to be there when people need us. This is what God expects of us.

Gloria Jolly



The Anglican Church in Waswanipi

A Brief Presentation

Although the Anglican presence in the James Bay dates from the time of the establishment of Hudson's Bay Company posts along the coast it was the arrival of the Anglican missionary (and eventually first Bishop of Moosonee) John Horden at Moose Factory in 1851 that laid the solid foundations of the Anglican Church in Eeyou Istchee. Following the establishment of an HBC post on the site of a North West Company post in 1821 at what is called today the Old Post, an Anglican church was built on the island and from that point on, the activities of the church was integrated in Cree life. For example, in the early 1900s, Missionary Harry G. Cartlidge had reported to Indian Affairs the growing and disturbing presence of non-native trappers in the area. The old wooden church, still standing to this day, is a testimony to the enduring presence of the Anglican church with the people of Waswanipi. Eventually, the people of Waswanipi moved to the current location, and a church was built at the new site along the Waswanipi River. However, that building needed to be changed. A decision was taken to build a new structure to serve an ever growing community.

St Barnabas' Anglican Church

The current Anglican church building was dedicated on June 11, 2001 by Archbishop Caleb Lawrence of the Diocese of Moosonee. St-Barnabas' Church has regular weekly services on Sundays at 10 am. There are also weekly Bible Studies on Wednesdays at 7 pm. A children's choir is being started, which meets on Thursdays at 4 pm.

There are monthly baptismal services, with weddings, funerals, family services and other special events which take place throughout the year. The Reverend Canon Cliff Dee is the parish priest; he serves the parish on a half time basis. (He also works half time for the Diocese of Moosonee as Coordinator of the "Mahmow Kiskinuhmahsohtaw" program, a Cree Christian leadership training program.) Lay Readers Ella Gull and Irene Otter lead the services when Canon Cliff is away.

Cliff Dee





Capital Projects Department

The Capital Projects Department's main purpose is to manage all aspects of major construction within the community of Waswanipi, including project financing, community planning, design & specs, tenders process, budget monitoring, construction supervision, payment processes, project reporting and monitoring of Cree Regional Authority construction agreements. Our department manages all types of projects including street infrastructure, commercial and institutional buildings, housing and any special community project defined by Council.

One of the first priorities assigned to the department in 2006 by Chief John Kitchen and Council was the completion of the previous administration's projects. We were also instructed to finalize the financing of those projects. The projects to be completed included the Elder Log Home Projects (3 500 000 \$), the Belleau II (2 buildings, 1 300 000 \$), Tamarack Lift Station (675 000 \$) and the Water Reservoir Pumping Station (1 100 000 \$).

Under the present administration, new projects were initiated and completed such as the Multi-housing eight-Plex Project (5 units, 6 700 000 \$), the New Street Infrastructure Project (40 lots, 1 700 000 \$), the 2008 New Housing Project (13 units, 2 650 000 \$) as well as the Elder's Home Care Center Project (16 rooms, 1 750 000 \$). Not yet completed is the Major Housing Renovation Project (3 500 000 \$) that should end on March 31, 2010.

Chief and Council has revived the New Administration Building Project that had been suspended by the previous administration for lack of available funding. The project was modified and scaled down to meet a more realistic view of the needs of local governance. With a construction budget of 7 500 000 \$, which represents about half of the original building costs foreseen by the previous administration, it is now possible to complete this project by July 2010.

The Community is now accommodating the construction of the new justice building (3 500 000 \$) under the management of the CRA. This project is to be completed by June 2010.



Capital projects Staff



Under mandate from Chief and Council, the Capital Projects Department is actually working on the design of a New Community Center Project evaluated at 20 000 000 \$. The construction of this project is scheduled to start in the spring of 2010 and to be completed by the fall of 2011.

Recently, the Capital Projects Department had to adjust its operations and procedures to the requirements of the New Relationship Agreement with Canada implemented in 2008. Under this agreement, the CRA is more involved in the planning and control of all funding distributed to each of the Cree communities. New rules and new pro-



Garage/Public Works Staff

cedures had to be implemented in managing contracts within the community. Funding use reporting is now a mandatory procedure in order to ensure proper control of project disbursement.

Our department is actually going through a major change in its operational structure in order to adapt itself to the rapid change happening within CRA structure in relation with the New Relationship Agreement.

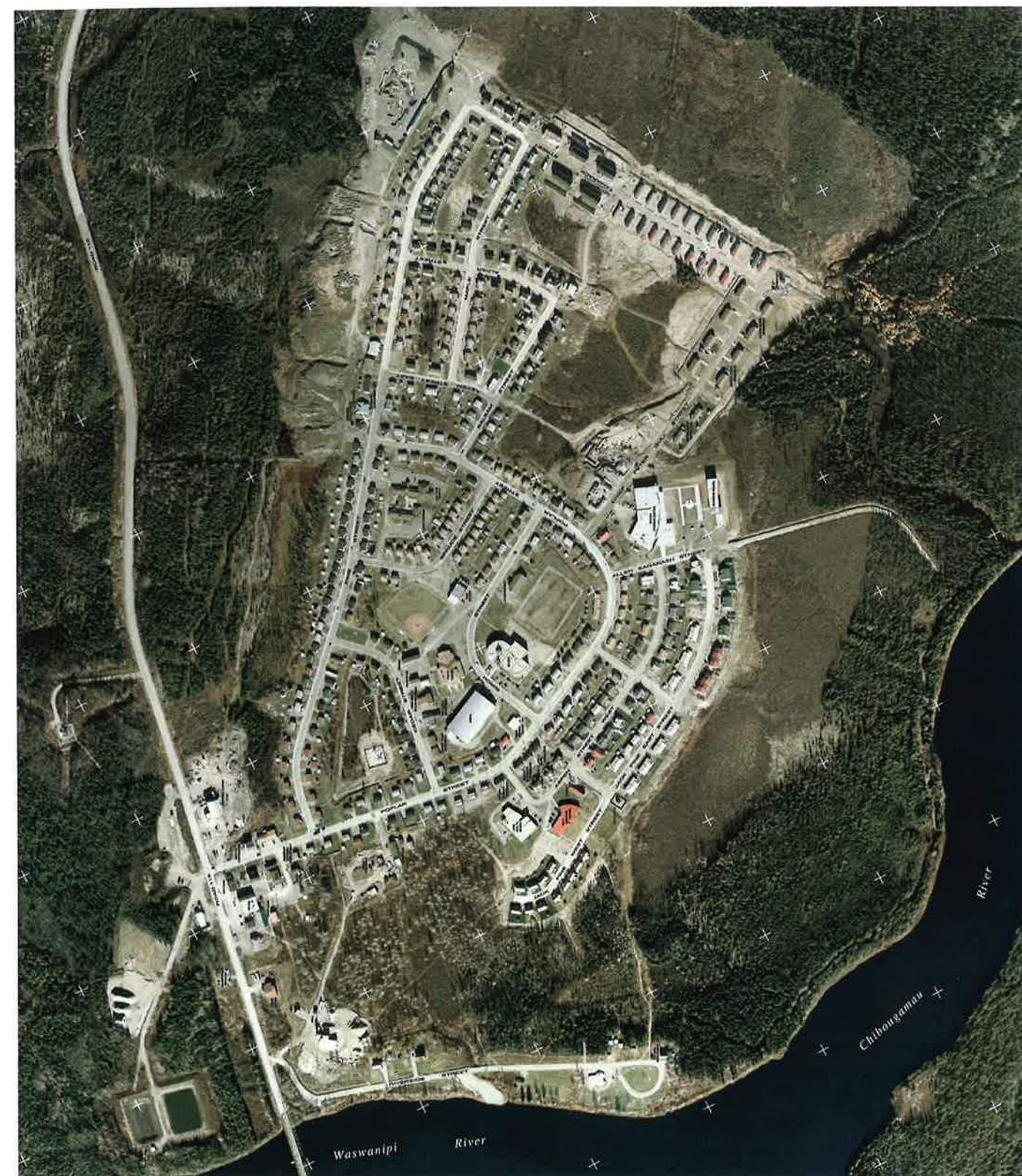
The present administration is hard at work to make sure the people of the community receive quality service. In a sense our department implements the visible part of Council's mission to the people. I wish to thank all the people of my department for working so hard to make this community a good and beautiful place to live and I wish to salute Louis-Charles Désy, our community engineer for doing such a tremendous job around the department and in the field.

Rhonda Oblin

Housing Construction 2008-2009



Picture of Waswanipi from the air



ELDER'S COUNCIL

The report from the Elder's Council is being presented by some of the members and informs us of their activities during the past year. In Waswanipi, Elders assume the responsibility of offering advice on community issues based on their long experience of life made of numerous challenges, incidents, joys and tragedy and by the fact they had to continuously adapt themselves to the changing circumstances affecting the Crees in Eeyou Istchee. Elders are precious to us because of their memory of Waswanipi's history, on their unique knowledge of the territory, and their recollections on how their own parents lived by time-honoured traditions and customs. And also, because they generally are blessed with their own sense of humour, without which life would indeed be dull in Waswanipi. Elders also comfort those who are bereaved, who are distressed, and who experience sadness in their personal lives. Elders are comfortable with the idea of God, and this is the reason why their views of the world around them are full of compassion, charity and understanding. This is why we should pay attention to what they say.



1. Jackie and Jane Gull

The following is a list of activities they have attended. Both have a preferred interest in the Cree Trappers Association as they both pursue their lives as full-time trappers.

- Local General Assemblies
- Regional Elders' Council Meetings – Chisasibi, Whapmagoostui, Nemaska, and Amos
- Local Cree Trappers' Association meetings
- Regional Cree Trappers' Association meetings in Val d'Or, Eastmain, Wemindji, and Waskaganish
- Cree Regional Authority/Grand Council of the Crees Annual General Assembly in Mistissini
- They have also provided traditional cooking classes during Geweetaw.



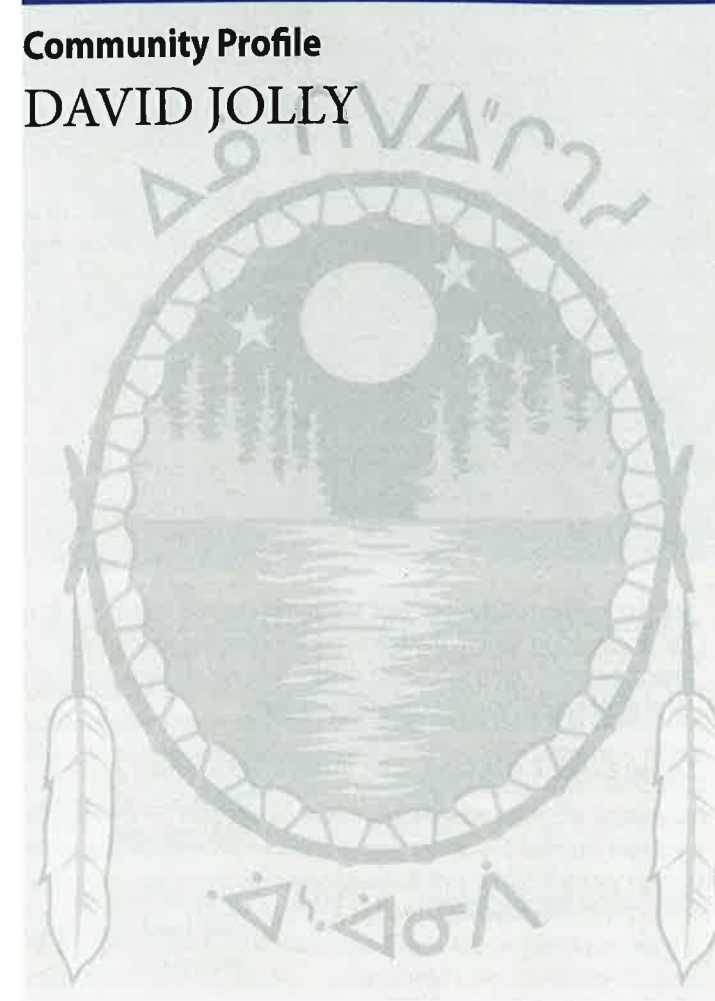
2. Ella Gull

The following is a list of activities she has attended. Ella's interest is centered around her Church, and she also lives as a full-time trapper.

- Local rental housing meetings
- MSDC meetings
- Local General Assemblies
- Anglican Church meetings and activities.

There are two other members on the Elder's Council: Isaac Dixon and Matthew Ottereyes. The latter is a full-time trapper. His camp is situated a long ways from the community and he seldom comes out to Waswanipi.

Community Profile DAVID JOLLY



At the age of 31 David has achieved stability and financial security. As a full time industrial mechanic with Hydro-Quebec, David must find ways to make the best of his schedule where he works 8 continuous days in Radisson, and where he is allowed 6 days off to come home in Waswanipi to be with his understanding life partner and their 5 children. When she is on her own, his partner is able to find comfort and support from her family.

With a work schedule that takes David away from home, he has to find means to ensure a healthy lifestyle. During his time at Radisson, he keeps himself busy by taking advantage of local fitness facilities and by undertaking activities such as volleyball, floor hockey, and archery. Having experienced in his past a lifestyle that included drugs and alcohol, David has made a change for the better, not just for himself but also for his partner and children. He has chosen a life with no alcohol and drugs. He is able to maintain his commitment by connecting to the spiritual aspect of his life, something he says has been an essential key for his change of lifestyle.

When asked about his long term goals, David responds by saying he would like to be closer to home from where he would be able to work for Hydro-Quebec at their Chibougamau substation. If not, he would like to eventually become a coach to other Crees who intend to find employment with Hydro-Quebec.



COMMUNITY SERVICES

Wachiya. As the Director of Community Services for nearly 5 years now, I hereby submit the annual report for the period covered by fiscal 2008-09.

The following is a summary of activities, events, programs and other related happenings that occurred in the departments found under the responsibility of the Directorate of Community Services of which;

- All Chiefs Memorial Arena
- Community Radio Station
- Municipal Garage & Operations
- Public Safety and Fire Departments
- Public Works Department
- Recreation Department and Minor Sports
- Youth Department

All Chiefs Memorial Arena

The arena operates daily through activities developed and administered by the recreation department. What keeps the arena rolling is the participation of our local athletes, young and old. The arena is open all year around for community use.

The arena was constructed in 1987 and is considered an important communal asset that meets the recreation needs of the community. However, the structure is entering into an important part of its life cycle and as such must be subject to significant capital improvements so that we can add an additional 20 years of community use.

A comprehensive engineering review of the arena is being planned. Such a review will determine the current state of the building and what must be undertaken to ensure that the facility meets current safety and operational standards. This exercise aimed at improving the structural aspect of the arena will help us ensure that the people who use and visit this building remain safe and healthy.

Subject to the conclusions and recommendations stemming from the engineering review, the following are concrete examples of the improvements – with estimated costs – that we are seeking to perform hopefully during the current fiscal year.

Dasher Boards & Rink Glass	\$ 150,000	(the current ones are outdated and require improvement)
Mechanical Room upgrades	\$ 75,000	(what we have are considered hazardous and unsafe)
Roof Insulation	\$ 50,000	(what is there has little insulating value, and is possibly tainted with mold)
Rubber Coated Flooring	\$ 150,000	(added for safety purposes)
Professional Sound System	\$ 60,000	(Provides enhanced sound quality during events)
Back-up Generator	\$ 100,000	(to serve the community during emergencies)

With the continuous support of Chief and Council and community members, we hope to accomplish those necessary capital improvements to strengthen this very important community structure.

The staff is responsible for the daily maintenance and operation of the arena facility. This includes the following tasks: ice maintenance, the operation and caring of equipment while providing safe physical settings and maintenance of a high level of cleanliness of the facility for the enjoyment of our users.

Who are the staff members? We have Kenny Cheechoo as Facilities Manager, Gerry Ratté as Maintenance Supervisor while Ira Gunner, Matthieu Boivin, Nicholas Ratté and Mark Cheechoo all work in maintenance.

Our community is continuously growing and developing. It is our responsibility to work together to make sure that our community recreation facilities are safe and efficient and continue to meet the needs of our community members as well as visitors.

Municipal Garage & Public Works Departments

In November 2006, the public works department was transferred under the responsibility of the director of community services. At first this was a challenge because it needed attention on a daily basis. It was a lot of responsibility due to the nature and functions of that particular department.

One of the major highlights consisted in the purchase of new vehicles to accommodate our employees with proper transportation in the performance of their tasks and duties around the community. This allowed them to be safe and free from hazards to and from work. This was not possible without the help of a certain employee, Henry "Red" Saganash, who put in a lot of efforts to achieve and to make it happen for our employees. Henry was a leader when the whole plan was implemented. He would prepare, set up and conduct meetings with appropriate people with the result that he led the way to what we have today. This did not only benefit the employees but community members as well, including the Elders, Minor Sports people, and other community members. Henry played a big role in the development of the Band Vehicles Policies. In addition, his testimony during a Transport Commission hearing allowed Council to recover licences and permits that had been lost under a previous administration.

Within the framework of the review of the department, Council purchased a grader and a loader in order to let employees better perform their tasks.

Restructuring process was performed throughout fiscal 2007-08 during which the 22 department employees would better understand their roles and responsibilities, especially in improving the quality of their daily routines and tasks. We resolved to work with the employees to demonstrate how their department should look like and what role it would play in the organization. This enabled the employees to know where they stand as professionals in their respected field of work.

As ever, the Public Works department is a service that is always available to assist and accommodate our community members in many ways. Without the diligence of the people of that department, our community would crumble away, the streets would not be ploughed in winter, public lighting would burn, heavy equipment and public vehicles would break down, and sewers would back up. Public Works is an essential community service and we commend the professionalism of the employees who often work under pressure to ensure our collective well-being.

Public Safety and Fire Departments

The Public Safety and Fire Departments constitutes a team that oversees the administration and technical work associated in planning, organizing and directing the activities and the constant training of the firefighters. It is also responsible for the safety of the community at all times and to demonstrate a level of adequate operational preparedness to deal with any kind of disaster or emergency such as fire, community evacuation in case of forest fire, search and rescue operations, clearing of natural hazards that could affect the community. It is ready to call on the local police department or the emergency services of the province depending on the gravity of the situation it faces.

As the fire department takes on more roles and responsibilities, the technical and management training had to be adjusted and adapted to confront the more complex nature of the functions expected of firefighters. It used to be that fire suppression was the department's only function. As the community grows and the needs change, the people of the department have become members of a multi-tasked agency, capable of dealing with many forms of emergencies.

To express these changes, we are proud to say that the department has successfully trained twelve new firefighters in the following areas;

- NFPA 1001 (National Fire Protection Association)
- Car Extrication
- Water Rescue
- First Aid and CPR
- Confined Space Rescue (training was held in British Columbia)
- Pumper Truck
- Fire Suppression (Smoke House)

In addition, the department hired an Animal Control Officer to oversee and to control and hopefully stop the ever growing population of dogs. His role and responsibility was to assist in the S.P.C.A. so dogs and cats can be spayed and neutered. A visit to the animal shelter in New Market, Ontario was beneficial and was part of the planning for our animal shelter in the community.

Another area where our department was very much involved was the creation and purchasing the HWY 113 rescue truck, and the search and rescue equipment such as two skidoos and an emergency sled.

To give an example of the kind of events the department was involved in, here are some typical statistics of calls received throughout the past year:

Fire Calls	12 (house fires)
Search & Rescue	18
Suicide Calls	6
Dog Control	61 dogs picked up and/or euthanized
Spayed & Neutered	71 dogs and 10 cats
Highway Accidents	12 of which 3 used extrication tools
False Alarms/Others	24

One of the department's most satisfying highlights of the year was winning the Regional Firefighters Challenge '08 held in Mississauga, QC. This tough challenge measured each firefighting department's level of emergency preparedness. Congratulations to our Firefighters!

I wish to take this opportunity to remind people to check at least two times a year (when you change your clocks in spring and fall) your house fire alarm systems. Your safety and the safety of your children depend on your own involvement in ensuring the safety of your household, your camps in the bush and your boats. Please be careful with fire, with engines, with the operations of a four-wheeler and boat and make sure that you and your children always have their approved floating vests while on the water. And please make sure that your rifles and shotguns are stored away properly when not in use, and that you should not be under the influence while handling a weapon. Let's keep tragedies to a minimum.

Recreation Department & Minor Sports Association

As always, the recreation department and the local minor sports department, including the staff are pleased to submit their annual reports. Both departments work as a team when it comes to planning, organizing, coordinating and implementing activities, events and programs for the community. At times, they work with other local departments when organizing a major activity in Waswanipi.

SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER
Goose Festivities	Softball Tournament	Moose Festivities	SR H/BB Tournament
Fundraising Activities	Golf Benefit	Senior Leagues	Winter Games
Minor Tournament	Chiiwetau Activities	Hockey School	Christmas Festivities
Planning Sessions	Wellness Camp	JBMHL (hockey teams)	Minor Tournament
CREE Tournament	Fishing Derby	Players Registrations	Pitoune Event
Spring Camps	Summer Games	Arena Activity Schedule	Federated Tournament
Banquets	Sports Programs		Inland Championships
	Minor Softball League		Cree Regionals (hockey)
	Floor Hockey		
	Canada Day Activities		

The staff is composed of Gloria Jolly - Recreation Director, Willis Rodgers - Sports Coordinator and David Happyjack - Minor Sports Coordinator. Our people are represented in the following boards and committees.

- C.R.E.E. (Cree Regional Events & Entertainment)
- Cree Regional Summer & Winter Games
- James Bay Minor Hockey League (JBMHL)
- Community Centre Working Group
- Cree Nation Bears Hockey Teams

The two major highlights were the Wellness Camp and the Biggest Loser (weight loss challenge), where over 250 people adults, children and youth participated at these events. These events brought so much positive impact in the lives of so many people in the community. During the weight loss challenge we worked closely with the local clinic staff. We would like to say thanks to the Cree Health Board unit who played a big role in this latter activity that relates to the physical and mental well-being of the people.

The department administers activities, events and programs during the four seasons and on an annual basis, here are some of the activities, events and programs were delivered in past two years. I extend our heartfelt thanks to all the major contributors, and especially the volunteers that help us during the past few years.

The staff would like to thank the Chief and Council for their tremendous financial support to these annual activities, events and programs, without their continuous support these events would not happen, again Mista Meegwetch Mishueh!

Youth Department

The Youth department consist of three units within the organization: the Youth Administration, the Youth Centre Activities (operations) and the finally the Youth Council. This report will focus on two areas only, Youth Administration and Youth Centre Activities.

As for the Youth Council, it is a political body and they practically have their own version of promoting and organizing activities, events and program for the youth in the community. It will provide its own annual report.

The Youth Administration staff concentrates on the daily operations of the administration. The staff consists of Joey Blacksmith - Youth Chief, Angus Kitchen - Youth Coordinator, and Kristen Wapachee - Secretary-Receptionist. The Manager position remains vacant since February 2008.

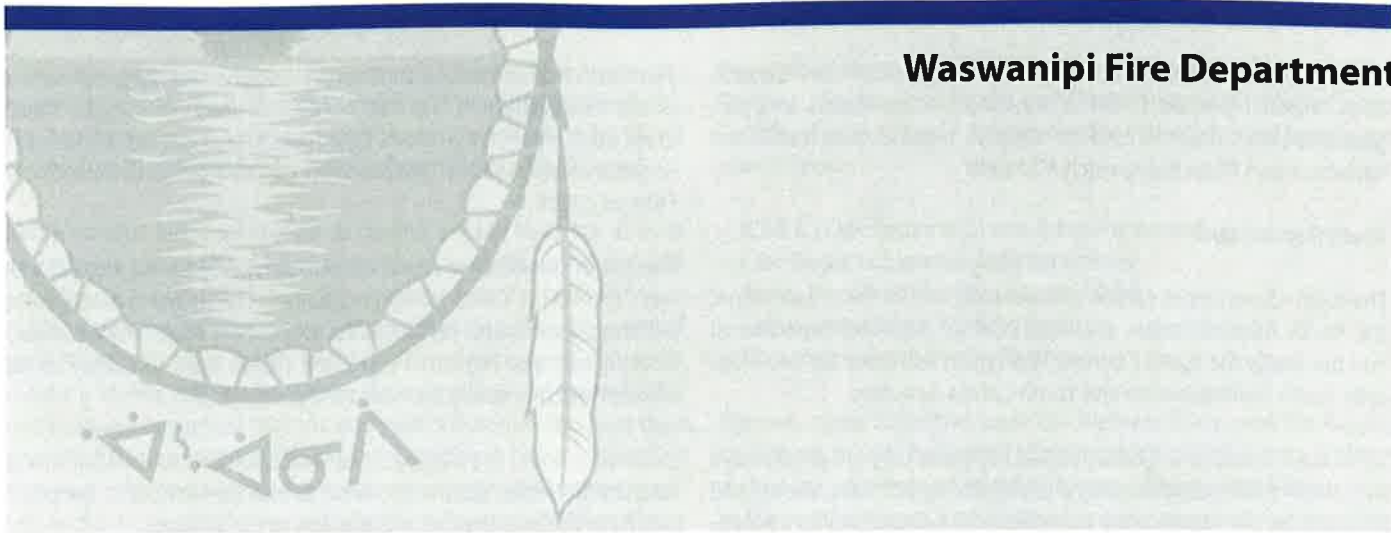
The Youth Coordinator and the Secretary-Receptionist work closely with the Youth Chief from time to time to deliver youth-related activities, events and programs for the community. The Secretary-Receptionist also performs tasks and duties from the office of the Director of Community Services when required.

In the absence of the Manager, the Youth Administration staff shared responsibilities in order to continue to provide services to the youth and have the operations continue during the absence.

Matthew Blacksmith
Director, Community Services



Waswanipi Fire Department

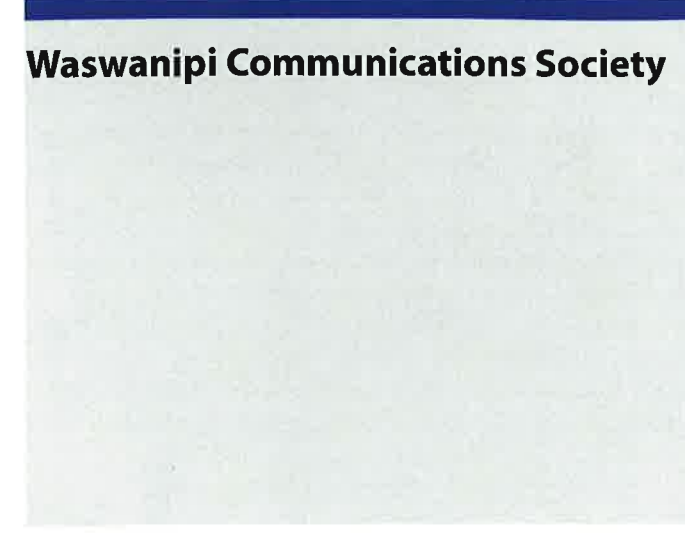


It is the hope of the Waswanipi's Fire Department that every person in Waswanipi acts in a safe way. Make sure that your fire alarm system is in working condition and that you have changed your batteries recently. Your life and that of your family depends on your vigilance.

Ian Oblin



Waswanipi Communications Society



of Community Services who oversees and manages the operations of the radio. Nelson Martin is our secretary/receptionist, Roderick Happyjack is the Announcer/producer while Jeffrey Blacksmith is our Announcer/Researcher. We also enjoy the cooperation of many volunteers who have helped us in our success.

Input from entities

We get the contribution of many local entities who offer material for evening programming on local, social, spiritual and economic and other issues that affect our people. Local government, churches, schools, local police, fire and public safety, health department, CLSC, environment, Cree Trappers Association, Brighter Futures, recreation, Waswanipi Development Corporation, tourism, Youth Centre, economic development and so many others have supplied us with the kind of information that people expect.

Challenges

Because of limited capacities, we are unable presently to broadcast live events. We hope to obtain that capacity in order to serve those who cannot attend those events. In order to realize that goal, we need additional funding to purchase that kind of technology. We are also faced with antiquated working quarters. We would hope to be able to work in an adequate environment so that the station be able to develop its full potential in order to better serve the people of our community.

We will offer our complete and updated broadcasting schedule in the next annual report.

Since we had prepared a report for 2007-2008 we shall simply make a general presentation for this past year.

The Mission of CFNE-FM

Our local radio station provides daily programming and news delivery to our listeners through our tireless research and gathering of information concerning events that would be of interest to the people of Waswanipi. We are gradually implementing methods and procedures that will allow us to better inform our listeners on local news.

Structure and staff

We currently have a staff of three of whom two are on a permanent basis and another one on contract. We report to the Director

Waswanipi Radio Communications Society staff





NATURAL RESOURCES

The Natural Resources Department was created to focus on the many activities happening on our traditional territory. This department primarily deals with the following issues in environment, forestry activities, water treatment, mining activity and services to our trappers.

Chief John Kitchen and Council have appointed me to the position of Director of Natural Resources for the duration of the current term. We hope to have this department permanently integrated into our organization.

In the fall of 2008, the Cree Research Development Institute (CRDI) was created. This new project replaces the Cree Model Forest Program that we successfully managed for a number of years. We are currently seeking funding from the Government of Quebec to begin this year's projects. In 2008, the government had provided \$150,000 to CRDI: we are anticipating a similar funding arrangement for this year. Partners of CRDI are GCCEI/CRA, Mistissini, Ouje Bougoumou, Nemaska, Waskaganish, Cree Quebec Forestry Board as well as other non-governmental groups.

Our department initiated the report on the Slam Creek spill in Chapais. A preliminary analysis was completed on Slam Creek. It was later completed with Genivar and the Cree Regional Authority. A report will be presented to the Members at a General Assembly.

Along with Sam C. Gull, we met with Quebec regarding Category I and II lands. When the Paix des Braves agreement was signed, section 4.18 required us to change boundaries that were to be identified as flood zones of the NBR Project. Since the project is no longer in effect, we will be able to make changes in our boundaries in those categories. The Kinross claims on the northern part of our Category I lands have been taken into consideration in this process. The Old Post should eventually be included in Category IA land as well.

The Opitciwan territory overlaps on our southern traditional territory. This situation was originally a concern but discussions based on a common understanding of the issue between the Atikamekw

and the Crees are heading into a positive direction. We are working closely with Abel Bosun and the Grand Council to come into a positive agreement with the Atikamekw. We will be meeting with the trappers affected by the overlaps.

We are also looking into extending the proposed Assinica Park to include areas of Broadback and Lake Evans into the protected area. The establishment of a biodiversity park on Waswanipi Lake has been ongoing for some time and we hope to settle this project soon.

In order to be environmentally friendly, we are working on setting up an Ecolodge with the town of Matagami. The Tallyman, Lawrence Otter, has agreed to use 1% of his traditional hunting ground for that purpose. This initiative will be great for tourism in our traditional territory.

Waswanipi territory has an abundance of natural resources, such as minerals. Mining companies have showed interest in starting new projects as a result of their findings. With the support of the Cree Regional Authority, we are in the process of creating and implementing a policy on mining on our territory. Currently there are two Impact Benefit Agreements being negotiated with Victory Nickel and Metanor.

I wish to thank Jonathan Sutherland and Irene Blacksmith for their work and support in my capacity as Director of Natural Resources. I also extend special thanks to Chief and Council for recognizing the importance of our land and the natural resources that we have.

On a personal note, I want to thank all those who offered their support and prayers for my wife Stella.

Paul Gull

Director of Natural Resources.

**Note*

Among other areas of activities that Paul supervises are: Fishing, Hunting and Trapping, Niskamoon, Forest Authority, Wildlife, Environment and Forest Enhancement.

Natural Resources Staff





Grand Chief Matthew Coon-Come and
Chief John Kitchen in Waswanipi at VCC BBQ Supper

TOURISM OFFICE

On January 8, 2007, I was employed on a full-time basis as the Tourism Coordinator for the Cree First Nation community of Waswanipi. I had already worked in tourism on a contractual basis in 2003-2005. Being familiar with projects in tourism, this office has decided to undertake short-term goals such as assisting in community events. Here follows a few of those activities.

2007-2008

1. Waswanipi 8th Annual Business Development Conference (August 28-30, 2007).

Under the theme 'Preserving our Eeyou Istchee: Taking Care of Business', the business conference heard 15 invited and local business speakers who offered 11 different workshops ranging from financial management to youth opportunities in eco-tourism. The most successful event was our Gala, an event that paid for itself and which included a catered meal, entertainment and the presentation of business awards. We received over 200 participants in the three days we hosted the business conference.

2. Waswanipi 3rd Annual Inland Career Fair (November 20-22, 2007)

This event was held under the theme 'The Future Belongs to Those Who Believe...What do you Believe?' It must be noted that this career fair took time and energy to put together. After much work with the staff and committee members, we hosted what can be described as one of the most successful career fairs in our region. Over 300 students showed up, including students from Nemaska, Mistissini, Ouje-Bougoumou, and Chisasibi.

The participation of our office in these events was to ensure that our invited guests felt welcome and to give them a tour of the community. These were two major events in which I was involved from the start to the finish.

3. Waswanipi Tourism Office Projects

Besides taking on the day to day administrative duties, I have worked on some projects that might catch your interest and most of these ideas are still active.

April 2007: 'Make Your Choice'. This proposal was developed to promote careers in a video format. This initiative came from organizing career fairs. There are times when people cannot visit all colleges they would like to see. The video would enable them to do just that. The project was to help students and adults make an informed decision by seeing the schools, and this would include interviewing students. The video would offer other segments such as special guests like Adam Beach, or other celebrities. It would also promote youth employment because of its video production training component. The youth would produce this video. The proposal was submitted to CHRD, and to the Youth Grand Chief, and it was well received. This initiative is still on-going.

Summer 2007. A newsletter entitled Waswanipi Community Events was prepared only in the summer months as a pilot project under Tourism. It took some time to gather the information from other departments and community members, as most were not sure of their dates or if they were going to realize their projects. However, the end-result was much appreciated by community members.

June 10 as Waswanipi Day. This special event is more and more popular with members of outside communities. I have witnessed an increasing number of visitors this year. Every year we bring in over 200 persons both locally and out-of-towners into our event. There is a unique opportunity to market this "product" to more outside people.

July 15-28, 2007 Waswanipi Old Post, Chiiwetau. This office assisted in some of the organizing of the event. We gave tour of the island, promoted tourism and we promoted the ideas to install a mini tourism office for visitors.

June 2007 Ecotourism and Adventure Tourism on Route 1113. In June 2007, an invitation was sent to Waswanipi to participate in the de-

velopment of ecotourism and adventure tourism in partnership with neighbouring towns and communities, namely Lebel-sur-Quevillon, Waswanipi, Chapais, Chibougamau, Ouje Bougoumou and Mistissini. Project 113 was to package our services and products together and promote it as a regional package. The project is still on-going.

I would like to note that Eeyou Istchee Tourism (EIT) was launched in July 2007, and that I have been named on the Board of Director for Cree Outing and Tourism Association (COTA) and EIT. I am the Vice-President and a member of the executive committee for both organizations.

2008-2009

1. April 18, 2008 – Gull Lake Adventures

Gull Lake Adventures, also known as Lac Goeland, was owned by a member of Waswanipi, and currently owned by Eeyou Economic Group (EEG). The latter organization was looking to sell Gull Lake Adventures, and Waswanipi Council was interested to protect and conserve this outfitting camp. Back in November 2007, Council mandated that Tourism office operate the camp. After much discussions, this office felt that it could not handle the operation of such a business, since I am alone in my department; and because, legally, Council cannot operate a business. After a report was produced by Marlene I. Kitchen, it was eventually proposed to ask a qualified entrepreneur to administer the camp on behalf of Council.

2. June 10, 2008, Waswanipi Day

As ever, this office participated in the organization for Waswanipi Day 2008. A 'mandow' (guest, visitor) questionnaire was prepared to query from our visitors certain information about themselves, enabling us to introduce our mandows in the evening event as a welcoming gesture, although in the end we could not introduce them all for lack of time. A welcome booth for visitors is intended for next year's event.

3. Naashibetau – July 22-26, 2008

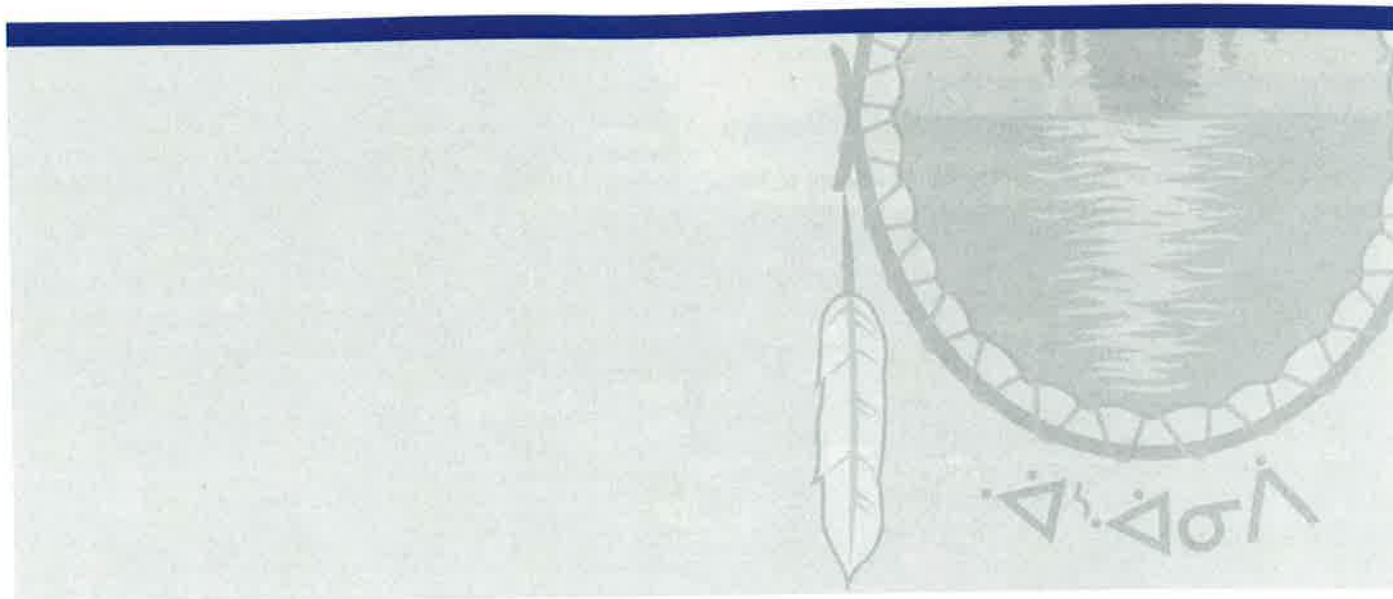
This is the first year we had Naashibetau down the river. The general assembly had decided to host the event one week down the river, and one week at the Old Post, due to the spill from Chapais earlier in the summer. Naashibetau was filled with many activities for all ages. Many departments organized events and workshops such as canoe races, canoe expedition, wood carving, birchbark basket making and tipi making.

4. Chiiwetau – July 27 to August 2, 2008

Since not many tourists came to Chiiwetau this year, I helped out in the realization of some of the activities, as required by other departments and coordinator.

5. Waswanipi Golf Benefit – August 15, 2008

The office assisted in the realization of the Golf Benefit. It developed



a fund to assist youth in pursuing their goals in sports. I took this as an opportunity to show my support for young people and to create awareness and visibility for the Waswanipi Tourism Office.

6. Ecotourism and Sustainable Tourism Conference – October 27-28, 2008

The ESTC 2008 gathered more than 400 ecotourism professionals from the US and Canada to consider innovative multi-stakeholder strategies to implement sustainable change for bio-cultural conservation. This was a real eye-opener! The trend in tourism is eco-tourism. It was apparent that Aboriginal peoples should have been involved right at the beginning. This is an opportunity for our people from all over to express a common cultural belief which is to take care of the land that was placed in our hands by the Creator. I would appreciate it if young people were given the opportunity to attend and participate in any future such gatherings.

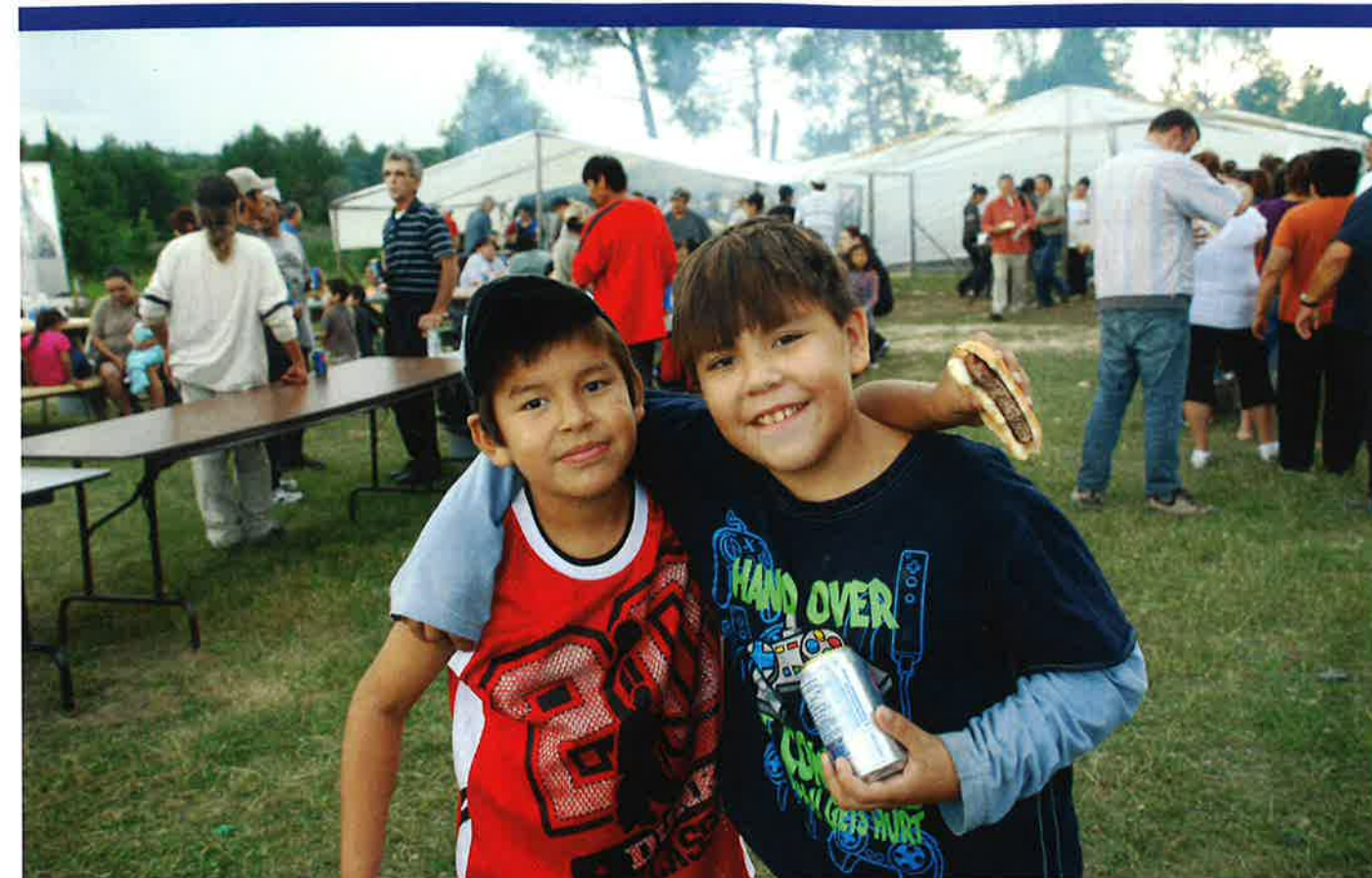
7. Christmas Supper, Ottawa, December 18, 2008

As part of the Social committee, I was "voted in" to assist in the preparations of Council's Christmas supper. I was placed in charge of organizing the program for the evening. I made sure that invited guests were taken care of and being available for the distribution of gifts and awards.

I wish to take this occasion to congratulate my co-worker and friend Marlene I. Kitchen for having been selected as Employee of the Year. I can say that she deserved that award for having worked with her for many years. She has taught me much with her eagerness to help others, including me.

As for regional updates, I will include them in the next annual report.

Julianne Cooper



Waswanipi VCC BBQ, Ryan Gull-Jolly and Austin Trapper



Sophie & Johnny Trapper



Haven Cooper



Tristan Saganash & Christine Saganash

Claude Tremblay



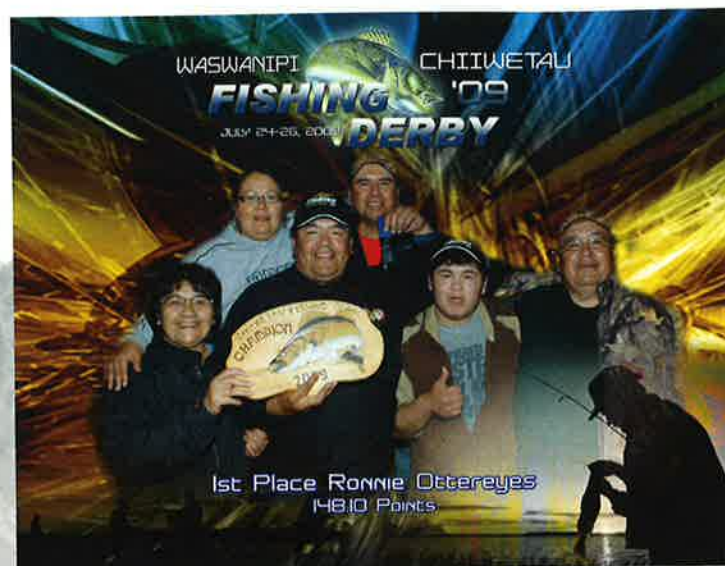
Jonathan Kitchen



Waswanipi Chiiwetau 2009

Jeremy Jolly





Guess Who?

