

AUGUST 2013

VOLUME 4:: ISSUE 7

FORT MCKAY STILL FIGHTING FOR MOOSE LAKE Open Meetings

After a three month deliberation, the ERCB/AER* released their decision on August 6th recommending the approval of the Dover/Brion Energy* SAGD project adjacent to Fort McKay's Moose Lake reserves. Earlier this year the Fort McKay First Nation (FMFN) and the Fort McKay Métis Community (FMMC) opposed the portion of the project nearest the reserve, requesting a 20 km no-development buffer zone around Gardiner Lake and Namur Lake. Fort McKay also asked for the assurance of environmental best practices and an access management plan. These three requests were intended to protect the environmental integrity of the area, and reduce the impact of industrial development on community members.

Evidence at the hearing was presented on behalf of Fort McKay by twenty-four witnesses comprised of expert consultants, community members, Fort McKay Sustainability Department employees, and leadership from the FMFN and FMMC. The video "Moose Lake:

(Continued on page 2)

*Please note that the ERCB has changed its name to the "Alberta Energy Regulator" and Dover Opco is now known as "Brion Energy." These new names will be used in any future publications.

Open Meeting:
MOOSE LAKE:
OUR NEXT STEPS
Wednesday,
Sept. 11th, Band Hall
6:00pm - 7:30pm

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BRION PLANS TO START DEVELOPMEN

(Continued from page 1)

Our Home and Refuge" featuring historical facts, interviews with community members, and a cumulative effects simulation was submitted into evidence. The video will soon be available for viewing on the Fort McKay website.

In their decision, the ERCB did not recommend the proposed 20km no-development buffer, nor any other mitigation beyond what Dover is already offering, claiming the economic impacts of the buffer zone are too significant to lose and that government policy is to fully develop the oil sands. The ERCB also stated that while they



FMFN LEADERSHIP TEAM

Jim Boucher, Chief Raymond Powder, Councillor David Bouchier, Councillor Gerald Gladue, Councillor Ruth McKenzie, Councillor

George Arcand, CEO Larry Hewko, CFO/COO

ADMINISTRATION DEPT.

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Cort Gallup, Editor If you have any photos, stories or ideas for the Fort McKay Current, please contact Cort at cgallup@fortmckay.com or call 780-838-6061.

did indeed have the authority to impose the buffer zone, it was not needed because "there would be little if any impact on the Moose Lake Reserves lands directly."

The ERCB also avoided responsibility for the regulation of cu-

The Brion

Energy project is within 1200metres

of Fort McKay's

Moose Lake

is unacceptable.

- Chief Jim Boucher

mulative effects. stating that such effects "must be addressed through regional planning and the development of regionally based management frameworks." The ERCB acknowledged that there would be "some

localized adverse effects" on Fort McKay's traditional territory, but declared the disturbance levels would not prevent community members from using the Moose Lake area for traditional activities.

At the hearing Fort McKay legal counsel questioned whether allowing this particular development would violate Fort McKay's Aboriginal and Treaty rights. They also questioned whether the Crown fulfilled its duty to consult and accommodate Fort McKay. The ERCB decided it did not have the authority to decide these questions, and dismissed the questions from the proceeding.

The decision, while disappointing, was expected - the ERCB approves close to 100% of oil sands projects in the region. reserve, which Leadership from the Fort McKay First Nation and the Fort McKay Métis strongly disagree with the

> ERCB's decision and rationale, and vow to keep fighting. The Fort McKay legal team is currently considering grounds for an appeal, and leadership is also discussing other channels to oppose the decision including engaging the Alberta Government and Industry Partners. Dover is slated to begin construction later this year, but because the Dover project must



Moose Lake Summer camp 2013, keeping our traditions alive.



T OF MOOSE LAKE LAND THIS WINTER

(Continued from page 2)

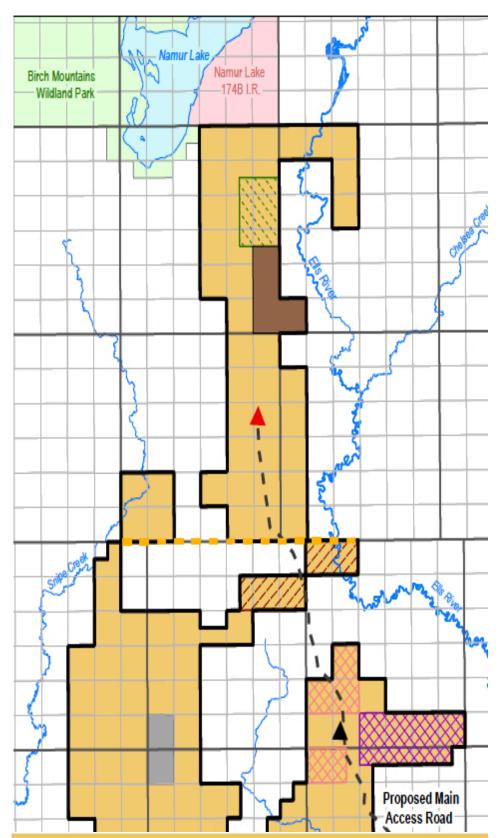
also go through two more approval processes Fort McKay leadership believes there is still time for a protection plan to be established.

Says Chief Jim Boucher, "The fight to protect Moose Lake is not over. Fort McKay is gearing up to mount a rigorous opposition to the Dover project until a satisfactory solution is found."

"Moose Lake has always been a home for our community. We were pleased that the Government of Alberta recently granted a buffer zone for the residents of Fort McMurray; all we are asking for is equal treatment, so our home too can be protected," says President Ron Quintal.

Fort McKay responded to the ERCB decision with a press release sent to media outlets. The press release can be accessed on the FMFN website. Copies of the press release and the ERCB decision are now available at the FMFN and FMMC administration offices.

The Sustainability Department will hold a small round of focus groups on Sept. 4th and 5th to discuss the decision. All Fort McKay community members are welcome to attend an open meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 11th. Information on the decision, current plans, and options going forward will be presented. Please join us to be informed and be heard. Your feedback will help leadership determine the long-term strategy to protect Moose Lake.



HOMELAND SECURITY THREAT Yellow areas indicate the Brion/Dover's planned project development area. The brown area is planned initial development area that Brion plans for this winter. The yellow dotted line marks part of the 20 km buffer zone boundary.



SPECTACULIAR AMPHITHEATRE LAUNCHES COMMUNITY'S DYNAMIC IMPROVEMENTS



This spring, we will see the finishing touches put to what is sure to become Fort McK-ay's iconic landmark. For many generations to come The Fort McKay Amphitheatre will be the site of many great pow wows, concerts and other large group seating functions.

The Workun Garrick Partnership Architecture and Interior Design Inc. designed the Fort McKay Amphitheatre with the construction manager being the Fort McKay First Nation.

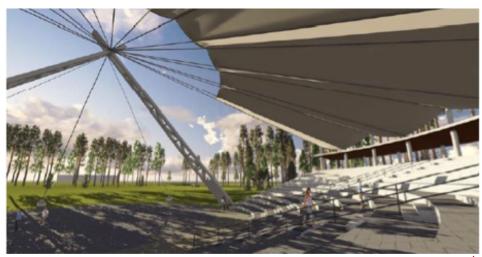
The architect, Workun Garrick Partnership, has designed many other First Nation facilities in Alberta including the Ta'Otha Community School in Big Horn, The Sunchild School Expansion, The Ermineskin Junior/Senior High School, The Nakoda Elementary School in Morley, The Chateh Community School in Assumption and The Canada Place Aboriginal Cultural Centre in Edmonton.

Another local facility designed by the architect is the Syncrude Timberlea Athletic Park. Almost all of the architect's First Nation designs have had a "teepee" theme, but none to the scale of the Fort McKay Amphitheatre that appears to have towering teepee poles supporting a fabric shelter over the traditional round shape seating of a teepee. The Amphitheatre's design incorporates a performance floor, covered seating area and an upper gathering concourse. The 1,120 sq. m. (12,050 sq. ft.) performance floor is designed to meet the Nation's various performance activities and requirements. It consists of bench-type seating with 1,860 seating capacity with 15 concentric rows, and 4 seating sections.

The seating area will be covered with new tensile fabric roof supported by a large A-Frame

structure that "straddles" the performance floor below, like a teepee top over a teepee fire. A new road and offsite trails will link the Amphitheatre site to the main FMFN road, and to the new residential sub development proposed between the site and the McKay River. The amphitheatre site is featured by existing hills and a large stand of mature trees.

It is the first of many new community improvements which include an long-term care facility, church, youth centre with radio station, school, walking trails, housing sub-division, paved roads, sidewalks and a fire hall/police station.





CHIEFS HONOURED



Chiefs Jim Boucher, Marcel Ahaysou and Mel Grandjambe were recognized for their contributions to our community in a chieftainship ceremony during the opening ceremonies of Treaty Days 2013.

Chief Charles Weasel Head of the blood tribe presided over the ceremony. The ceremonies included a Grand Entry with dancers, drummers, Council members, Elders and other participants. Feather McDonald then sang a spectacular rendition of the national anthem in Cree. Then there was a smudge

where the chiefs were required to sit on a buffalo robe and remove their glasses and jewelry. The Chiefs faces and hands were then painted with the sacred red ochre before they were presented with their headdresses.

"We wanted to recognize them their for all their hard work and dedication to our community," said Councillor Ray Powder. "They have contributed greatly to the infrastructure of Fort McKay." Chief Charles Weasel Head has presided over many important Chieftainship ceremonies in Canada.



HARD AT WORK

(Left to right) Tony Cli, Ryan No Runner, Karri Blood and Marty Many Fingers prepare a new yard for sodding. First they must install fences, sidewalks, and driveways and then spread a layer of black soil for the sod that they will also lay. The four workers are part of a workforce brought in to meet the huge demand for labour due to the many improvements and rapid growth taking place in Fort McKay now and over the next few years.



EVERY BREATH YOU TAKE, I'LL BE WATCHING YOU

Smelling the air in Fort McKay can be a pleasant experience when it smells like a pine forest. However, when the air smells like car exhaust or rotten eggs it is not only an unpleasant experience, but also, a concerning one. Air monitoring in a community surrounded by the oil industry has become part of life in Fort McKay. The Federal and Provincial governments, and the Fort McKay First Nation Sustainability Department are constantly pursuing and implementing the latest and greatest in air monitoring equipment and programs. Air monitoring in Fort McKay has again been upgraded this year and consists of four main components.

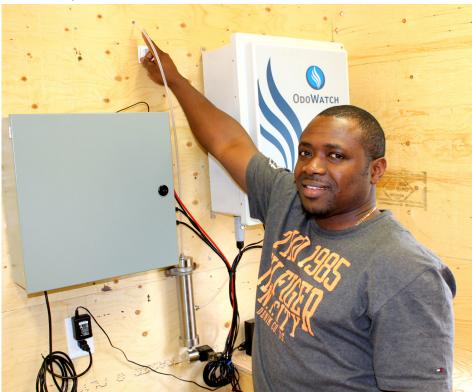
WBEA AIR MONITORING STATIONS (2)

The Wood Buffalo Environmental Association's ambient air quality monitoring uses continuous, time-integrated, passive, and specialized measurement techniques. WBEA operates a total of 16 industrial, attribution, community, background or meteorological air monitoring stations, 2 of which are located in Fort McKay. Mobile and portable monitoring stations provide incident based or short term air quality monitoring.

The two Fort McKay air monitoring station are The Bertha Ganter – Fort McKay Station located near the northwest corner of the Fort McKay Water Treatment

Plant and the Fort McKay South Station is located between the community of Fort McKay and the Syncrude Canada mine site. The stations contain analyzers that continuously measure SO2, TRS, THC, O3, NO, NO2, NOx, PM2.5, global radiation, leaf wetness, humidity, wind speed and direction, and the temperature at a height of 2 m and 10 m. A tipping bucket rain gauge measures precipitation during the summer. Non-continuous measurement devices include a PM10, VOC's, chemical analysis of precipitation, semi-volatile organic compounds and several passives. See WWW.wbea.org for easy readings and reporting. on the hour every hour.





SNIFF Senior Environment Coordinator, Eddison Lee-Johnson points at an "E-Nose", an electronic nose. The purpose of the E-Nose is to monitor odours in our air that may indicate pollutants.

ENVIRONMENT CANADA AIR MONITORING STA-TION (1)

This new air monitoring station, as of July, is located within the new fenced compound in the center of Fort McKay on the south side of Target Road. It contains many similar air-monitoring devices as the WBEA and rates the air on an "Air Quality Health Index" AOHI, on a scale of 1-10. Low Risk=1-3, Moderate Risk=4-6, High Risk=7-10, and Very High Risk=10+. Every hour on the hour, the AQHI is reported on a Government of Canada website. The Fort McKay Station readings are available at WWW.weather.gc.ca/airquality/ pages/abaq-005_e.html. At press time the AQHI in Fort McKay was 3.

E-NOSES (2)

The Fort McKay Sustainability Department has two electronic noses, or E-Noses, located in Fort McKay that are contained in small blue, outhouse like buildings. One is on the northwest corner just off target road and the other on the northeast corner just off Athabasca Drive. "The goal is to capture every odour occurrences within the community," says Eddison Lee-Johnson, Sustainability Department's Senior Environment Coordinator. The E-Noses have 19 cylinders that can capture different odours and are then sent out for analysis. The E-Noses are also connected to the Internet

using a cellular system. Air content readings are sent through an L.E.S.S. system designed in Quebec. The information on the L.E.S.S. system is accessible to the Sustainability Department at any time. This Air monitoring system is independent.

COMMUNITY RESIDENTS (500+)

Another air monitoring system that is obviously completely independent are the human noses of the resident of Fort McKay. All community residents are encour-

aged to report all unusual odours to the several agencies.

The Sustainability Department is also encouraging 20 community members to sign up for a voluntary program. They will be assisting in reporting odour occurrences within the community. The 20 community members will be given the required training to identify odours and then are encouraged to use an iPhone "app" to report the odours. They can also report the odours on a website already

constructed. People interested in the program are asked to contact Eddison Lee-Johnson at 780-370-1562.

"Fort McKay can then take a proactive role in reporting the odour occurrences to government and to industry," says Lee-Johnson.

> Do you have this magnet on your fridge? It lists three of the numbers you can call to report odours in the air. The magnet is available at the Fort McKay Sustainability Department.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE FORT MCKAY REPORT AN ODOUR!

To report an odour, please call:

Alberta Environment Hotline: 1.800.222.6514 (24 hrs)

For up-to-date information during odours and other air events in the region, please call:

WBEA Air Information Line; **1.866.685.3699** (24 hrs)

If an odour is making you feel sick or you have health concerns, please call:

Alberta Health Link: **1.866.408.5465** (24 hrs)

WORKING FOR A BETTER TOMORROW www.fortmckay.com









MY GREAT WELLNESS CENTER YO

This year's annual Youth Cultural Excursion was a great success! The Fort McKay Wellness Center, along with 35 kids, packed their bags and left on Friday, June 28th, 2013 for the adventure of a lifetime.

We left very early in the morning and headed down the familiar highway in search of fun and excitement. We made our first stop in Gibbons, Alberta where we stopped at the Jurassic Forest. We took a nice walk through the trees where we were confronted by life-size DINOSAURS! We saw a tyrannosaurus rex, a platypus and even a stegosaurus! We even got to ride a dinosaur!

Early Saturday we went to Fort Edmonton Park where we got to explore the old trading post. We saw a lot of historic buildings, learned about the old days, and even sipped on some old fashioned lemonade. We finished off the park with a ride on the old carousel and cooled off with ice cream and popsicles.

Then we went to the Ukrainian Cultural Village. It was full of old traditions and we got to learn about the Ukrainian Culture. We even got to take part in a short school lesson as they did back in the day. We learned how schools were run a long time ago. The boys and girls had to sit on different sides of the class. In the old days, you were not allowed to speak in class, and you had to have your fingernails cleaned and could not slouch in your seat. If you did not follow the rules, the teacher would hit a big ruler on the desk. We learned that we are lucky to be in schools today where we can have fun and be ourselves. After class, we got to have some

delicious homemade sausage and perogies for supper. Then we went bowling and almost everyone got a strike! We had so much fun.

On Sunday, we visited the Valley Zoo. We got to see many animals, even Lucy the Elephant who was celebrating a birthday. We got to ride around on bumper boats, take a ride on the train, and even watch an elephant show.

We left the zoo after lunch and headed off to Wetaskiwin, where we visited the Alberta Reynolds Museum. At the Alberta Reynolds Museum, we got to learn all about history. We did a game show where we had teams and had to answer trivia questions. We had three teams- The Chiefs, the Bananas and the Superstars. It was a close game, but the Chiefs took top place! Next, we got to check out some old cars and even take a car ride in an old 1960 Mustang. We all had a blast!

On Monday, we woke up in Calgary, ready and eager to celebrate Canada Day! We did a short stop at Butterfield Acres where we got to run around the petting zoo. There were baby goats and chickens, as well as horses and bunnies. We got to pet all the animals, feed them, and even go on a hay ride. It was very cute to see the baby goats running around and trying to eat our shoelaces.

After Butterfield Acres, we had no idea where we were going. The Wellness Center staff said it was a surprise and we had to wait until we got there to find out. So as we were driving along, over the trees, we saw a big green thing that almost looked like a rollercoaster. When we got closer, we realized it WAS a rollercoaster! We were going to CALAWAY PARK! We were



all so excited that we jumped off the bus and were anxious to check out all the carnival rides. We rode the bumper cars, the sea dragon, the rollercoasters, and many more! We had so much fun we didn't want it to end. After several hours though under the scorching sun, we were tired and ready for



UTH CULTURAL EXCURSION 2013



some swimming. We headed back to the hotel and got ready for the pool, only to realize that our hotel had a WATERPARK! It had 2 different pools and 2 waterslides and was the best hotel pool we ever saw!

On Tuesday morning we were up bright and early. We went to the

TELUS SPARK Science Center. It was so full of so many different activities; we could have stayed there all day. We got to make dresses out of coffee filters and toilet paper, make creations out of duct tape and do all sorts of different experiments. We even got to watch an IMAX movie in the dome theatre about the different weather systems on other planets. Apparently we are lucky to live in Earth, because some of the storms on other planets did not look very fun at all.

After the Science Center, we headed to the Calgary Olympic Park where we checked out the Canada Sports Hall of Fame. We got to do a scavenger hunt and run around the whole place and find the different memorabilia. We learned about the Olympics, the Special Olympics and all the different sports. We even got to try some rowing machines and practice throwing fast balls. Some of us even got to try virtual boxing which was very fun.

After a long day, we got to go swimming at the hotel waterpark again for over 2 HOURS. Good thing, because it was so hot out that day.

Wednesday came, and it was our last full day of the trip, but the day we had been waiting for all week. We travelled into the Valley to a town called Trochu where we got to go horseback riding all day. We each got our own horse and got to take a trail ride through the badlands. We saw cacti and hoodoos and even got to climb a mountain and cross a river with our horse. We had so much fun that we all wanted to go again! Unfortunately, we were out of time and had a

few more place to go.

Once we left Trochu, we travelled to Innisfail to go to the Discovery Wildlife Park. Unfortunately, we were late and missed the bear show where you could get a kiss from a REAL BEAR! We found out that many of the animals at the Wildlife Park were actors from our favourite movies. There were animals from the movie Air Bud. Dr. Doolittle. Dr. Doolittle 3 and many more! We saw caribou, bears, grizzlies, panther, lions, llamas and many more. Unfortunately, it was so hot so we had to go get some ice cream to cool down. We then travelled to Fort Saskatchewan to get a good nights sleep before heading home.

We thought we were in for a good night sleep, only to have the fire alarm go off in our hotel at midnight! We were very prepared and were all out of the hotel in less than 1 and a half minutes. The funniest part was the look on the staff members faces as they rushed us out of the hotel to safety. It turns out it was a false alarm, but enough to get our adrenaline going and keep us up for most of the night. Some would say it was a bump in the road, but to us, we called it making memories.

Thursday morning we were up and ready to go home. After a week on the road and so many activities, we were tired and ready to return to our families.

We had a great time and want to thank CNRL and the Fort McKay First Nations for providing us with this amazing opportunity. THANK YOU SO MUCH!

-Contributing Editor, Julia Grau



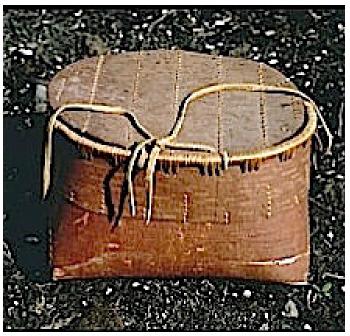
HISTORICAL PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Flora Grandjambe is seen here in 1994 holding two handbags she made. One is a white tail deer fawn bag and the other is a loon skin bag. Bags were made of fawns when hunting deer and unborn fawns were discovered after the kill. Loon skin bags were very popular becasue they are waterproof. The art of our people always had a purpose whether it was clothing or a tool. Flora is a premier of crafts in Fort McKay and has been one of the most prolific, creating dozens of crafts including mukluks, moccasins, coats, bags and even necklaces made of bear teeth. Flora is the second senior Elder in Fort McKay at 90. Her Brother James Grandjambe is the most senior at 92.

- Photo: Terry Garvin

BIRCH BARK BASKETS



Artisans of the above baskets are Elise and William MacDonald, Fort McKay, Alberta, 1965.
Birch bark baskets are crafted in many styles and shapes, and can be tiny or as big as 8-10 litres.
These baskets are traditionally used to carry almost anything, from

liquids to solids. Such baskets are made of bark removed from the tree in the spring, when the bark is easiest to shape. The best birch trees are located near a river or lake, where the humidity and wind-generated motion of the tree makes the bark pliable.



After removal from the tree, the bark is steamed and molded into shape. Seams are sewn with spruce root, and sealed with spruce gum. Leather thongs are used as carrying straps. If the basket has a lid, the hinge is also made of leather.

MOOSE LAKE CULTURAL PROGRAMS ON NOW

The Fort McKay First Nation, with support from Suncor Energy, presents the 2013 Moose Lakes Summer Cultural Program. Starting August 12th, 2013 the program will run for 2 months. This program is open to all Fort McKay First Nation members. If you are interested in The Fort McKay First Nation Moose Lakes Cultural Program for this summer, please go to the FMFN Sustainability Department and fill out the necessary application forms. For more information, please contact an FMFN Moose Lakes Cultural Program coordinator, Fred McDonald at fredm@fortmckay. com or 1-780-370-8374, or Archie Cyprien at 1-780-799-6302. Note: for the first two weeks there will be workers at the site.



EARLY START FOR TRAPPER CONSULTATIONS

This year oil companies have started early with their consultations with trappers. Andrew Bouchier and Celina Harpe have had their first meetings with a major oil sand developer in June.

What's different?

Last year trapper consultation started in September and meetings were held with Fort McKay trappers through October- November and even December.

Major oil companies like Suncor and Cenovus started their consultation this summer for different reasons.

Suncor wanted to get ahead of the game because they anticipated changes by the government of Alberta. The provincial government are consolidating their regulatory agencies and departments into one agency.

Where the oil sand developers had

to make applications to five or six agencies in the past, they will have one application process to endure. Suncor Stakeholder Relations staff, Wayne Beatty said, "We want to get ahead of the game before the changes to the application process gets too busy."

CenovUs had their own reason to start early. They are conducting their oil sand explorations differently. Instead of the usual way – doing oil sand exploration in the winter – they have been doing it in the summer.

How?

By using a helicopter to drop the drilling equipment on their leases. This is something new and the experiment has been going well according to Cenovus representatives. Last year 22 oil sand companies held over 120 meetings with Fort McKay trappers in the fall of 2012.

Fort McKay Sustainability Department participated in the majority of the meetings. Sometimes the trappers preferred to meet with industry on their own.

Wayne Courchene, Trappers Relations Coordinator, anticipates another busy season in spite of the early start. It will be a challenge to keep up with the trappers meetings and contribute to the community consultations that are planned by Sustainability Department for the fall.

In addition to the individual and community consultations, the season for Community Advisory Groups meeting will commence. We can anticipate a full schedule of meetings in the board room of the Sustainability Department.

- Contributor, Wayne Courchene



HIGH RE



Camp this summer. They finally met their goal and were able to attend the Dream Catcher Association in Androssan, Alberta for a 5 day therapeutic camp in July. The youth would especially like to thank their sponsors **Birch Mountain Enterprises**, Fort McKay Strategic Services LP, Bouchier Contracting and the Fort McKay Recreation and Cultural Society for helping to make this opportunity possible. Thank you so much from (in above photo) Mikeela Cooper, Russell Grandjambe, Kaydence Gladue, Aaron Richards, Cassius Grandjambe, Tiana Fitzpatrick, Aliyah Ross and Alice Ladouceur, as well as the staff of the Dream Catcher Association in Androssan, AB. - Contributed by Julia Grau.

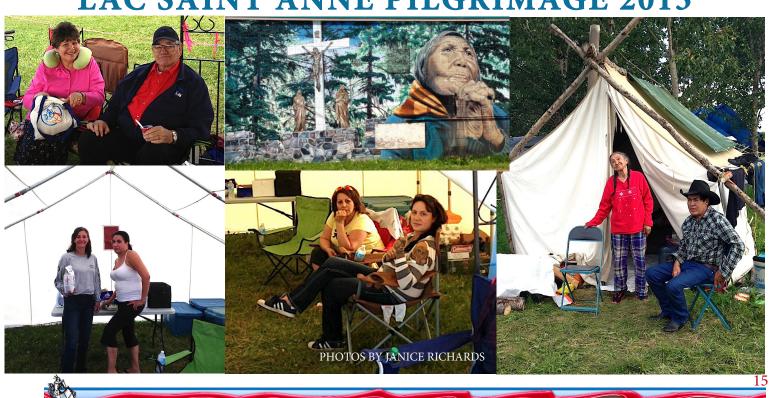


ZPHOTOS



LET'S DO LUNCH Clara Wilson greets James Grandjambe, while Walter Orr entertains at a Sustainability Department barbecue on a recent, hot, sunny afternoon.

LAC SAINT ANNE PILGRIMAGE 2013



YOU GOTTA Like OUR FACEBOOK PAGE



"EVERY STUDENT IS A LIFELONG LEARNER AND SUCCESSFUL IN LIFE"





Back to School 2013-2014

School Opening information

All students across Northland School Division No.61 will return to class September 3rd. Staff at 23 schools will be present in schools starting August 28th and staff at Susa Creek school will be available on August 26th.

Student Registration

Parents are asked to accompany their child if new to an elementary or junior high school. New students will need to bring a birth certificate and a health care number.

Kindergarten Students

Please note that start dates for kindergarten may vary from school to school. Parents are asked to contact their local schools.

School Bus Information

Please contact your local school for school bus times, pick-up and drop off locations and general information.

School Supplies

Please ask your local school for a list of school supplies.

More Information

Log onto www.northland61.ab.ca ON HOMEPAGE MENU:

- Back to School information is located on the front page. This includes tools and resources from Alberta Education.
- Click "Schools" to find school contact information.



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