

# Report from the Chief and Council



FISHER RIVER CREE NATION

Issue 7

November 2010

## Province backpedaling on promise to establish park



The Manitoba government is attempting to back down on its commitment to designate a Fisher Bay provincial park by the end of October by asking Manitobans for their views on extending the park proposal process for up to 5 years.

FRCN and the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) said that the park should be established now as promised.

“It is time for the government to quit stalling and establish the Fisher Bay park now for the benefit of all Manitobans,” said FRCN Chief David Crate. “The outstanding support for the park gives the province a

silver-platter opportunity to protect this diverse and beautiful area for future generations of people and wildlife.”

Over 14,000 Manitobans, have sent letters of support to establish the park now, with the ecologically appropriate boundaries requested by FRCN and CPAWS. Even Manitoba Conservation Minister Bill Blaikie has written a letter in support of the part to his own government.

In addition, the province’s First Nation and Stakeholder comments review said, “The majority of comments received during the review process sup-

port the concept of creating a new provincial park in the Fisher Bay area. Many review meeting participants recognized that a provincial park designation would help protect the region’s natural landscape features and values.”

Ron Thiessen, Executive Director of the CPAWS Manitoba chapter said that there has never been more support for creating a park in Manitoba.

FRCN and CPAWS are asking citizens to let the Manitoba government know how they feel about honouring its commitment to establishing the park this October.

Individuals can share their opinions by emailing [parksystem@gov.mb.ca](mailto:parksystem@gov.mb.ca).

The quest to establish the park is part of FRCN’s journey to protect nature, culture, and economic opportunity.

“Safeguarding this natural area provides the avenue to diversify the local economy with eco- and cultural tourism while ensuring traditional activities continue to flourish, and treaty rights are upheld,” said Chief Crate.

### Special points of interest:

- Over 14,000 Manitobans, have sent letters of support to establish the park ;
- Individuals can share their opinions by emailing [parksystem@gov.mb.ca](mailto:parksystem@gov.mb.ca);
- The park is part of FRCN’s journey to protect nature, culture, and economic opportunity.

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# Report from the Chief and Council

## Chief Crate recognized for work on park project



Roger Turenne, President of Nature Manitoba presents Chief Crate with the Prairie Crocus Award.

OUR JOB IS FAR FROM OVER BUT, I AM COMMITTED AND DETERMINED TO SEE THE REALIZATION OF THIS PROJECT IN THE NEAR FUTURE.”

“... we are confident that with the kind of leadership exemplified by Chief David Crate, this project will ultimately succeed. Chief David Crate is a caring, genuine, and approachable leader who understands the essential importance of securing large areas of wilderness in their natural state for the benefit of all life.”  
- Roger Turenne

**O**n October 18, 2010 Nature Manitoba—Manitoba's largest nature-based environmental group presented the Prairie Crocus Award to Chief Crate in recognition of his leadership in the campaign to establish a new provincial park around Fisher Bay on Lake Winnipeg.

Established in 1995, the Prairie Crocus Award is granted to individuals “for outstanding service in preserving a part of Manitoba in its natural state.”

“I accept this award on behalf of past leadership, council and our members,” said Crate. “Our job is far from over but, I am committed and determined to see the realization of this project in the near future.”

Chief and Council have been working to protect part of Fisher River's traditional territory since 1999.

They have partnered with the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) in a quest for a 155,000 ha provincial park that would protect the natural features and cultural heritage of the area, as well as provide sustainable economic opportunities for the people of Fisher Bay.

The Ochiwasahow, or Fisher Bay, provincial park as proposed would prohibit all industrial activities within its boundaries.

## Work Bee a success

On September 20–22 a Work Bee was held to erect a new hall for the United Church.

The new hall has a much larger capacity, a more accessible bathroom (men and women will now have

separate bathrooms in the new hall) as well a kitchen.

The original church was built in 1901 and the hall was completed in the early 1960s. The new hall has been in the works for some time.



A look inside the United Church hall currently being constructed.

Photo by Mervin Murdock



Volunteers hard at work on United Church upgrade project.

Photo by Erin McIntyre

## Resolution for new recreation committee

The following resolution was presented and passed on October 18, 2010 that saw the establishment of a new recreation committee.

WHEREAS, volunteers have been solicited for a Recreation Committee with the response from the community.

WHEREAS, there is a need for a formal committee to be in place to provide direction and support to the Recreation Program for Fisher River.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the following individuals are hereby appointed by Chief and Council

to the Fisher River Recreation Committee:

- Walter Sinclair Sr.
- Dennis R. Murdock
- Colleen Amos
- Kristin Murdock
- Dave Cochrane
- Norman Stagg
- Gary Hart

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Committee will be directly responsible to the Chief and Council and shall be responsible for the following:

- To ensure well coordinated sports and recreational activities are provided to the people of Fisher River at the arena complex and within the community
- To ensure special

social and cultural events and activities are offered to the people of Fisher River in a well coordinated fashion such as winter carnival, heritage day, community picnic, treaty days, family fun days and other similar events

- To give direction to the Recreation Director and Arena Manager in their respective work areas.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this newly appointed recreation committee be given authorization to start their mandate and work effective on this day October 18, 2010 to October 18, 2011.



Your committee members:

- Walter Sinclair Sr.
- Dennis R. Murdock
- Colleen Amos
- Kristin Murdock
- Dave Cochrane
- Norman Stagg
- Gary Hart

## Many hands make light work



Photos by Erin McIntyre

### Work order update

All work orders for Social Assistance clients can contact

Rachael Murdock  
at (204) 308-0561

on evening and  
weekends.

Elders and em-  
ployed commu-

nity members can contact

Colleen Amos at (204) 308-  
0562.

Work orders will be issued for  
emergency repairs only such

as: furnace repair (no-heat in  
winter) or homes with no wa-  
ter.

These issues will be dealt with  
following an inspection before  
any work is approved.

Employed community mem-  
bers will be responsible to

pay for the cost of initial  
inspection , which deter-  
mines the severity of the  
problem.

The band will cover the  
cost of repair only if the  
repair is deemed a 'major  
repair'.



### Thank you volunteers

**T**

he success of  
our work bee  
would not have been pos-  
sible without the hard  
work of our tireless volun-  
teers.

A big thank you to the fol-  
lowing individuals on be-  
half of chief and council.

Dennis Murdock  
Alvin Amos  
Dennis (Smiley) Murdock  
John McKay  
Bob Crate

Rick Thickfoot  
Darryl Crate  
Trish Murdock  
Eli Murdock  
Brad Cochrane  
Barry McKay  
Mervin Murdock  
Darren Williams  
Larry Murdock  
Eric Bouchey  
Chester Cochrane  
Curtis Garson  
Archie Cochrane  
Becky McKay  
Jimmy McKay  
Winston Murdock  
Warren Garson

Robert McKay  
Keith Bird  
Tony Bird  
Harold (Nap) Cochrane  
Lynden Govereau  
Lawrence (Slug) Murdock  
Matilda Mallett  
Mabel Kirkness  
Evelyn Myran  
Erin McIntyre  
Rick Sinclair  
Harriet Amos  
Carman Sinclair  
John Bear

We hope that we didn't  
miss anyone.

**THANK YOU!**



**There is no "I"  
in Team but  
there is a "U" in  
volunteer!**