QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Bnaakwe giizis (leaves falling moon/October)



Aanii kina wiya!

A new quarter brings new accomplishments and excitement! Read a little bit about what the departments did within the last quarter, from July - September!

We hope everyone had a great start to another school year!!

As we move towards Baashkaakodin (Freezing Moon/November), we hope everyone has a safe and successful hunting season!

IN THIS ISSUE

Education

Back to School Week

Mino Bimaadiziwin

Lands & Housing

Health and Community Wellness

Planning and Infrastructure

Social Services

Community Resource & Development

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

EZHWEBAK

(WHAT'S HAPPENING)

EDUCATION

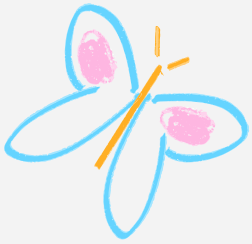
On August 22 the Education Staff, in collaboration with the Atikameksheng Trust, hosted the Annual Education Banquet to honour the students' academic achievements.

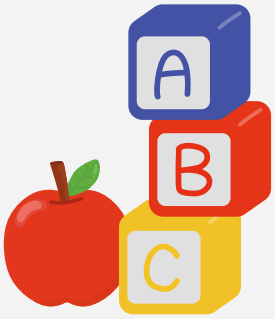




Each year the Education Department determines the student with the best attendance, and the award is presented by the Naponse family. Congratulations to **Jacob & Jett** on excellent attendance!

The Waasakwa Children's Centre Manager has been working tirelessly to open the long-anticipated Daycare in Atikameksheng Anishnawbek. They have been developing policies, procedures, and meeting with project managers to brainstorm design concepts for the Daycare.





Five families have been supported for speech and language services!

Don't forget to join us at the Waasakwa Children's Centre **every Tuesday from 11am - 1pm for Speech and Language Playgroups** with Mélanie Landry, M.Sc, Speech-Language Pathologist/Orthophoniste reg. CASLPO/Membre OAOO

The Education Services Team is in the process of implementing a new **student information system called Dadavan Software**.

KENDAASII GAMIK (LIBRARY) HOURS

Monday:	**CLOSED**
Tuesday:	**10am - 7pm**
Wednesday:	**10am - 7pm**
Thursday:	**10am - 7pm**
Friday:	**8am - 4pm**
Saturday:	**10am - 2pm**
Sunday:	**CLOSED**

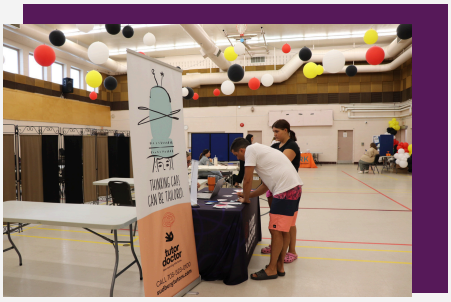
BACK TO SCHOOL WEEK



The Education Department held their annual Back to School Week from August 27 - 30, where the community learned all about the different services provided to help their child succeed in their education journey.



Back to School Week also gave parents the chance to pick up program packages, those who signed up for programming before July 31, 2024 received their Back to School Packages.



Each day had a different focus such as Social Services Day and Health Services Day, where information booths such as Jordon's Principle, Koognaasewin, Spark, First Aid, Harm Reduction, Lice Squad, and more were available to learn more about the services we can help provide!

Door prize winner day one Kendrickz Owl-Nootchtai





Door prize winner day two Paisley Peer

The Waasakwa Children's Centre Manager organized a Bus Safety Day to ensure Tiny Tots were ready to gear up for school. JK and SK got to practice getting on and off the bus! Tiny Tots also got to be in the classroom for the day to prepare them for the upcoming school year.



MINO BIMAADIZIWIN

Sacred Grounds Update

The Mino Bimaadiziwin Department has been beautifying Sacred Grounds by leveling the ground, removing debris, cutting wood, and distributing picnic tables. Fruit trees and a red maple were planted in honor of the missing and murdered Indigenous People.







Aadziwin Week

The Anishinaabe Aadziwin Team engaged in cultural learning activities which included;

- Preserving Jam and scone making
- Sweat lodge building & ceremony
- Playing the creator's game (Lacrosse)
- Water Walk
- Holding a sharing circle

Summer students were hired during July and August to support the team and learn more about the department.



The Mino Bimaadziwin Department is on the Planning Group for our Annual Jiingtamok. They play a huge role in organizing and ensuring another successful year.

Eagle Staff Care

Participated in ceremonies related to the Eagle Staff, preparation for redressing, being kept in our office space.

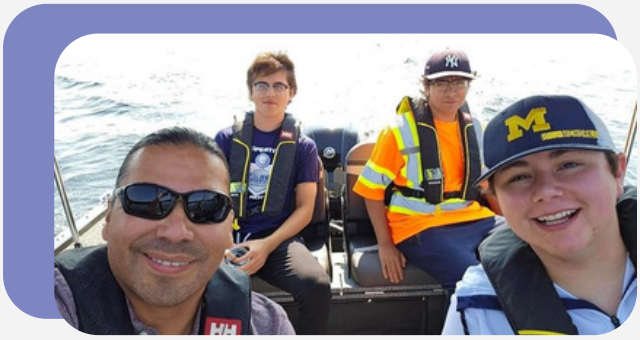
Harvest Camp

Assisted with meetings and preparations.

Fast Camp

Provided support for lead roles, including meetings and preparations for the Fast Camp.

LANDS AND HOUSING



This year the Lands & Housing Department had **two** summer students join with the season's activities. It was another successful year with them being involved with our projects such as, our turtle project, Bat tracking, Mission Monarch surveys, and once again tackling our Knotweed (Invasive Species) concern. It is always a delight having the summer students.

Long Lake Gold Mine and Environmental Project open house

A community open house and BBQ was held on September 16 where community members were invited to come out, eat, and visit information booths and ask questions. **34** community members attended.

Senior Land Guardian

The Senior Land Guardian has completed several patrols of the territory and making note of any concerns that come up.

Areas that have been visited include

- Wolf Lake area
- Panache Lake area
- Killarney area
- Nepawassi Lake area
- Halfway Lake area
- Agnew Lake area.



They also participated in **Traditional Knowledge (TK) Monitoring** of Blueberry Picking areas within our Traditional Territory along with two of our community elders who shared information on these areas including what types of changes they are seeing since first going to the areas, many years ago.

Invasive Species

Upon initial inspection of the Japanese knotweed population located alongside Ojibway Road, it was found that the first year of treatment appeared to be successful with a lot less knotweed growing back. The area was cut a couple of times throughout the summer and will be treated with Herbicide once again in the fall.

Bat Tracking

Bat netting took place on July 12th and 13th at the Reserve Camp and Bell tower, respectively. In total **four bats** were captured and tagged including an Easter Small-footed myotis, which has not been captured on Atikameksheng Anishnawbek Reserve Land. Staff including summer students then completed three weeks of telemetry to get a better understanding of the bats habitat usage.



All lands & environment staff members have been involved with another year of planning for the Annual Moose Hunt Gathering. One of the recommendations from last year's hunt was to host this event on a weekend in hopes that this would allow for more participants to be involved. We have also been planning with other departments within the organization for them to host activities during the daytime. We are expecting a larger turnout for this year since members have been expressing more interest!

Department Update

With the two divisions being established within the Lands Division, the Environmental component is proving to meet the needs of our community. The Lands section alone is now comprised of a Lands Registry Clerk, the Natural Resources Coordinator, along with the Lands Management Technician. The Environmental sector involves the Environmental Manager, Species at Risk Coordinator, Senior Land Guardian, Junior Environmental Technician, and two Environmental Water Interns (placement through North Shore Tribal Council).

Invasive Species Continued

Mission Monarch Expert

Monarch surveys and blooming plant surveys were completed at three locations, Solar Farm, Black Lake Area, and Black Water Area, over the summer months. In total one monarch butterfly was encountered. There were also some milkweed plants (critical habitat) that were found outside of the plots, where surveys were conducted.

Turtle Release

Staff successfully **hatched 311 of 344 eggs** (90% Success!) of which about fifty were released during the annual community turtle release, which **24** people attended.

AFSAR Aquatic

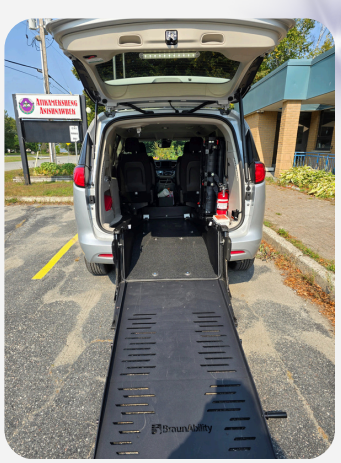
Results from the Environmental DNA analysis that was completed for Graveyard Rapids and Wabagishik rapids by Nature Metric Lab were received. **Nineteen fish** species were detected, unfortunately, no Lake Sturgeon DNA was detected. Deepwater sculpin surveys were conducted at Round Lake, using minnow traps, dog food, and glow sticks. Sculpin were found, which have not been found in the lake prior. However, we have yet to identify the fish to the species level.
We will be completing additional surveys for Deepwater Sculpin at Lake Panache in the fall.

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLNESS

Social State of Emergency – RHT Funds

A State of Emergency for Social Health with Maamwesy'ing North Shore Health Services was declared in June in preparation for the Robinson-Huron Treaty per capita distribution (RHT PCD). Meetings with Maamwesy'ing and Atikameksheng Anishnawbek were held to coordinate information sessions of financial management, abuse prevention, Wills & Estates, etc.





The Medical Transportation Program purchased a new mobility van to help our members get to and from their local medical appointments comfortably and safely.

The Jays Care Youth JR and SR team celebrated their season with Maamwesy'ing as **Champions**!







Naloxone training is available for family members, people living with addictions, staff, and the community. The training is hosted monthly. If you require a Naloxone Kit, please contact **addictions.coordinator@wlfn.com**

Did You Know?

Did you know about our Circle of Care Program? The Circle of Care Program was designed to provide holistic access to services for all community members in all departments such as health, social services, and education. Planning can be done for individuals, couples, and families!

For more information connect with **circle_of_care@wlfn.com**

The **Primary Care team** provides home care services for our community. Currently, there are **28** clients within our program.

The **Community Health Nurse (CHN)**, continues to provide health promotion activities such as biking and walking. The CHN also provides home visiting services to our prenatal and post-natal Moms. Aditionally, a Foot Care Clinic is hosted every **six** weeks for those with chronic conditions.

Indigenous Service Navigation at Health Sciences North

You will notice at HSN, that when you register, you will have the opportunity to identify yourself as a member/community member of Atikameksheng Anishnawbek. With this self-identification, you will be in contact with the Indigenous Service Navigator that will assist you in receiving the health services you need to recover or heal.

PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE



Maani Street Watermain Project

The work on the Watermains on Maani street was awarded to SteelSpeed Construction and has now been completed.

This project has replaced the last remaining part of the Cast-Iron watermains. This project included **Fire Hydrants, Water Services and new Asphalt**.

The Planning and Infrastructure Department is now located at the Community Centre! There you will find the Director of Planning and Infrastructure and the Project Manager!



SOCIAL SERVICES

The Child and Youth program implemented a **full-time Summer Camp program** in collaboration with the Atikameksheng Education Program, which had over **50 children** registered. The Summer Camp program was funded through Jordan's Principle. The summer camp was held at both the Community Center and Sacred Grounds, with transportation and meals provided each day.





There were **20 youth employed** as Summer Camp counsellors, including Counsellor in Training. The Counsellor in Training program was targeted for our 13–14-year-olds who signed up to volunteer to support and help at Summer Camp. They were provided with mentoring opportunities with Summer Camp Counsellors.

Youth participating in Creators Game (Lacrosse)

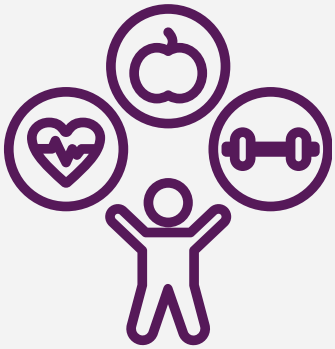






September Programing Attendance

Weekly Hand Drumming Social	**13**
Fall Equinox	**5**
Natural Tye Dye	**5**
Board Game Night	**3**



COMMUNITY & RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

The Community and Resource Development department are working closely with GMS on procurement and partnership opportunities. The Director and CEO for GMS maintain biweekly meetings to keep each other abreast of projects. The Director also attended the grand opening of the GMS offices in early September.

Giyak Mishkawzid Shkagmikwe
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



Employment Fair with GMS is coming up in November



The Community Skills Development Coordinator supports the community in developing employment and business skills through various programs and services, ultimately contributing to an improved quality of life for Atikameksheng Anishnawbek members.

Their initiatives have resulted in significant outcomes, including;

- **three** members getting their resumes and cover letters done,
- **two** completing first aid/CPR training,
- and **seven** members being referred to our partner (Mamaweswen, The North Shore Tribal Council, Naadmaadwiiuk Employment & Training Officer) for financial assistance in obtaining specialized training such as Norcat making them highly employable.

Tourism Coordinator

- Hosted the first ITO workshop on Service Excellence in Tourism for community members and staff.
- Secured two filming projects on Atikameksheng lands
- Organized a community consultation event with Urban Systems to gather feedback on infrastructure opportunities

NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION



September 30 is National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The day honours the children who never returned home and Survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities.

The day was opened with a prayer from Elder Dolores Naponse and opening remarks from Gimaa Nootchtai. Community members then partook in a walk around the neighbourhood. Miigwetch to everyone who came out!