



MICHIPICOTEN FIRST NATION

NEWSLETTER

December (2009), January, February (2010)



Publication Agreement #
40040319

CHIEF'S MESSAGE

Aaniin Brothers and Sisters:

We hope that you and your family enjoyed a safe and happy holiday and celebrated the season with joy; and that this New Year will bring health and happiness in your lives.

Chief and Council attended membership meetings on reserve and in Sudbury and Sault Ste. Marie recently to discuss important issues raised by our membership with regard to the Community Trust and moving forward with the Custom Election Code which was initiated in previous years. We will be providing our membership with additional information through separate mail-outs on these two issues, as both will require a vote and ratification by the membership, so we encourage you to keep your address current with our membership department.

We continue to pursue our efforts through renewable energy and have met the application standards for the Feed In Tariff program as required and it is a matter of the "waiting game" in order to further our Dore Project; we are in the last phases of a 12 month wind study to develop sufficient data in the wind farm initiative; we continue to work with our partners in the pursuit of biomass energy in our association with St. Mary's Paper. We will be undergoing a Comprehensive Community Planning study as our last Capital Planning Study was actually done a decade ago. We are currently undergoing a Road Engineering Design study on the rail bed acquired by us some years past to provide alternative access to the community and future development on the settlement lands.

Our staff have done a great job in getting direct benefits out to our members through the policies in place and we will continue to explore options and opportunities for our membership through benefits in future.

We always encourage education and training for our youth and adult members in academic and industry related careers and have been able to allocate some additional funding to this end.

Our heartfelt prayers go out to those families who have lost members over these past months.

Chi Miigwetch, Chief Joe Buckell

December (Little Spirit Moon)
Manidoo-Giizisoon
January (Great Spirit Moon)
Gitchi-Manidoo-Giizis
February (Sucker Fish Moon)
Namebini-Giizis



Staff directory	2
Band Business	3
Band Business con't	4
Education/Training	
Membership News	5
Birthday Greetings	6
B-day Greetings Con't	7
Members lost in 2009	
Economic Develop-	8
Insert: Balance...	9
Insert: Honouring Our Elders	10
Insert: Old Indian's Advice	11
MFNCT Election Reminder	11



Michipicoten First Nation Directory

Michipicoten First Nation
107 Hiawatha Dr., MFN
RR# 1, Site 8, Box 1
WAWA, ON P0S 1K0

Telephone #: (705) 856-1993
Toll Free #: 1-888-303-7723
Fax #: (705) 856-1642
Medical Centre Fax: (705) 856-4923
www.michipicoten.com

NAME	POSITION	EXT #	E-MAIL / PHONE
Buckell, Joe	Chief	215	jbuckell@michipicoten.com
Lapham, MiShele-Lee	Executive Secretary	214	slapham@michipicoten.com
Sanders, Carol	Band Manager	213	csanders@michipicoten.com
Heffell, Kara	Finance & Personnel	212	kheffell@michipicoten.com
Clement, Sherrie	Administrative Assistant	233	sclement@michipicoten.com
Day, Roberta	Communications & Accounting Clerk	211	finance@michipicoten.com
Lavigne, Lynn	Research & Economic Development	227	resource@michipicoten.com
Peterson, Linda	Education & Training/ Membership	218	lpeterson@michipicoten.com
Andre-Swanson, Lee-Ann	Librarian	219	library@michipicoten.com
Andre-Swanson, Lena	Community Health Representative	224	landre@michipicoten.com
Jacques, Doris	Community Health Promotional Worker	226	
Nelson, Joanne	Family Support Worker	228	jnelson@michipicoten.com
Jones, Trevor	IT Technician	222	IT@michipicoten.com

Neyland, Emile (Andy)	Operations & Maintenance	(705) 856-4825
Clement, Gilbert (Marty)	Water Treatment Plant Operator	Phone #: (705)856-9672
Buckell, Chris	Water Treatment Plant Operator	Fax #: (705)856-9673

YOUR CURRENT CHIEF AND COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ARE:



- 1. Councillor Myrtle Swanson
- 2. Councillor Kathryn Campbell
- 3. Councillor William Swanson Sr.

**Chief
Joe Buckell**

- 4. Councillor Linda Peterson
- 5. Councillor William Buckell
- 6. Councillor Emile Neyland



Band Business (December—February)

First Nation Business -February 2010

Chief and Council did not hold regular meetings in November due to the scheduling of membership information meetings in Sudbury and Sault Ste. Marie and in December 2009 for the annual shutdown during the Christmas Holidays. At the regular meeting in January 2010 Chief and Council approved minutes, discussed member requests, cheque disbursements, funding applications and annual funding reports. Committees met as required or rescheduled meetings where necessary.

Finance – MFN Bank accounts are sufficient to meet financial obligations.

MFN has been **approved for funding** and under various programs, including the First Nation Infrastructure Fund, Industry Canada, Governance Capacity Development, and provincial agencies in the amount of approximately \$1.2 million dollars during the 2009-2010 fiscal period. , in addition to its annual core funding from INAC.

The Corporate Trust (Boundary Claim Trust)

The Corporate Trust investments had a market value of approximately \$31,710,559 and earned an interest income of \$1,172,327 in 2009.

Direct Benefits to Members

As of the end of December 2009, MFN provided benefits to over 670 members and issued \$1,017,000 through the Better Living Policy; \$19,133 through the Funeral Policy and \$9,700 through the Community Trust Education Policy.

Through **special allocations for Educational** purposes MFN has contributed an additional \$200,000 to its Education Budget for Adult Education and Training in this fiscal year and continued to support education and training within its policies and guidelines.

Dore Project – MFN is awaiting Ontario's decisions with its submission for the Feed In Tariff program which was created as a result of Ontario's green energy announcements. This would enable MFN to secure a place in queue for the ability to sell power on the hydro grid, it's been a very long process and subject to federal/provincial requirements as well as Ontario's hydro capacities. With the onset of Wind Power, Solar Power and Biomass there is strong competition in the energy markets and MFN is researching all aspects of renewable energy.

Casino Rama Revenues– Casino Rama revenues are down approximately 50% from previous years.

Community work is nearing completion on health and safety retrofits and upgrades as approved in 2009 and as funded through special projects with INAC and CMHC initiatives. The community rink was flooded and functional during the cold snap over the holidays but milder temperatures have reduced conditions for skating.

Continue..



Band Business

Training workshops and skills upgrading will continue for community construction and maintenance crews in the latest technologies and building practices throughout this year with building better communities as a focus towards safer and healthier housing.

Youth and Elders Surveys were provided to all members on our mailing list and to date only about 40 responses have been received. With the support and direction of Chief and Council, your responses will be seriously considered and we will endeavor with assistance from community members and staff to make this year's gathering as successful as in previous years.

We have undergone some **changes in our administration and member service areas** in our commitment to find better ways and means of providing members with programming and information through prompt and compassionate service, to the best of our abilities. Our best wishes in this New Year.

Chi Miigwetch
Carol Sanders, Band Manager

Education, & Training

Michipicoten High School with the support of Michipicoten First Nation has partnered together to provide an Aboriginal Cultural Room. The purpose of this room is to unite and provide cultural awareness for all students.

We are asking Michipicoten First Nation members to submit their personal stories in their educational journey. Your story, along with a photo of yourself, will be posted in the Cultural Room on our inspirational Aboriginal Wall of Fame.

Your thoughts, your story, and where you are today may just encourage our students in pursuing further education and help prepare them for courses they may need to take while in high school.

Submit your educational success story along with a photo by email to: lpeterson@michipicoten.com

Or by mail to:

The Education Office,
Michipicoten First Nation,
Box 1, Site 8, RR #1,
Wawa, Ontario P0S 1K0

Or call the Education Office – 705-856-1993, ext #218

Photos may be from a year book, your graduation, or a photo of you now.

Miigwetch in advance for fostering growth in our First Nation's children's success.

We are all motivated by a keen desire for praise,
and the better a man is, the more he is inspired to glory.

Cicero

Nothing can stop the man with the right mental attitude from achieving his goal;

nothing on earth can help the man with the wrong mental attitude.

Thomas Jefferson



Membership News

OUR MISSING ADDRESS LIST fluctuates as members move around and do not send in their new address. The bi-monthly newsletter is returned by the Post Office, and when his happens, we try to contact the members from the current information on the membership database according to what has been submitted by each member. If you know anyone on the missing member address list, please e-mail the Membership Clerk's office: lpeterson@michipicoten.com or call the toll free number: 1-888-303-7723 Ext. #218. Voice mail is now available so members may leave relevant information. **Members, please phone in your new address so you don't miss out on pertinent information regarding band business.** Miigwetch, Linda Peterson Education & Training Counsellor / Membership Clerk

<p>Michipicoten First Nation Members are encouraged to call the membership office to check on address verification. You can email lpeterson@michipicoten.com, fax 705-856-1642, call toll free number if there is no answer leave a detailed message on voice mail at extension #218 or #212.</p>			<p>Anyone with funeral information ie; name of funeral home/where, deceased date, death certificate or whom can be contacted for this information, please notify Linda Peterson at 705-856-1993 ext# 218 (leave message & number to call back please) or e-mail: lpeterson@michipicoten.com</p>
	Last Name	First Name	Dates of Mail returned
1	Agawa	Maria Marguerite	
2	Benoit	Edgar Richard	
3	Bodnar	Anita	
4	Cheese,	Lizzie	
5	Cox	Onslow Reid	<i>Mail returned Sept 14/09</i>
6	Gideon	David R.A.	<i>Mail returned Nov/19/09</i>
7	Lapointe	Tracy D.	<i>Mail returned / April 30/09/ July 14/09</i>
8	Mieczkowski	Michael	
9	Paul	Glen T.B.	<i>Jan 13, 2010</i>
10	Paul	James, M.	
11	Pelletier	Katherine	
12	Perron,	Rene	<i>Mail returned Oct 14, 2009</i>
13	Quackegesick	Betty Ann	
14	Robinson	Fay Darline Brenda	
15	Robinson,	Norman Edward	<i>Deceased</i>
16	Souliere	Antoine Alexander	
17	Souliere	Esther	<i>Sault Ste Marie</i>
18	Souliere	Myrtle Alma	
19	Souliere	William R.B.	<i>Mail returned / May 1/09</i>
20	Swanson	Larry	<i>Mail returned June 5/09, June 25/09</i>



Membership News



BIRTHDAY GREETING



DECEMBER

Accettone, Michelle Isabel
 Alton, Cheryl Ann
 Andre, Loretta Eva
 Beauvais, Thomas J.
 Bennett, Suzanne C.
 Biron, Morgan Amelia
 Black, Aiyana Saige
 Black, Lionel M.G.
 Black, Pamela R.
 Bobiwash, John Peter
 Bodnar, Anita S.
 Boucher, Lloyd R.J.
 Buckell, Lois Jean
 Chaloux, Darren James
 Cloutier, Jean Paul
 Cloutier, Lionel Edward
 Collins, Barbara Anne
 Daigle, Catherine Lee A
 Demary, Janet Monica
 Edgar, Chad
 Elie, Joseph G. I. F.
 Emond, Madcdonald Paul
 Finley, Christina Ann
 Finley, Clint C
 Finley, Keith Edwatd
 Garner, Julia Marie
 Gascon, Noel Fernand
 Goodfellow, Gibson Allen
 Haley, Tanya Denise
 Janes, Michael N
 Kudlac, Earlin F.E.
 Kunkel, Evelyn Bernice
 Lapham, Jeannette M.
 Lapointe, Tracy D.
 Lecuyer, Joseph Roger
 Leroux, Melissa Lee
 Lesage, Ryan Gary
 Lewis, Ruthanna Joy
 Manary, Alice Lynda
 Mann - Towegishig, Nolan Tate
 Marinich, Margaret Ann
 McKenzie, Donald Harry
 McQuabbie, Karen Ann
 Meunier, Jane Judy
 Misner, Susan Anne
 Morin, Beatrice Rose

Morin, William Alexander
 Papequash, Ashton Travis
 Paul, Elise K.
 Paul, Laureen Nellie
 Paul, Mathew W.S.
 Pelletier, Chantal M.D.
 Peterson, Lisa Marie
 Pinet, Lee Ann
 Robinson (Reed), Beverley Elaine
 Robinson, Joyce Mary
 Robinson, Russel James
 Samakeese, Darlene Patricia
 Samson, Cory Paul
 Shelleau, Maureen B.
 Souliere, Rae Carolyn
 Stone, Francis Robert
 Swanson, George Henry
 Swanson, Larry Michael
 Swanson, Mary Eileen
 Tangie, Michelle Etoile
 Teite, Brenda Catherine
 Thompson, Jacob Allan

Gasparotto, Marlon Lawrence
 Goodfellow, Patsy Ann
 Govier, Clayton Edwin Thomas
 Harris, Jeremy John
 Herder, Ethan J
 Hutchings, Madison Angel
 Johnson, Audrey Carolyn
 Kakapshe - Lewis, Austin G.
 Lapointe, Priscilla Mary A.
 Larouche, Jacquilin
 Lecuyer, Suzanne
 Lewis, Darwin E.K
 Linklater, Theresa Joyce
 McNeil, Ladrigen Justice Darth Xavier
 Moreau, Sherry E.
 Nicholson, Veronica Grace
 O'Brien, Wayne Paul
 Panhuyzen, Brooke Darlene
 Parise, Norma B.A
 Paul, Lillian Robin
 Perras, Victor Paul
 Peterson, Ashley M.R.
 Robinson, Paul Henry
 Robinson, Rosalie Verlyn
 Robinson, Stacey Lynn
 Shelleau, Thomas John
 Simon, Christopher Johnathan
 Simon, Maxwell Albert
 Souliere, Antoine Alexander
 Souliere, Cole David Leonard
 Souliere, David R. L.
 Souliere, Esther
 Souliere, William R. B.
 Stone, Angela M.
 Stone, Charlene
 Stone, David Charles
 Stone, Justin Mark
 Stone - Perron, Tasha Mary Shawna
 Swanson, Harvey, Brian Jr
 Swanson, Sharon R. H.
 Swanson, Trevor
 Tangie, Arthur John
 Tangie - Adams, Owen J.
 Tremblay, Gene T.
 Virta, Troy Curtis
 Wardell, Brenda Lee
 Wilson, Cecile Isabelle

JANUARY

Addison, Matilda
 Alton, Lori Jean
 Alton, Wesley Kenneth
 Andre, Ambrose
 Andre, Ivan William
 Andre - Stone, Amadeus Moses
 Andre - Stone, Cassius Randolph
 Bain, David Joel
 Beaupre, Louise M.D.
 Binda, Theresa M.M
 Black, Robert Elie
 Cheese, David Allen
 Cheese, Lizzie
 Crack, Orel Andrew
 Elie, Rachael Michelle
 Elliot, Alexandria May
 Elliott, Geraldine L.M.
 Elliott, Marie May
 Finley, Joseph Elemer
 Finley, Margaret Lynn
 Fox, Cecile Marilyn
 Gascon, Roger J.S.



Membership News



BIRTHDAY GREETING



FEBRUARY

Andre - Swanson, Lee - Ann Frances
 Beaupre, Frances
 Biron, Robert A.
 Black, Alicia Georgina
 Black, Hector Ronald
 Bouchard, Velvet A
 Boucher, Wayne Fergus
 Boyer, Lorraine Catherine
 Briere, Marie I. J.
 Brown, Jessica
 Cadreau, Clint V.F
 Cadreau, Jessica Lee
 Clement, Gilbert J.M.
 Cloutier, Frank Philip
 Cloutier, Rose Mary
 Daigle, Alfred Michale
 Day, Roberta Ellen
 De Coteau, Allan D.A.
 Dennis - De Coteau, Alexander Allen
 Donney, Alice Charlet
 Elie - Perrigo, Joshua James
 Eshkibok, Jordon Narcisse

Govier, Cory John
 Hall, Michael L.A.
 Heenan, Ailee Waasayabin
 Higo, Melvina Therese
 Jacques, Brian John
 Legault, Andre G
 Leroux, Derek Francois
 Levesque, Marlin Wayne
 McBride, Michael P.
 McQuabbie - Neyland, Curtis Daniel
 Meunier, Karen Glenna
 Moreau McDonald, Kelly Alphonse
 Panhuizen, Ethan Brian
 Panttila, Fern Ellen
 Pelletier, Richard
 Perrault, Daniel William
 Peterson, John Jr
 Peterson, John Swan
 Piche, Irene T.
 Robinson, Norma Jean
 Ross, Doris
 Roulette, Terence Edward

Samakeese, Questa Dawn
 Samakeese, Jena Lauren
 Saunders, Randi Lynn. C.
 Schwemler, Charlene
 Skagen, Theresa Beverly
 Skouris, John Frederick
 Skouris, William Thomas
 Souliere, David John
 Stone, Adrianna Christine
 Swanson, Barbara Ann
 Swanson, Chelsea Lynn
 Swanson, Frederick
 Swanson, Kimberly C. R.
 Swanson, William Phillip
 Tangie, James Phillip
 Tangie, John Phillip James
 Tangie, Karen Gale
 Tangie, Mitchell Joshualars
 Trudel, Anais Rose
 Waboose, Donna Geneva
 Wardell, Michael Leonard
 Wilson, Kyle P.
 Wright, Dustin L.D.

If your name appears on the Birthday List incorrectly, please contact the Membership Clerk for information that is required by Indian Affairs to have this corrected. If you see a deceased Member's name on the list, please contact the Membership Office for information that is required by Indian Affairs to have the name removed for the Membership Listing. Thank You!

ALL OUR HEART FELT CONDOLENCES GO OUT TO THE FAMILIES OF MEMBERS WHO WE LOST IN 2009.

Donald Swanson- Jan., 2009
 Brianne Stone-Jacques- June, 2009
 Christine Lecuyer- Oct., 2009

John Skouris- Feb., 2009
 Kendall Chambette- Aug., 2009
 Roland Martineau- Dec., 2009

The boundaries which divide life from death are at best shadowy and vague.
 Who shall say where one ends, and the other begins?

Edgar Alan Poe





Economic Development Department

January 2009 marked the beginning of what would be a very busy year for the Economic Development Department. Since that time, there has been a significant increase in the demand for retraining, skills development and second career training.

We have been diligently working with members both on and off-reserve to assist them in identifying potential career paths and the steps necessary to achieve their goals.

Early February 2009 was when the first wave of members started Heavy Equipment Operator (HEO) training; in less than one year, Michipicoten First Nation has processed and enrolled twelve (12) members in HEO training, and we're excited and very proud to say that all twelve successfully complete the HEO training.

The second most popular training initiative this year was the Basic Underground Hard Rock Miner Common Core training offered in partnership between Northern College and Richmond (Island Gold) Mine. We have had one member complete the training, at which time; they were offered a full-time position with the mine. We currently have three (3) members participating in the training which they are scheduled to graduate from on March 11, 2010. In conversation with some of these members and Northern College representatives, we have heard great things about the program. We've also heard that, in no way, shape or form is this training easy; it has even been compared to Military Boot Camp! The work is hard, but in the long run these members will get valuable training and skills to begin their careers in the mining industry.

In addition to Heavy Equipment Operator training and the Common Core training, we have sponsored a variety of other training initiatives for members including, AZ Licensing, Pipe Welder Training, Marine & Small Powered Equipment Mechanic

As an added note, we have only listed the members who have processed their training requests through the Economic Development Department; we have not included the many other members who have accessed training dollars directly through Anishinabek Employment & Training Services (AETS).

As of right now, Michipicoten First Nation has exhausted their training budget for the 2009/2010 fiscal year; however the 2010/2011 fiscal year begins April 1st, 2010. If you are interested in a specific training opportunity, please contact the Band Office and we will assist you in accessing what you need to successfully upgrade or train in a new career.

If you're interested in starting a business, we can help you with that too! We have access to many valuable resources and programs to help entrepreneurs turn their ideas and plans into reality.

We are available to assist you Monday to Thursday, 8:00am to 4:30pm and Friday 8:00am to 1:30pm. Please contact us for additional information and referral.

Lynn Lavigne, Economic Development Officer

Phone: 705-856-1993 or 888-303-7723 Ext. 227

Fax: 705-856-1642 Email: resource@michipicoten.com



Interesting Inserts

Balance What Is Already Known

Ho le anpetu ki le wico iye eya oblakin kte yelo! On this day I wish to speak about what is already known. Known by all, but understood by few, and followed by less.

We were taught that we all came to this Earth Walk as spirits learning to be human, not as humans learning to be spirits. Being human is a complicated life path made simple by the original instructions given to us by our ancestors. This ancestor some may call God or the Creator, but we were taught to be Wakan Tanka, the Great Mystery, the Great Sacred or the Great Spirit. I have spent over a third of my life learning from my elders, trying not to close my mind to other people's teachings (which I have been guilty of many times), I have learned not only the old traditional teachings of Chanunpa and Olowan (pipe and song) but the basic knowledge of balance in life. There are so many who "Talk the talk" but do not "walk the walk". This is because our balance is off. We need to understand balance as it relates to our own individual lives before we can learn about balance outside of our personal space.

Learning personal balance is like a child learning to walk. I see my daughter standing there holding the end of a small stick that I also hold in my hand. With the support of the stick she walks around and around, showing off her new power and skill. I let go of the stick and she continues to walk proudly. Then she looks up and finds no one is holding the stick and she sits down with a puzzled look on her face. "Where did my balance go?" The first time she walked was from my husband's trusting arms into my loving embrace. The thread is still there in our hearts this connection forever from her to me and through her to my grandchildren. Her balance was her own, her path a straight one. Some thirty years later, I pray for her as I do all of my children to have her own path and her own balance.

Our children may have some obstacles in their young lives, just as we all have; but as in our own way, we must let the young people learn to trust their balance to judge their own way. Each decision is made holding the good and bad of the consequence of the choice. This is Wakan Tanka in the simple form. For nothing is all good or all bad, just as you and I it has a middle point of balance. When Wakinya the Thunderer sends his glance upon the plains the spark brings the fires that cause destruction but also brings new life. When Iktomi the spider trickster, fools us, his tricks usually leave him worse off, and us with a lesson learned.

I have seen lately the balance coming fast to those who would do harm or cause pain to others, the justice is swift as the hawk and twice as deadly. One elder spoke to me of balance in his life. He told of living the wild young life only to come full circle and "Follow the Pipe". The way of the Pipe is a door he said that opens the lodge to knowledge of true balance in life. No matter what people you come from, no matter your color or your place of origin, each person hold in their spiritual genetic being the instruction of their "First People". Those instructions tell them how to find balance in their lives. Ritual, ceremony, and religion are all part of the remembering; when people have lost these they become disconnected and lose their balance. People of multi-races must often learn the origin stories of all their ancestors before finding the balance they need. Some will never learn their own ancestor's original stories and they may find balance in our thread from the Sacred Tree.

Some think it wrong to find balance in life from other people's stories, but that thinking is wrong. In all stories lay the threads of the sacred tree of knowledge it spreads all over the earth and connects us all as one. These threads are deep in the Earth Mother, like her veins that carry the water these threads also carry the wisdom and knowledge of balance.

**Interesting Insert****HONOURING OUR ELDERS**

There tends to be varying opinions and interpretations on what constitutes the definition of an Elder in the Aboriginal culture which may be dependent upon community, region, or tribal based philosophies, on who is considered an Elder. In 1998 Canada produced a publication, in partnership with the Aboriginal Peoples of First Nations, to give industry and communities alike a generally accepted protocol with regard to Elders.

An Elder can be a man or woman whose wisdom about spirituality, culture, teachings and life example is recognized. Not all Elders are "old". Sometimes the spirit of the Creator chooses to imbue a young Aboriginal person. The community and individuals will normally seek the advice and assistance of Elders in various areas of traditional as well as contemporary issues.

Calling on an Elder for advice or teaching: Whenever approaching an Elder, start by asking if the Elder will accept tobacco for you to speak with him or her. If your offer of tobacco is accepted, it means the Elder is available to listen, and then you can ask for guidance and assistance. Find an Elder who is involved or familiar with the topic. Offer tobacco and acknowledge the Elder's contribution.

Calling to request an Elder for opening and closing prayers: Talk about what is taking place. Explain why the Elder is invited. Offer tobacco and invite the Elder. If the Elder accepts the tobacco, the Elder will come. The Opening Prayer serves to bless the meeting or the process to follow (feast, social, ceremony, etc.). The Elder speaks through the Creator to ensure that participants feel right about the process. The Closing Prayer is to thank the participants and honour the work that was done. The Elder blesses the completion of the process. If you have an Opening Prayer, you must have a Closing Prayer, the two go together.

Calling an Elder for full participation in a meeting or having an Elder as a member of an advisory board: Talk to the Elder about what is taking place and explain why the Elder is invited. Describe the nature of the Elder's involvement, from contributing to the process simply by being present, the Elder's spirit provides a good feeling, to full participation, including decision making as required. Offer tobacco to request the Elder's participation and if the tobacco is accepted the Elder will participate.

Does the role of a male Elder differ from that of a female Elder: All Elders are different, whether man or woman; and between First Nations their roles may differ. They have their strength to offer and traditional areas they may work in. The key is to find an Elder who is knowledgeable and who may be right for the issue in question.

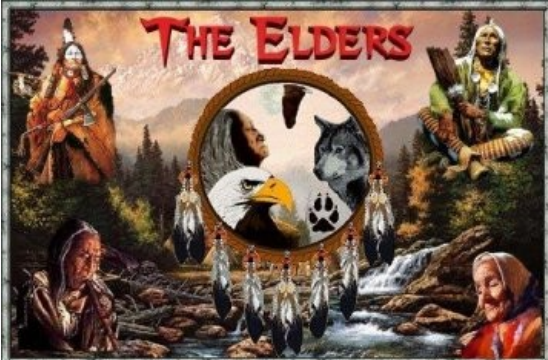
What or how is the most respectful manner in which to approach an Elder, and how to show gratitude: Tobacco equals honour. There should be only one purpose per tobacco offering, and if you cannot access traditional tobacco, pipe tobacco may be used instead (either Captain Morgan or Drum is good).

Elders often receive honoraria to cover their expenses (travel, hotel, meals and time spent away from home and family). Financial transactions should be discrete; payment provided separately and when an Elder requires a Helper, costs should be covered for both. Often times a blanket or basket is passed through the community to assist in a financial contribution for the Elder. Gifts may be given which could include basket of fruit, cloth in traditional colours, tobacco pouches, herbal teas and natural products of the land. A written acknowledgment to thank the Elder for their contribution or a letter of gratitude is always a nice gesture.

It is important to remember our Elders in anything that we do, and we should always acknowledge them. They have wisdom, life experience and traditions to share with us. We too, Creator willing, may some day be considered Elders in our communities.



M.F.N.C.T. Membership News



Old Indian's Advice:

Your fences need to be horse-high and bull-strong.

Keep skunks and bankers at a distance.

Life is simpler when you dig around the stump.

Words that soak into your ears are whispered...not yelled.

Meanness don't jes' happen overnight. Forgive your enemies; it messes up their heads.

Do not corner something that you know is meaner than you.

It don't take a very big person to carry a grudge.

You cannot unsay a cruel word.

Every path has a few puddles.

When you wallow with pigs, expect to get dirty.

The best sermons are lived, not preached

Most of the stuff people worry about ain't never gonna happen anyway.

Don't judge folks by their relatives.

Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.

Live a good, honourable life, then when you get older and think back, you'll enjoy it a second time.

**MFN COMMUNITY TRUST
ELECTIONS
SATURDAY, MARCH 13,**

JUST A REMINDER

**MFN COMMUNITY TRUST
WILL BE HOLDING ELECTIONS FOR THE
POSITIONS OF TWO (2) TRUST MEMBERS**

SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 2010

**NOMINATIONS ARE BEING HELD FROM:
9:00AM - 11:00AM**

**VOTING WILL OCCUR FROM:
1:00PM - 7:00PM**

**AT THE MICHIPICOTEN FIRST NATION
COMMUNITY CENTER**

**PLEASE CONTACT:
MFN COMMUNITY TRUST IF YOU HAVE ANY
FURTHER QUESTIONS AT:
TOLL FREE: 1-888-818-4417
OR
(705) 856-9559**



MICHIPICOTEN FIRST NATION



NEWSLETTER

December (2009), January, February (2010)

107 Hiawatha Dr., MFN
RR#1, Site 8, Box 3
WAWA, ON P0S 1K0

Phone: (705) 856-1993
Toll Free: 1-888-303-7723
Fax: (705) 856-1642

www.michipicoten.com

The information/articles submitted to the newsletter do not necessarily represent the views and opinions of the Editor or Michipicoten First Nation.

MFN Community Trust

RR#1, Site 8, Box 24
WAWA, ON P0S 1K0

Phone:

1-888-818-4417

Or (705)856-9559

Fax:

(705) 856-7872

We pledge to do our best to keep you informed in a timely manner on events of interest to all members. Submission deadline is the 15th of the month for the month following. We reserve the right to refuse potentially damaging or inflammatory articles.

Send submissions to the Editor or e-mail:
finance@michipicoten.com

MFN HONOURS ELDERS AT COMMUNITY FEAST

The Department of Indian Affairs sponsored a short video filming on the success of the Boundary Claim Settlement which took place on reserve with a film crew from Chikak Communications doing brief interviews with the Chief and Councillor William Swanson Sr. as head of the MFN negotiating team on the Boundary Claim. The community hosted a feast in honour of all our Elders and the Chief gave a speech noting that we honour our Elders no matter whether they live near or far. Elders were presented with gifts as were the film crew. Member Patti Goodfellow gave an opening and closing prayer and a great dinner was prepared by members Paula Penno and Elder Irene Piche. The short video will appear in future on INAC's website. Michipicoten is a success story and we are proud of our First Nation.



Chief, Council and Management held their annual staff Christmas Luncheon at the Kinniwabi Pines Restaurant this year. All enjoyed a beautifully prepared spread of soup, salad, roast beef dinner with Yorkshire pudding and delicious cakes for dessert.

Employees are acknowledged for their hard work during the year through the scheduled Christmas shutdown and a gift exchange.

MFN also hosts an annual community Christmas Party for members and their families as well as Chief, Council and staff with a very special visit from Santa bringing gifts.

MFN newsletter Schedule

Jan./Feb.- Mail out by Feb. 25, 2010

Mar./Apr.- Mail out by Apr. 25, 2010

May/June- Mail out by June 25, 2010

July/Aug.-Mail out by Aug. 25, 2010

Sept./Oct.- Mail out by Oct. 25, 2010

Nov./Dec.- Mail out by Dec. 17, 2010