

Report from the Chief and Council

F I S H E R R I V E R C R E E N A T I O N

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Watershed vision project with CIER-completed
- Environmental experts share ideas with FRCN Chief and Council
- Survey about protecting river system yield positive results
- Experts craft Timeline for addressing water issues

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Learning from elders	2
Water and sewer project near completion	2
Celebrating 135 years	3
Filing Work Orders	3
Hockey lessons from a pro school	4

PROTECTING OUR RIVER SYSTEM

Fisher River Cree Nation Chief and Council have been working diligently on addressing our water issues within our river system. Since the beginning of the year, FRCN has been working with CIER (Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources) on developing a watershed vision.

Council is happy to report that the project is now complete and will be available for members in the very near future. At a recent workshop hosted by CIER hosted, with many experts in the field of environmental issues, council was able to share our unique issues in regards to the water but and listen to their experiences in protecting their environmental resources.

The experts also assisted council with a timeline on how to address our water concerns.

An important part of this timeline was the suggestion of a survey to gauge the interest of the community and gather input.

This survey, completed at the pow-wow and community culture camp, asked four questions:

1) Do you think the Fisher River is important enough to restore or protect?

2) Do you think your Chief



Child skips rocks in Fisher River
Fisher River residents vote for a restored and protected river system.

and Council should implement measures to protect our river system?

3) Do you wish that you could go swimming in the Fisher River?

4) What community do you reside in?

THE RESULTS

97 per cent respondents believed that the Fisher River should be protected and restored, while 96 per cent agreed that Chief and Council should undertake measures to protect the river system.

Of the approximately 120 respondents, 89 per cent wished that they could go swimming in the Fisher River.

The participants came from Fisher River and surrounding areas, with the two largest groups representing Fisher River and Peguis. 73 per cent of respondents were Fisher River residents, while 21 per cent came from Peguis.

As we move forward on this issue, council understands we need to continue to educate the community on being more environmentally responsible.

There is also the understanding that in order to bring this issue to the government and those communities surrounding us we need to create measures that will engage them in making contact with Fisher River.

One of which is creating a consultation policy that will create a process for governments to bring forward matters that might impact our rights, treaties and resources. These are just some of the many issues that involve water and council will continue to fight for our most precious natural resource.

L E A R N I N G F R O M E L D E R S

On August 17-19th, an estimated 160 First Nations youth from across Manitoba gathered at the 8th Annual Traditional Youth Gathering in Fisher River Cree Nation.

The annual event brings together youth and elders and promotes pride, cultural identity, personal well-being and preservation of traditional knowledge within a natural setting.

The cool weather did not put

a damper on the event as First Nation youth travelled from as far as Northland Denesuline First Nation (Lac Brochet) and Canupawakpa Dakota Nation in Southwestern Manitoba. Youth were present from all dialect regions Dene, Dokota, Ojibwe, Cree and Oji-Cree.

First Nations represented included Black River, Berens River, Garden Hill, Kinonjeohtegon (Jackhead), Long Plain, Mosakahiken, Peguis, Sagkeeng, Skownan and St.

Theresa Point.

Youth learned many traditional activities including: star blanket making, stick carving,, sweat lodge teaching, trapping, and hunting, traditional teachings on tobacco and sweet grass, medicine picking, preparing traditional foods, and the timeline of the Treaties.

Youth also enjoyed a feast with Treaty Relations Commission James B. Wilson.



Another successful youth gathering!

The Traditional Youth Gathering was amazing! Words cannot begin to describe the emotions felt and the new friends we all made. Thank you to our elders who came to help make our gathering memorable and a big thank you to the very young man whose jigging warmed up everyone for the dance floor.

- Testimonial from a participant

Evening activities focused on personal well-being and included canoeing, skeet shooting, baseball, basketball and Jiu Jitsu.

This year's event also featured a talent show with both the gathering participants and community members. First place winner Toryan McCorrister amazed the audience with his beat boxing skills.

Big Child Fireworks, independently owned by Lloyd Cochrane from Fisher River graced us

with a spectacular fireworks display. The youth also enjoyed marshmallow and wienie roasts as well as dances during the evening.

The event was coordinated by the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs Youth Secretariat and hosted by the Manitoba First Nations Youth Council.

The Elders are essential to these gatherings and we thank Elders Elsie Crate, Dorothy Crate, David Murdock, Eugene Blackbird,

George Mckay, Irene Mckay and Hendy Skywater.

Thanks to all the community members that helped out at the conference and a special thanks to Norman Stagg of the Manitoba First Nation Youth Council. Also, thank you to the summer staff of the Assembly of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs Youth Secretariat; Chloe McCorrister, Ezarah Ewanchuk and Dylan Swan for all their hard work. Fisher River was honoured to host this year's gathering!

W A T E R A N D S E W E R P R O J E C T N E A R C O M P L E T I O N

The Fisher River Cree Nation Water and Sewer servicing project is nearing completion. The new sewage treatment facility became operational at the end of July, providing and works by discharging the treated sewage into the Fisher River at a higher effluent standard than provincial and federal regulations

require, making Fisher River Cree Nation very environmentally responsible.

All of the residential service connections for the sewage system have now been completed, eliminating the use of septic fields in the town site area.

Final restoration of the community is well underway, but the recent rains have slowed down restoration efforts. It is anticipated that final restoration of all yards and community roads affected by the project will be completed by the end of September. With all of the water and sewer infrastructure operational,

Fisher River now has the core infrastructure to support new economic opportunities.

The final construction cost of the project is \$12.7 million for all the water and sewer infrastructure.

CELEBRATING 135 YEARS



Members of council take a moment with the York boat crew to re-enact the important role of the York boats in the community. 135 years ago.

It was 135 years ago that Fisher River entered in the signing of Treaty Five with the Federal Government of Canada. To mark this special occasion, Council wanted to make this year's celebration a bigger than normal event .

The celebration started off with a huge parade which had a number of inspiring floats, signifying the signing of Treaty Five.

After the parade everyone gathered at the open air hall where MC. Stan Mckay said an opening prayer and welcomed everyone in attendance. Thank you for doing a great job Mr Mckay,

Chief Crate made opening comments on behalf of Fisher River. Opening comments were also made by invited dignitaries which included AMC Grand Chief Ron Evans, MP James Bezan, MLA Tom Nevakshonoff , council representative from Norway House Nick Saunders, and Treaty Commissioner James B. Wilson.

Following opening comments, everyone was invited to the river bank where they waited for the arrival of the York boat, which signified the re-enactment of the first settlers to the place we now call home—Fisher River.

The history of the York boat also played an important role during treaty day celebrations. In the early days, York boats were used to transport food rations for distribution to the community members of Fisher River,. The boats also brought farming tools and all other supplies and good needed in the community.

Prospector tents were added as part of the scenery in the re-enactment. These tents lined the shores of the river.

After the arrival of the York boat , eve-

ryone was invited back to the open air hall for a feast catered by Loretta Lynn's and Darlene Sinclair's catering services. Entertainment included the CSS square dancers, and Christina & Issac Cocherane memorial square dancers. There was also a pow-wow demonstration put on by the youth group and Mr. Mrs John Mckay provided us with gospel music.

The presentation of gifts were also made at this time. The gifts included beautiful star blankets made by sisters, Irene Roberts and Julian Groulett.

Before the opening ceremonies came to a close the rations from the York boat were handed out to the elders and families in attendance.

The treaty day celebrations were a huge success. Special thanks to the people of Fisher River and all the visitors who came to celebrate with us.

THANK YOU FISHER RIVER!

FILING WORK ORDERS

Chief and Council would like to inform the residents of Fisher River that two staff members have been designated to handle all future work orders.

Effective immediately, Rachel Murdock and Colleen Amos will handle all calls and issues dealing with work orders.

Council has adopted this ap-

proach to ensure a more timely and efficient approach to solving problems associated with problems that may arise in houses in the community.

Rachel and Colleen can be reached at the Band Office during working hours.

In our opinion, this coordinated approach for handling work

orders will benefit the community greatly.

If you are experiencing problems to your house that you are unable to fix on your own, please contact Rachel or Colleen at the Band Office.



Prospector tents were added as part of the scenery in the York boat re-enactment.

We're on the web!
Fisherriver.com

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**For as long as the sun shines, the grass
grows and the rivers flow.**

F O R U M

Visit the Fisher River Cree Nation Forum and tell us what you think about important issues in the community.

Getting your voice heard is simple. Go to Fisher-River.com and click on the icon in the left hand column called FRCN Forums. You will be required to register as a user to access this site.

Follow the simple sign up instructions and soon you will be able to comment and offer feedback on current and important issues. You can even start new discussion topics! Spread the word and let's have an online forum!

H O C K E Y L E S S O N S F R O M A P R O S C H O O L

Fisher River Cree Nation hosted a hockey school at the Bryden Cochrane Memorial Sports Complex.

Mike Thomas professional hockey school was invited to run this year's hockey camp which ran from August 26 to August 29th.

The hockey school was made available to all the minor hockey categories from Fisher River and surrounding areas.

The camp provided both on-ice instruction and dry land training as well as individual goaltender instruction during the regular scheduled ice sessions.

There was a total of 83 participants in

the camp.

Each participant received a hockey jersey, water bottle, bag tags and a certificate.

The camp was well organized and ran very smoothly, the instructors were very good and had the attention from the participants.

A big thank you to all the ones that helped out at the hockey camp.



Participants in this year's hockey camp improved their skills and are ready for the upcoming season!