QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Chimanido giizis (great spirit moon/January)



Aanii kina wiya!

Mino Nimkoodaading! Happy New Year! A new year and another quarter gone by in the blink of an eye! We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season.

Catch up a little on what the departments accomplished between October - December 2024!

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EZHWEBAK

(WHAT'S HAPPENING)

EDUCATION

In collaboration with Technica Mining, the Education Department presented its first Technica Bursary to **Dennis Wabegijig** who is continuing his education journey.





A Halloween Party was hosted at the Kendaasii-Gamik (library) for Debendaagziwaad to come out and enjoy some Halloween festive games and activities! Approximately **50** Debendaagziwaad attended!!

The Education Department provided regular Education Services Programming such as:

- **School Lunch Market**
- **Snack Homework Club**
- **PD Day – Scavenger Hunt**





Make sure to check out our social media and Weekly Flyer for different programming happening!



The library has attained **three park passes** for Ontario Parks, so community members can borrow a pass to use at an Ontario Park for free. To borrow a pass you must sign one out with your library card. For more information, please contact **library@wlfn.com.**

The Librarian is in the process of obtaining the e-book app “Libby”. The Library will now have access to over **100,000** eBooks and audiobooks.





The Waasakwa Children's Centre Manager coordinated a visit from **Science North's Indigenous Travelling Exhibit.** The exhibit was featured at the Waasakwa Children's Centre for Debendaagziwaad to visit.

The Waasakwa Children's Centre offered Early Learning Drop-Ins from 10am-12pm **3** times per week.

Speech Therapy was offered to **7** clients this quarter!

For more information, contact waasakwaelc.manager@wlfn.com.





The Waasakwa Children's Centre Manager coordinated a Moose Calling Contest at the Annual Harvest!

MINO BIMAADIZIWIN



Based on the conditions of the Teaching Lodge, the whole structure came down and a new Teaching Lodge will go up after the spring! A Tipi was put in it's place for the winter months.

The Anishnawbemowin Helper started evening Language Classes and Book Club! For more information contact anishnaabemowin.helper@wlfn.com.

- Ojibwe Book Club
- Ojibwe Language Table
- Ojibwe as a Second Language

Approximately **23** Debendaagziwaad attended Winter Solstice Ceremony, hosted by the Oshkaabewis and Family Wellbeing Worker.



The Mino Bimaadizwin Department set up a booth during National Addictions Awareness Week for the Forging Connections Information Night!!



The Oshkaabewis continued with Big Drum evenings and provided assistance with Hand Drumming Nights!

Upcoming Big Drum Practice - 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm at the Waasakwa Children's Centre

- February 3, 10, & 25
- March 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31

LANDS AND HOUSING

The Senior Land Guardian participated in Stage 1&2 archaeology work. This included the proposed Wavy Lake aggregate pit, Glencore's - Norman West exploration site, McFarlane Lake's - McMillan exploration site, Vale's Totten Mine - exploration site.

Our Senior Land Guardian has completed several patrols of the territory and is making note of any concerns that come up. Areas that have been visited include **Panache Lake area, Killarney Area, Agnew Lake area, and 700 Rd.**

Annual Harvest



This year's Annual Harvest Camp took place from September 26 - October 1, 2024 at the 28-mile marker on 700 forestry road – east of Benny. There was a total of **50-60** registered participants for this year's event.

A total of **three moose** were harvested. The Lands Department then hosted a Meat Distribution Day on November 14, 2024, where approximately **62 bags** were filled and distributed to Debendaagziwaad.

Invasive Species

The Interim Report was submitted to the Invasive Species Centre. All of the knotweed that was cut and dried was destroyed by burning, to ensure that there is no possibility of spreading to new locations.

Mission Monarch Expert:
Environment staff collected monitoring equipment that was at three monitoring locations.

Blanding's Turtle:
Traps were set at wetland near Mud Lake for approximately two weeks and checked daily, prior to night-time temperatures reached freezing. Visual presence and absence surveys were also completed at various locations.

AFSAR Aquatic:
Deepwater Sculpin surveys were conducted at Lake Panache for two weeks. No fish were captured. Additional surveys are planned once the lake freezes over.

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLNESS

Health Promotion Highlights:

- Swimming lessons for ages 3-6
- Adult/Senior Swimming
- Home Community Care Transportation Days
- Adult Teatime
- Home Community Care Diner's Club

Community Outreach Highlights:

- Community Outreach services now in community
- Women's Self-Defense Classes
- Family Fun Nights at the Hub
- Angels of Hope presentations for Boys and Girls
- National Addictions Awareness Week
- Increase in Addiction Treatment participation
- Holiday feasts at the Hub
- Children's Therapy Sessions

Primary Care Highlights:

- Elder Abuse presentation with a Bingo
- Successful World Diabetes Day in Atikameksheng Anishnawbek
- Increase in Home Visiting and HCC Assessments
- Diabetes management with Foot Care Clinics
- Vaccination Clinics success

National Addictions Awareness Week

The Addictions Coordinator successfully held daily events for National Addictions Awareness Week (NAAW) on November 25 - 29, 2024!

Daily events were provided for Debendaagziwaad to participate in such as;

- Community Awareness Walk
- HIV/HEP C Information Session
- Addictions Awareness Bingo
- Introduction to the Sweat Lodge
- Forging Connections: Information Booths
- Pancake Breakfast

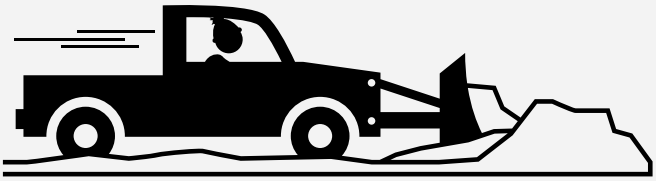




Debendaagziwaad came together to paint this beautiful banner in honour of NAAW.

PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Snow plowing, sanding, and parking lot maintenance is a priority for public works this time of the year!





The outdoor rink (ODR) is another primary focus when the winter temperatures are conductive to ice-making. The Planning and Infrastructure Department works with other departments on supervising the rink.

Make sure to view the Weekly Flyer or our social media to view the hours the Rink House will be available. When the Rink House it closed, the ODR is still available to Debendaagziwaad.

Public Works hosted a Fire Education Night in November at the Community Centre for Debendaagziwaad to learn about the smoke alarm and carbon monoxide detectors from City Fire Prevention Officers!



The **Community Centre renovations, By-pass Road, and Watermain/Septic Systems** projects have been finalized in design and the work is progressing.

The Atikameksheng Anishnawbek Solar Farm was hit by lightning in early May of 2024 and put the system out of commission. The system is back and operating with some kinks to be ironed out. The Solar Farm should be fully operational this month.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Did you know about the Community Food Support Program?

The Community Food Support Program (CFSP) started in September 2024 and is available to all Debendaagziwaad living on and off reserve. The CFSP runs out of the Community Food Support Trailer which is located beside the Community Centre!

Registration forms can be picked up at the Band Office or contact **community.foodsupport@wlfn.com** to receive a form and for more information!

Make sure to view the Atikameksheng Anishnawbek Weekly Flyer and social media to see different programming occurring for Atikameksheng children and youth!!

Website Instagram Facebook

Program Highlights

- Weekly Hand Drumming Social with an average of **15+** attendees per session.
- Youth Halloween Haunt with **17** youth attendees
- The ATV Safety Course brought out **seven** attendees.
- The end of 12 Days of Christmas Programming Community Dance had a turnout of **150** attendees.
- Moss-Bag Workshop
- Moccasin Workshop
- Wednesday Night Sewing nights
- Fur Hat Workshop

Nogdawindamin hosted a Fall BBQ in October at the Community Centre. The Jordan's Principle Coordinator set up a booth to provide Debendaagziwaad with information regarding Jordan's Principle. Approximately **30** people stopped to visit the booth!



For more information about Jordan's Principle, visit our website! **https://atikamekshenganishnawbek.ca/service/jordans-principle/**

COMMUNITY & RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

The Community Resource Development team attend a mine tour in Levack at the Craig Mine owned by Glencore. This was an amazing opportunity for staff to go underground and see their operations, as well as meet and discuss opportunities.





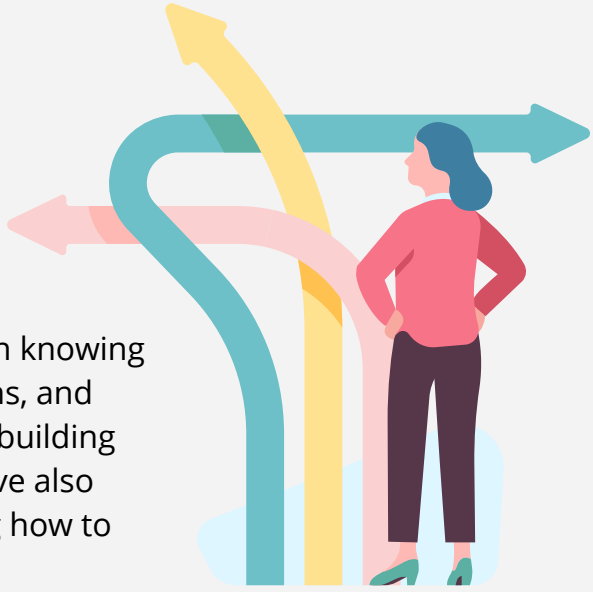
The Tourism Coordinator attended the Northern Ontario Tourism Summit, gaining insights into current tourism industry trends and opportunities.

The Tourism Coordinator also participated in the 30th Annual CANDO National Conference & AGM in Calgary, fostering valuable partnerships and professional connections.

The Life Path Program began again in September with a total of **eight** participants.

Participants have completed and gained certified in the following courses:

- Critical Thinking & Research
- Financial Skills & Knowledge
- Interpersonal Skills
- Skills for Success



These programs have already helped participants in knowing how to apply to college, everyday financial situations, and everyday budgeting needs. Participants have been building their portfolio around these programs and they have also done resume writing, mock interviews and learning how to write request reference letters for potential jobs.

Looking for a job? Join our employment list by signing up to receive exclusive access to job openings across various industries, training programs to boost your skills, and career resources and job posting updates!

Sign up today by contacting communityskills.coordinator@wlfn.com.





The Community Resource Development Department attended the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) conference in October which was held in Sudbury, ON at the Holiday Inn.

This international conference showcased mining across the globe, in particular the impacts it has on Indigenous peoples.

Atikameksheng Anishnawbek, along with its ADLP Partners, Wahnapitae First Nation**,** and Technica Mining are thrilled to announce the procurement of **two Surface Production Drills.**



Through our economic development corporation, Giyak Mishkawzid Shkagmikwe Inc. (GMS) and Wahnapitae First Nations counterpart, Taighwenini Technical Services Corporation (TTS), Natural Resources Canada provided **$2.8 million in funding** to purchase this critical equipment.

Soon, these drills will be in operation at the Stobie Pit, which will provide Atikameksheng Anishnawbek and Wahnapitae First Nation the opportunity to take ownership of the mining activity happening on our territory and empower our Debedendaagziwaad with the economic spin off.

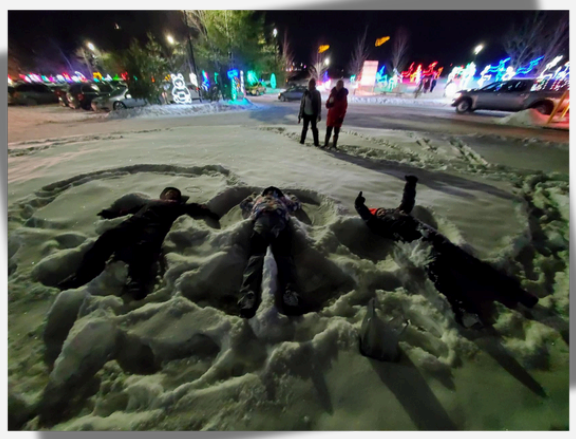


12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

The Family Well-Being Team, Child and Youth Services Team, Family Violence Prevention, Education, and Health Services put on 12 days of programming for 12 Days of Christmas for Atikameksheng Anishnawbek Families, Children, and Youth!

12 Days of Christmas Programs:

- Family Brunch
- Christmas Candle Making
- Ornament Sewing
- Gingerbread Building & Movie Night
- Science North Lights
- Self-Care Day
- Snow Globe Making
- Drum Practice
- Christmas Stockings
- Reindeer Droppings
- Family Dance



Youth having fun making snow angels at Science North Lights!







