

April
2001

SAND POINT FIRST NATION

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

APRIL, 2001

Land Negotiations Update Letter from the Chief

Hello:

On March 5, 2001 Sand Point First Nation met with representatives from the Canadian and Ontario Governments, Neengae Gamik, and the M.N.R. to discuss the land negotiations for Sand Point First Nation.

The negotiations are still at a stand-still with the Canadian and Ontario Governments unable to agree in regards to the Environmental Issues. Another Property Transfer Assessment will have to be completed this year by Public Works. The Property Transfer Agreement should be completed by October 2001. The M.N.R. will issue Sand Point First Nation a land use permit for the Park this year.

A final agreement has been drafted but still requires some minor revisions. Another meeting has been scheduled for May 2001. We will keep the membership informed of all dealings regarding the land negotiations as they happen.

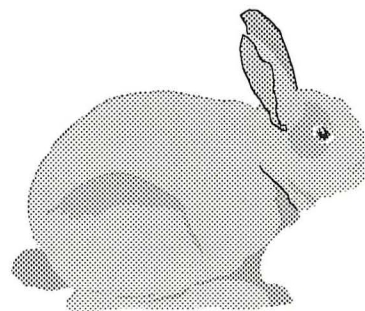
Meegwetch

Chief Paul Gladu

WISHING YOU ALL A HAPPY EASTER!

From our Families to Yours.

Staff of Sand Point First Nation



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Sand Point First Nation

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Family Tree

We are currently seeking the heritage of the Sand Point First Nation. We are asking individuals to look up their family tree and to submit a copy to the band office.

We feel that it is very important to know who our ancestors are and what became of them. Please go back as far as you possibly can; you might be amazed at what you find.

Most information can be obtained through your family, community churches, libraries, and most importantly from your elders.

Meegwetch

Staff

Still Searching...

We are searching for any and all Band members.

It is very important that the office staff know where every one of the band members are.

The Chief and Council wish to keep all the band members up to date on what is happening, [so that nobody is left in the dark.]

If you move, please call in with a change of address.

Please inform us with any new additions to your families, so that our records are kept in order.

Also, if you know someone who hasn't been getting a copy of the monthly newsletter, please give the office a call to let Katie know so that she can obtain their address.

Meegwetch

Chief and Council
Sand Point First Nation

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR...

Laura Airns	April 1
Edward Dow	April 2
Steven Polochuk	April 3
Louise Esquega	April 4
Camille Borysewicz	April 5
Terrence Clarke	April 8
Eugene Lafrancois	April 8
Sarah Airns	April 19
Joseph LeClaire	April 21
Valkoinen Esquega	April 22
Pamela McGuire	April 23
Craig Johnston	April 27

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

FREE!

Be advised that the **Canadian Firearms Safety Course** will be available in your community—**May 14 through May 17, 2001**. For more information please contact: **Wilfred King/Sand Point First Nation at 346-0550 ext 6554**

NATIONAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WEEK

is held each year in early May, and this year it runs from **MAY 7 – 13**

The slogan for Emergency Preparedness week this year is “Reducing the Risk... Toward Safer Communities in the 21st Century”

To make Emergency Preparedness Week a success in your community, it is important to involve some key groups. The support of local first responders, such as fire, police and ambulance, as well as schools and the local media, is important. For example, establishing community working groups or Emergency Preparedness Week committees that include representatives from private businesses and community groups will facilitate the planning and implementation of activities.

The activities to be undertaken in your community need not be time or labour intensive. Choose events that you believe will best promote the week according to the resources available.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

Emergency Measures Office
Northwestern Area Office
640 Mountdale Avenue
Thunder Bay, Ontario P7E 6G8
(807) 473-3191
Fax (807) 473-3199

Web Addresses:

Backgrounders on emergency management in Ontario at www.solicitorgeneral.msg.gov.on.ca/english/public/emo.html

A nation-wide link to National Emergency Preparedness Week 2001 events at www.emergencypreparednessweek.ca

*“Reducing the Risk... Toward
Safer Communities in the 21st
Century”*



cont.

To order (free) brochures “Self-Help Advice” series
**All titles available through toll-free number
1-800-788-8282**

- *Floods
- *Earthquakes
- *Severe Storms
- *Winter Power Failures
- *Prepared for the Woods
- *Be Prepared Not Scared
- *Winter Driving

Greetings from the Staff of Sand Point First Nation...

Hello,

Thankfully spring is right around the corner. With the onset of warm weather we are working diligently at preparing for the upcoming camping season. The Sand Point First Nation has been developing an interim operating plan for the park that will take into consideration any repairs and maintenance needed for the existing facilities. As well, the plan will identify our human resource requirements for this seasons operations. However, we need to ensure that all aspects of health and safety are attended to prior to hiring or officially opening the park.

The park is tentatively scheduled to open on May 15, 2001, that is if all the snow is gone. I recently visited the park and was amazed to find that the snow was at least four feet deep.

I look forward to communicating our successes as we continue to develop the economic development department.

Happy Easter from my family to yours.

Audrey Gilbeau
Development Consultant

Hello y'all!

I hope everyone is enjoying themselves this spring. There is so much to say but so little space. Well first off, I would like to announce that I will be in an interim position as Health Officer Assistant for Sand Point First Nation. So for any members who have a health issue or any questions regarding health please feel free to call me at the Band Office.

Second, I am in the midst of preparing this years activities, there is so much to do in such little time. I tell y'all I am enjoying my new job tremendously. All upcoming activities will be posted in the Band Office, also in the monthly newsletter. I will be looking for volunteers for the various activities so if you are interested please give me a call.

Last but not least, I would like to inform everyone that Leona and I have set up a Health and Education Resource Library, it is open every day during regular business hours so, please feel free to come in and check it out.

Well that's about all I have to say for now, so enjoy your spring and may you and your family enjoy a Joyful Easter.

Miigwech

Stacey Morriseau
Health Officer Assistant

Greetings!

I am pleased to introduce myself to the Sand Point First Nation members, as a member of the Finance team.

My formal education is in Food Services and practical Accounting. Since 1974, I have worked in general bookkeeping, office management and supportive services for First Nation and Inuit families.

This employment opportunity is exciting with so many new programs and services underway. So, I am very proud to be part of the team and look forward to the future developments underway.

Regards,

Brenda Huntus
Finance Officer

Hi Everybody!

My name is Katie Borysewicz and I am pleased to introduce myself as the new Secretary. I started this position near the end of March 2001.

I am very grateful to be a part of the fantastic team we have here at Sand Point First Nation. Everyone here has made me feel very welcome. I would like to thank the Chief and Council for giving me this wonderful opportunity.

I look forward to meeting everyone. Please feel free to stop by for coffee any time. Here at Sand Point First Nation, you are always welcome.

I wish you and your family a Blessed Easter.

Meegwetch

Katie Borysewicz
Secretary

POLITICAL PERSPECTIVE

Hello:

There are many issues that Sand Point First Nation is currently working on. Sand Point First Nation has been very proactive in the areas of Aboriginal and treaty rights. We have also participated at the "All Ontario Chiefs Special Conference" in February of this year. As well, Sand Point First Nation has participated at all of the Robinson Superior Chiefs Regional meetings. A few of the main areas that Sand Point First Nation is currently working on are: Ontario's Living Legacy, Greenstone Task Force and Robinson Superior Chief's Task Force.

Ontario's Living Legacy

The Government of Ontario has proclaimed that Lake Nipigon is considered a World Signature Site. At this time Sand Point First Nation has not agreed to this initiative for a variety of reasons, most notably, will be the impact on our Aboriginal and treaty rights. We have contacted the M.N.R. and conveyed our disapproval on the lack of consultation on this proposed Signature Site with Sand Point First Nation. We are currently having ongoing discussions with M.N.R. to mitigate the adverse consequences and to ensure that Sand Point First Nation's interests are not compromised by this initiative.

Greenstone Task Force

You may be aware that the Regional Municipality of Greenstone has been upheld by the Supreme Court of Canada. However, this issue has not been fully resolved because of the Constitutional issues relating to Aboriginal and treaty rights. Sand Point First Nation has taken the position that the Municipality of Greenstone was created without any consultation with our First Nation. As well, the regional municipal boundaries could adversely affect our aboriginal and treaty rights. In addition, any further larger land base negotiations will have to consider the Municipality of Greenstone as a stakeholder.

Robinson Superior Chief's Task Force

The Robinson Superior Chiefs Task Force was mandated to examine various issues, namely in the areas of Governance, Jurisdiction, and Aboriginal and treaty rights. To this date the members of the Task Force and area First Nations have agreed to pursue the creation of a Tribal Council to address the aforementioned issues. This process will continue until we established this Tribal Council.

In addition, Sand Point First Nation has kept apprized of many initiatives that may impact Sand Point First Nation. We will continue to do our best to ensure that the rights of our members are not compromised by any of these initiatives.

Megweetch,

Wilfred King
Political Advisor

AN INDIAN PRAYER

*O Great Spirit
Whose voice I hear in the winds.
Hear me! I am small and weak,
I need your Strength and Wisdom.*

*Let me walk in beauty, and make my
eyes ever
Behold the red and purple sunset.*

*Make my hands respect the things you
have
made, and my ears sharp to hear your
voice.*

*Make me wise so that I may understand
the
Things you have taught my people.
Let me learn the lessons you have
hidden in every leaf and rock.*

*I seek strength, not to be greater than
my Brother, but to fight my greatest
enemy-myself.*

*Make me always ready to come to you
with
Clean hands and straight eyes.*

*So when life fades, as the fading sunset
My Spirit may come to you without
shame.*

Unknown Author

Hours of Operation

Monday-Friday: 9:00am-4:30pm

Submissions

If there is anything you would like to submit to our monthly newsletter, be it poems, news, recipes, etc., please have items submitted by the 25th of the month. As it will be published in the following month's newsletter.

All items can be mailed or dropped off to the Sand Point First Nation band office. Please address submissions to Katie.