



Red River Current Newsletter

A Fort McKay First Nation Publication

Volume 14: Issue 5 • June 2024

Former Fire Chief Stan Laurent



Former fire chief Stan Laurent in the cab of his fire truck.

Stan came to Fort McKay First Nation over thirty years ago – his wife is Cheryl McDonald. A hockey player of some skill back in his day in Fond du Lac, Saskatchewan, he barely mentions that, preferring to talk at length about his children and grandchildren instead. Stan is a family man, and that family includes his community. Almost from the moment he arrived in FMFN he was active wherever he could be. He worked in the office for the Nation and became involved in council activities. In addition, his experience with Alberta Forestry meant he knew about fires, especially wildfires. In 1990, he volunteered for the Fire Department under then Fire Chief Ernest Tremblay, and when Ernest stepped down

Stan stepped up, working as the Fire Chief for over twenty years.

“We had a fire hall, and one fire truck. We also had some hoses, but if there was a big fire we relied on Syncrude’s Fire Department’s help. All we had at first was enthusiasm, and pride. Firefighting back then was one step up from pass the bucket. Whoever was available in the community would fetch the truck to the fire, and whoever was on hand would work the pump and the hoses. It wasn’t ideal and it definitely wasn’t safe.”

It was a very dangerous way to fight fires. Slowly, with the acknowledgement by Chief and Council that things had to change, a small but increasing budget was created and added to each year. Equipment was

Continued on page 2

CONGRATULATIONS ALICIA GLADUE!

Former Northern Spirits alumna, star player and FMFN member Alicia Gladue has found new sporting worlds to conquer.

Alicia joined the Regina Riot of the Women’s Canadian Football League for the 2024 season and is having a barnstorming year so far. She wasn’t picked to start the first game of the season, a mistake the coaches soon rectified. The following game she recorded the best defensive statistics on the team with 8.5 tackles, a record she beat the week afterwards with 11.5 tackles. Not content with setting these records, she continued in similar form last weekend when her defensive stats won her the player of the game award against the defending national champions.

Her next game is in Calgary vs the Calgary Rage, 2pm, June 15th at Hellard Field, Shouldice Athletic Park, 13 Ave NW.

Contact Dylan Fougere for more details, 403-951-666, and if you’re in Calgary at the time, go and support Regina and Alicia.

It’ll be a Riot.

FMFN LEADERSHIP TEAM

Raymond Powder, Chief
David Bouchier, Councillor
Crystal McDonald, Councillor
Bobby Shott, Councillor
Melinda Stewart, Councillor

Rhonda Laboucan, CEO
Alvaro Pinto, CEO Oilsands
Development and Sustainability

ADMINISTRATION DEPT.
Dorothy McDonald Business
Centre, General Delivery,
Fort McKay, AB TOP 1C0

Phone: 780-828-2430

Hours of Operation:
Monday - Thursday:
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Closed daily: 12 - 1 p.m.

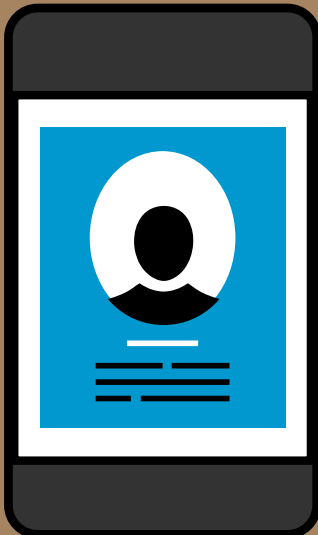
SUBMISSIONS

If you have any photos, stories or ideas for the Red River Current, please contact us via email at: communications@fortmckay.com

Sign up for the FMFN App Today!

Stay updated with the latest community news and get important community notifications simply by downloading the Fort McKay First Nation App on your iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch.

Never miss an update and download the app now!



FORT MCKAY HISTORY

Continued from page 1

bought along with uniforms and safety equipment. With the acknowledgement of the importance of the fire department came a realization that more training was needed. Again, Syncrude helped out, inviting FMFN members to their courses and donating even more equipment. Meaningful safety procedures were put in place. "At first, if there was a fire, people would call my home number. Remember, cell phones weren't a thing back then so they called my landline. This meant someone had to be at home at all times to answer the phone, which was worrying. What if we weren't there?"

It's hard to imagine this haphazard way of calling for emergency help as the

community has had dedicated numbers and procedures in place for years. Back then though, if there was a fire, someone would call Stan, and someone else would go to the Fire Hall to ring the clarion call, letting the community know there was a fire. People always responded. It was and still is that kind of community. But it wasn't ideal, so Stan and other fire fighting volunteers began to change the way things were done.

There were some in the community who were wildfire veterans so there was a base of knowledge, and no shortage of bravery. One of the first things Stan had to do was establish safety rules. "We fought the fires from the outside, not inside. Containment and control, so they wouldn't spread. You only ever went into



Stan owns his very own fully operational firetruck

a fire to rescue someone, not to save a TV or some furniture. Houses can be rebuilt, humans can't."

Stan also took his first responder experience into the business world, starting Fort McKay Enterprises, offering medical, emergency and repair services to the oil companies. Stan and Cheryl ran the company for more than 25 years before retirement beckoned. But one of the perks of this work life of his was he kept a fire truck for himself. That's right. Former Fire Chief Stan is still ready to help out, and he'll bring his own vehicle with him. It is an Amertek Airport Crash Truck, one of the best, and is still in full working order. Among many adventures, it and Stan, worked all through 2016 on the wildfires, and they've been out just about every year since then if needed.

Volunteering is something that comes naturally to Stan. He grew up in a small isolated community where people looked out for each

other, and he saw more of the same when he came to Fort McKay. One of the reasons he was so insistent on discipline and training in the fire department was to make sure the volunteers were as safe as possible, and that they all went home at the end of a shift.

With that training came skill and pride. To be a firefighter meant something. Knowing your neighbour has your back, and you have his, is a powerful motivator. "As they became better trained, I knew I could stand at any fire with any member of the team, and know they would be there for me just as I was for them."

Today the Fort McKay Fire Department is still a volunteer force, but they are trained as well as any full time unit in the region. They can, and indeed have, worked with the RMWB, the oil company departments and other First Nation volunteers to keep the various communities of the region safe. Stan Laurent was a big part of that for nearly a quarter of a century. Thank you.

FORT MCKAY HEALTH CENTRE

Clinic Dates:

Dr O'Connor - June 3rd - 7th
Dr Taiwo - June 25th - 26th
PCN Nurse - Every Mon & Wed

Please call in advance if you need to make an appointment with Dr. O'Connor or Charlene.

Immunizations:

Contact the Health Centre to make an appointment with the Public Health Nurse.

For more information on other services offered at the Health Centre, please contact the centre at **780.828.2450**.

FORT MCKAY EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

The Employment and Training Centre is there to help you with creating/ updating resumes, searching for and applying for jobs, and offering support for employment and training.

For more information or to make an appointment, please contact the office at **780.828.2478**.

FORT MCKAY 106.3 FM



STAY up to date with the latest music and news!!

Listening to Fort McKay's community radio station!

www.fortmackayfm.com

In this Issue...

Former Fire Chief Stan Laurent.....	1, 2 & 3
Congratulations Alicia Gladue!.....	1
Julia Soucie celebrates 15 years at Fort McKay Wellness Centre.....	4
Welcome our newset Peace Officer, Ahmad Kabalan.....	4
Meet Alison Tremblay.....	5
Treaty Days 2024 Schedule.....	6 & 7
News round-up from FMFN Sustainability Team.....	8
Meet Cassie Gensorek.....	9
Northern Spirit Football Team Report.....	10 & 11
The Fred Saskamoose - Chief Thunderstick National Men's Hockey Tournament.....	11
Upcoming Events.....	12

WELLNESS CENTRE

Congratulations to Julia Soucie on her 15th year with the Wellness Centre

The Fort McKay Wellness Centre runs free recreation programs for the children and youth of Fort McKay First Nation. The person at the heart of these programs is Julia Soucie, and this month she is celebrating fifteen years of working in and for the community. Most of that time has been as the Centre's director although she started as a youth program coordinator. It was 2009, and ahead of her lay wildfires, floods, a pandemic, and evacuations. All these events affected everyone, and Julia and her staff have been there to offer a caring hand and a comforting shoulder to the children and families of the community.

It's not all crisis management. Julia recognized early on that a good team, committed to the children, was of utmost importance. The retention policies she introduced have been so successful she has been asked to share them at conferences and on webinars so others might learn from them.

"Working in a small community with children and youth," says Julia, "it takes time to build trust. If you have a high staff turnover, it's almost impossible to form those bonds. We've had a really low turnover for the last ten years, and that is important to the work we do."



Julia Soucie.

Julia also volunteers at local events like Treaty Days and the Pow Wow and is a volunteer member of Search and Rescue as well. She is always looking for new ideas and new programs to help the youth and children and she and her team are an important part of the services offered to Fort McKay First Nation. Her friend and colleague Candace White says "Julia works so hard for the youth and their families. She is a friend, a confidante, and an entire support system to all of us."

Congratulations on your 15th Anniversary, Julia.

Welcome our newest Peace Officer, Ahmad Kabalan

Fort McKay First Nation welcomes our newest Peace Officer, Ahmad Kabalan.

Ahmad is a resident of Fort McMurray with his wife and family, and he completed the Community Police Officer (CPO) Level 1 Training in 2023 at Lac La Biche County Law Enforcement Training Centre.

Ahmad has also been learning and teaching martial arts for over 20 years, starting with Karate in Fort McMurray before switching to Jiu Jitsu. He and his brother eventually opened their own club in Lac La Biche in 2018. In 2021 Ahmad won Gold in the World Master 3 Featherweight category tournament held in Las Vegas. That's right, our newest employee is a Jiu Jitsu World Champion.

At the time Ahmad, interviewed by the local newspaper, said his win was built on a combination of skill, training, and family and community support. Now, he is looking forward to meeting everyone in Fort McKay. We welcome Ahmad to FMFN and hope his journey with us is positive and fulfilling.



Peace Officer, Ahmad Kabalan

Meet Alison Tremblay - Community Health & Wellness Project Specialist

Tansi, my name is Alison Tremblay, a non-status from Goodfish Lake First Nation. Raised in McRae, Alberta and went to school in the town of Lac La Biche, Alberta.

A partner to Michael, a mother/step-mother of seven, two daughters (Calli & Dalen) and one son (Denton) and 4 step-children two girls, (Samantha & Savannah) and two boys, (Leander & Mikey). A Kokom of five, 3 grand-kings, soon to be 4 (Nash, Kane, Knox & ?) & 2 little grand-queens (Ellie & Lakey). I was raised by my mother Carolyn Erasmus & Walter Quinn. I have been active in many sports and still continue to be active, playing fastball, slow pitch and golf. I also trap, hunt, fish and bead.

I identify as a Neyihaw (Cree) person, quite different than "Indigenous". Nehiyaw means "the people of the land" or "four-bodied person" and that means I am of four components – mental, emotional, spiritual and physical. The knowledge I have gained comes from Neyihaw teachings and language. We lose the depth of meaning of what it really means to be a Neyihaw person when we use terms like Indigenous.

I have been employed with the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch since May 16, 2016, my substantive position has been primarily a PM04 supervisor/regional navigator in Non-Insured Health Benefits and in Jordans Principle off the side of my desk with a team of three. I have also acted as the Manager of the Benefits team and Jordans Principle. Previous to this shift, I was the First Nations Health Advocate for Western Canada, where I had the privilege to sit with Sonny Perron and Valerie Gideon on the NIHB Joint Review table. I was also the Treaty 6 Navigator at the Confederacy of Treaty Six. I have worked in Child and Youth care field for 22 years in schools and group homes.

My passion for healing is my main purpose for continuing my journey in the health field for our people, to heal our wounded warriors and aid in our healing process. Our current systems are built with many gaps and barriers for our people. Therefore, I take every opportunity to break down barriers and close the gaps, to pave the way to healing, the first peoples of this land.

As long as the sun shines, the grass grows, and the rivers flows.

I look forward to providing assistance to a great team.

Nanaskomin



FORT MCKAY CULTURAL PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

DANCER AND DRUMMER PERFORMANCES

- Traditional Healing Assistance
- Round Dance / Dene Dance
- Cultural Workshops
- Moose/Buffalo Lake Summer Retreat
- Moose Lake Camps & Events
- Employment Opportunities
- Community & Special Events

CREE & DENE CLASSES

Every Tuesday Cree class on Zoom.

Every Wednesday Dene class on Zoom.

To register, contact culture@fortmckay.com

DRUM PRACTICE

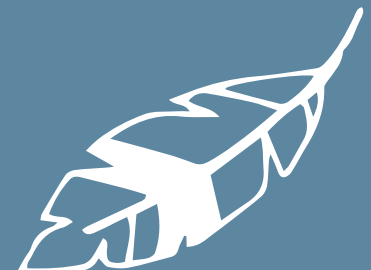
Every Wednesday at 6 pm in the Band Hall.

All males welcome. Drop In, no registration required!

If you would like to be a volunteer or be a Resource Worker for some of our programs or events, please submit an email, please include what events you are interested in, or what skill sets you can provide. First priority will be given to community members.

For more information about our upcoming programs, please contact:

Audrey Redcrow
Cultural and Special Events Lead
780-215-2384
Aredcrow@fortmckay.com



WEEKEND SCHEDULE

TREATY DAYS



JUNE 20-23, 2024
#FMNTREATYDAYS

THURSDAY, JUNE 20

TIME	EVENT/ACTIVITY
7:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.	FORT MCKAY GROUP COMPANIES CORPORATE TOURNAMENT
2:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.	COMMUNITY BINGO
3:00 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.	BIKE DECORATING
5:00 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.	YOUTH BINGO 12-17 YEARS
7:00 P.M. - 11:00 P.M.	MCKAY IDOL 0-17 YEARS, JIGGING & MOOSE CALLING CONTEST & MEAL

FRIDAY, JUNE 21

TIME	EVENT
7:00 A.M. - 9:00 A.M.	STAFF/VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION BREAK
9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.	REGISTRATION, INFORMATION, MERCHANDISE TENT
9:45 A.M. - 10:00 A.M.	KIDS BIKE PARADE
10:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.	MAIN PARADE
11:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.	OPENING CEREMONIES
1:00 P.M. - 1:30 P.M.	LEADING OUT THE FLAG AND DRUMMERS
1:30 P.M. - 2:10 P.M.	LOCAL ARTIST CLOSING CEREMONIES PERFORMANCE BY BRYCE FABIAN
1:00 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.	SURF & TURF LUNCH
1:30 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.	CORPORATE TUG OF WAR
2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.	COMMUNITY ART PROJECTS
2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.	KIDS ACTIVITIES (UNDER 12)
2:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.	YOUTH RIOT ZONE (12-17)
2:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.	CULTURAL VILLAGE & DENE HANDGAMES
3:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.	PAINT ACTIVITY ELDER PERFORMANCE BY AMY KELLER-REMPF
4:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.	REZ CAR COMPETITION
5:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.	COMMUNITY SUPPER
6:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.	LAWRENCE "BULL" POHNSON ANNUAL MEMORIAL SKI TOURNAMENT
6:00 P.M. - 11:00 P.M.	FORT MCKAY IDOL 18+ MOOSE CALLING & LAUNCHING CONTEST - MUSIC BY THE PUT TOGETHER BAND
11:00 P.M. - 11:40 P.M.	LOCAL ARTIST CLOSING CEREMONIES PERFORMANCE BY KAYDA GLADUE

THIS SCHEDULE AND VENUES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

	LOCATION
OF ATE GOLF	MISKANAW GOLF CLUB
	BAND HALL
	FORT MCKAY ARENA
EARS	YOUTH CENTRE
RS OLD ALLING	UPPER ARBOR

	LOCATION
FAST	GATHERING TENT
MATION &	FRONT OF BAND HALL
	MAIN ROAD
	MAIN ROAD
S	UPPER ARBOUR
G DANCE	UPPER ARBOUR
IG ANCE BY	UPPER ARBOUR
	GATHERING TENT
VAR	BEHIND BAND HALL
JECT	ARENA (OLD SCHOOL SECTION)
ER 12)	FORT MCKAY ARENA
+ YEARS)	YOUTH CENTRE
	CULTURAL VILLAGE
WITH	VOLUNTEER TENT NEAR CULTURAL VILLAGE
N	WELLNESS CENTRE
	BAND HALL
WDER LO-PITCH	BALL DIAMOND
JIGGING UGHING NICELY	UPPER ARBOUR
IG ANCE	UPPER ARBOUR

SATURDAY, JUNE 22

TIME	EVENT/ACTIVITY	LOCATION
9:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.	LAWRENCE "BULL" POWDER ANNUAL MEMORIAL SLO-PITCH TOURNAMENT	BALL DIAMOND
9:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.	COMMUNITY BREAKFAST	GATHERING TENT
10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.	REGISTRATION, INFORMATION, AND MERCHANDISE TENT	FRONT OF BAND HALL
12:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. 12 P.M. - 12:40 P.M. 1 P.M. - 1:40 P.M. 2 P.M. - 2:40 P.M. 3 P.M. - 3:40 P.M. 4 P.M. - 4:40 P.M.	OILCAN JAM SESSION BLACK EYED CREEZ ROCKIN FIDDLE NORTHERN COUNTRY ROCK JARED LEE, CHIEF & COUNCIL MIDNIGHT SPARROWS	UPPER ARBOUR
12:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.	CULTURAL VILLAGE & DENE HAND GAMES	CULTURAL VILLAGE
12:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.	KIDS ACTIVITIES	FORT MCKAY ARENA
12:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.	TEEN ACTIVITIES	WELLNESS CENTRE
1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.	ARCHERY DEMONSTRATION WITH JESSE REDIGUEZ, KORY TORRAVILLE & TAYDEN SHOTT	OLD SCHOOL GROUNDS/ BASKET BALL COURT
1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.	COMMUNITY TUG OF WAR	BEHIND BAND HALL
3:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.	CANOE RACES	RED RIVER
4:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.	COMMUNITY SUPPER	GATHERING TENT
5:00 P.M. - 12:10 A.M. 5 P.M. - 5:40 P.M. 6 P.M. - 6:40 P.M. 7 P.M. - 7:40 P.M. 8 P.M. - 8:40 P.M. 9 P.M. - 9:40 P.M. 10 P.M. - 10:40 P.M. 11 P.M. - 11:40 P.M.	INDIGENOUS SHOWCASE STEPHANIE HARPE EXPERIENCE JUST THE BOYZ A.B.O. NICELY PUT TOGETHER JESSE SKY DONNY PARENTEAU ERNEST MONIAS	AMPHITHEATRE
12:10 A.M. - 12:30 A.M.	DRONE SHOW	BEHIND AMPHITHEATRE

SUNDAY, JUNE 23

TIME	EVENT/ACTIVITY	LOCATION
10:00 - 7:00 P.M.	LAWRENCE "BULL" POWDER ANNUAL MEMORIAL SLO-PITCH TOURNAMENT	BALL DIAMOND

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY,
CULTURE & CONNECTION

ALL EVENTS
ARE ALCOHOL
AND DRUG
FREE

News Roundup from FMFN Sustainability Team

Buffalo Disturbance Notification

Indigenous community members (not FMFN) were on the land in the Ronald Lake Buffalo Herd territory when they witnessed helicopters chasing buffalo and heard a shot fired. The Ronald Lake Cooperative Management Board approached the Government of Alberta to explain the disturbances. The Government of Alberta described research that was being carried out jointly with the University of Alberta. They agreed that not communicating these research plans with the Cooperative Management Board and community members ahead of time was a mistake. The Government of Alberta provided a list of recent research activity that could have disturbed the buffalo:

- From February 16-19, they did aerial net-gunning of buffalo to study the herd's size and movements.
- From March 30-31, they serviced remote cameras. They did not interact with buffalo, but the helicopters could have stressed the herd.
- There are regular plane and helicopter surveys to monitor the herd.

The Government of Alberta has committed to better communication in the future. Please reach out to the Sustainability Department if you would like any additional information or if there are



additional concerns you would like us to raise with Alberta.

Hammerstone Reclamation Workshop

FMFN and Hammerstone are working together to develop monitoring protocols to see if/how reclaimed lands can support traditional land uses. Fort McKay community members, staff, and

Hammerstone held a kick-off meeting in April.

Our next steps include visiting reclaimed lands on Hammerstone's lease and meeting to discuss what community members look for to know if traditional land uses can be returned. We look forward to continuing to meet to discuss this important topic over the Summer!



FMFN STAFF NEWS

Meet Cassie Gensorek - Senior Manager, Community Health & Wellness



Fort McKay First Nation is pleased to welcome Cassie Gensorek to the Community Health and Wellness Team as the Senior Manager, Community Health and Wellness, effective Monday May 6th.

Originally from Manitoba, Cassie has called Nistawâyâw home since 2018. With 14 years of experience in Indigenous service delivery through the areas of Addictions and Mental Health, Family Wellness, Client Advocacy and Child and Youth work, Cassie gratefully and acknowledges the privilege of being able to serve many vulnerable people and communities.

Beyond her professional life, Cassie enjoys all things outdoors from hunting and fishing to hiking and camping along with her kids. Cassie is grateful for the opportunity to work within the Fort McKay First Nation and looks forward to meeting and supporting the needs of the community.



FORT MCKAY ELDERS BINGO!

Date
Thursdays

Time
Noon - 2:00 pm

Location
Elders Centre

Call Peggy for cards at
780-598-3575.



CFWE RADIO BINGO

Date
Mondays and Saturdays

Time
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Location
Fort McKay Radio
Canada



Northern Spirit football team report

The Northern Spirit football team had another great season but were hampered at a crucial stage in the season by the wildfire that threatened Fort McMurray in early May. More on that further down.

The Sprits' second game of the season on April 28th was away against the Wetaskiwin Warriors, and ended in a heart-stopping tie, 33-33.

Meanwhile on the same day, Sprits alumni Alicia Gladue suited up for the Regina Riot against the Saskatoon Valkyries in the Western Women's Canadian Football League, the first from the Northern Spirits to play in WWCFL. Congratulations Alicia, we are so proud of you.



The Spirits next game was May 5th, away in St. Albert against the local Valkyries.

The team wore the red handprint in honour of Red Dress Day (No More Stolen Sisters). It was a tough game against the number 1 team in the league and although the Spirits came up short, they fought hard every step of the way, and a 37-18 score doesn't truly reflect the intensity of the game.



NORTHERN SPIRITS 2024

APRIL 13TH VS WEST EDMONTON
NOON @ CLARKE PARK

APRIL 28TH VS WETASKWIN
TBD

MAY 5TH VS ST. ALBERT
NOON @ JOHNNY BRIGHT STADIUM (JP BOWL)

MAY 18TH VS STONY PLAIN
NOON @ ELSIE FABIAN FIELD (FORT MCKAY)

PLAYOFFS
(1ST SEED BY)
MAY 25
2ND VS 3RD
5PM @ JP BOWL

JUNE 7TH
NORTHERN CHAMPIONSHIP
1ST PLAYS WINNER OF 2 AND 3
TBD

JUNE 15TH
PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP

NICHOLAS KARDY

This meant that the team had to win the last regulation game of the season to be assured of a playoff spot. The good news was it was going to be a home game and the team were going to play on the field of Elsie Fabian school.

The bad news was Alberta wildfire MWF-017. All week leading up to the game it threatened the south end of Fort McMurray and Highway 63 and even though the threat alert was reduced on game day the decision had already been made to postpone the game as Stony Plain were reluctant to travel to our community. With frantic scabbling and mad action, the game



The Fred Saskamoose - Chief Thunderstick National men's hockey tournament



was re-scheduled to the 22nd in Stony Plain. And the Spirit won, beating Stony Plain by a score of 59-37.

Which meant they'd be in the playoffs, three days later, in St. Albert.

It was an impossible task. The team came back home, then it seemed as if they turned right round and went back down again. Two hard games and a crazy travelling schedule in four days did them no favours, and the Northern Spirits lost the playoff game by a score that did not reflect the true spirit of the Spirits. The season which had started so hopefully, ended with only a promise for the future.

There is much to look forward to in 2025. Many of the team will be back, a year older and a year wiser. There is a realization that fitness training should start sooner, and it will. And there is a determination in the team that cannot be beaten.

Thanks for all your support. See you next year.



The Fort McKay Braves had the opportunity to attend the prestigious Fred Saskamoose Chief Thunderstick National men's hockey tournament from May 16th - 19th in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. The Braves battled hard, with some close games, but unfortunately did not receive the result that they hoped for. With one year under their belt, the Braves now know what to expect and will be 'Freddy ready' next year.

The team could not attend such a tournament without the support of our sponsors. Our thanks go in particular to Nicole and David Bouchier for their generous donation. We are privileged to have the support of the Bouchier Group; it is greatly appreciated and has allowed the Fort McKay Braves to attend the tournament and concentrate on playing their game.

A special thanks to the Fort McKay First Nation for continuously supporting and believing in the Fort McKay Braves. The Nation's donation covered the team registration fee, and team meals. Without the support of the Nation, the Braves would not be able to attend these highly respected tournaments. Ultimately, we are representing our community and we will do our best to make

Fort McKay First Nation proud. Thank you to Stan Laurent, David Bouchier and Trent Shott for being on the bench and coaching the team in the right direction.

Thank you to Keegan Pruden for taking on the initiative as our team manager; Keegan organized the tournament and ensured that it ran smoothly for all players.

Thank you to Destiny Young for attending the tournament as our team trainer.

And to the players. You gave of your best and we are very proud of you. Congratulations to all the players who participated in the tournament:

Shay Laurent, Keegan Pruden, Brad Fabian, Christian McDonald, Blaize Bouchier, Nick Laurent, Tyler Young, Ethan Grandjambe, Seth Grandjambe, Tyrell Shott, Tyrese Shott, Jayden Shott, Brayden Pruden, Gage Roberts, Kyle Marsden, Silas Makokis, Ethan Makokis, Wil Tomchuk, Chase Fischer, and Neil Vermillion.

Thank you to all the fans that traveled to Saskatoon to support the team, and thank you to the Chief and Council who came and cheered on the Braves from the stands. All the support was greatly appreciated.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Day	Date	Event	Details
Every Tues	June 4 to June 25	Cree Classes on Zoom with Edith Orr 6:30 pm - 8 pm	Register at culture@fortmckay.com
Every Mon & Wed	June 3 to June 26	Health Information: Physiotherapy at the Health Centre	Contact Erin for more Information 780-215-6723.
Every Tues & Wed	June 4 to June 26	Guided Fitness/Strength Training Program	6 pm - 7 pm. Targeted Workouts teaching proper technique. Contact Sarah at 780-215-7124
Every Wed	June 5 to June 26	Dene Classes on Zoom with Janette Flett-Jones 6 pm - 7:30 pm	Register at culture@fortmckay.com
Every Tues & Thurs	June 4 to June 27	Health Information: Acupuncture at the Health Centre	Contact Erin for more Information 780-215-6723.
Every Mon & Wed	June 3 to June 26	Basketball/Volleyball Practice 7 pm - 8 pm Ages 12-18 at the school.	Conditioning, drills and development with Ashantae and Athus Contact Sarah 780-215-7118.
Every Mon	June 3 to June 24	Adult Volleyball at the School Gym	6 pm - 7 pm. Contact Stefany at 780-714-7094.
Every Wed	June 5 to June 26	Wednesday Evening Craft Nights at the Elders Centre 6 pm - 8 pm	Contact Peggy 780-598-3575
Every Tues	June 4 to June 25	Youth Sports 6 pm - 8 pm	At Elsie Fabian School, Contact Kat 780-972-9810
Every Thurs	June 6 to June 27	Addiction Recovery Support Group, Family Support Centre. 1 pm - 2:30 pm	Contact Leah 780-8208-4048. A safe space for connections support. All welcome.
Sat	June 8	Managing Anxiety in Kids, 5 Sessions, Contact Erin, 780-215-6723	10 am - 11:30 am - Session 3, Setting a Good Example
Tues to Thur	June 11, 12 & 13	Men's Wellness Workshop (3 day event) 9:30 am - 3:30 pm	Family Support Centre (Old School) Call Erin at 780-215-6723 for more Information
Wed	June 12	Graduation celebration at Elsie Fabian School	Contact us at 780-828-0107
Sat	June 15	Managing Anxiety in Kids, 5 Sessions, Contact Erin, 780-215-6723	10 am - 11:30 am. - Session 4, Overcoming Avoidance
Wed to Sun	June 19 to June 23	Treaty Days 2024	See www.fortmckay.com for details
Fri	June 21	National Indigenous People Day	
Sat	June 22	Managing Anxiety in Kids, 5 Sessions, Contact Erin, 780-215-6723	10 am - 11:30 am - Session 4, Responding to Anxiety
Tues	June 25	Last day of school for students	For More Information see The Elsie Fabian School 2023-2024 Calendar
Wed	June 26	Last day of school for staff	For More Information see The Elsie Fabian School 2023-2024 Calendar
Thur	June 27	Track and Field Practice 7 pm - 8 pm	At Elsie Fabian School, Contact Kat 780-972-9810.