

D E C E M B E R 2 0 1 4

Community Newsletter

Acadia First Nation

Christmas on the Mersey

Acadia First Nation will be participating in the Annual Liverpool celebration known as Christmas on the Mersey on December 5, 2014.

The Christmas Tree Lighting event will begin at 6:30pm in front of Town Hall.

Members of Acadia First Nation will canoe across the Mersey River and will land near Lanes Wharf. They will light a fire and WOMEN OF THE SHORE DRUM GROUP will begin Drumming.

For more information contact Judy Boutilier at (902) 685-2956.

Christmas on the Mersey Celebration runs from December 5th – 7th with crafts shows and much more!



Christmas Dinner Dates to Remember!

Queens County – November 30th @ 4pm, Best Western Hotel, Liverpool

Shelburne Area – December 7th @ 1pm, Shelburne Lions Halls, Shelburne

Gold River Area – December 7th @ 1pm, Chester Basin Legion

Halifax Area – December 7th - @ 3:30pm, Royal Canadian Legion, 50 Hillcrest Street

Wildcat Community – December 13th - @ 2pm Community Centre

Yarmouth Area – December 14th @ 12pm, AFN Bingo Hall

Important Dates to Remember

OFFICE CLOSURE

December 12th, 2014 to January 5th, 2015

Please be advised that all Acadia First Nation offices will be closed from December 12, 2014 to January 4, 2015, offices will re-open on January 5, 2015. Answering machines, emails, mail and faxes will be checked on a regular basis.



Wildcat Community Centre

The Community Centre in Wildcat is now open! The Centre has 4 offices, a kitchen, bathrooms and the large community room and is wheelchair accessible.

New Address is 1059 Molega Road

South Brookfield, NS B0T 1X0

Telephone: (902) 682-2421

Fax: (902) 682-2409

Email: wildcat.office@yahoo.ca

Congratulations to the Wildcat Community!

The VON will be available on December 9th @ 9pm.



Gold River Health Centre

VON will be available on December 11th from 9-11am.

Firearm Safety Course at the Chester Rod and Kidd Gun Club on December 14th at 8am. Please be there by 7:45am for registration. Please remember to take your registration form and one form of government issued ID (i.e. band card, drivers license).

Andrew Francis will be available at the Health Centre on December 1st and 8th at 9am.



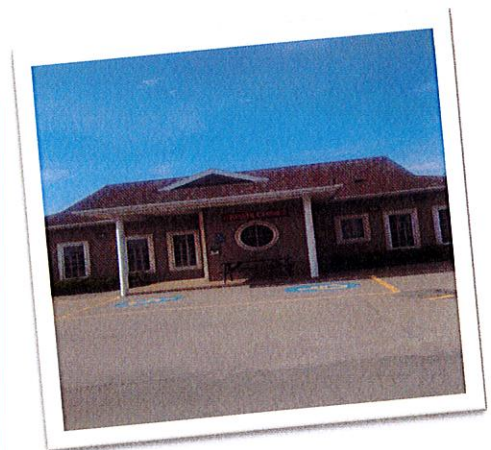
Yarmouth Health Centre

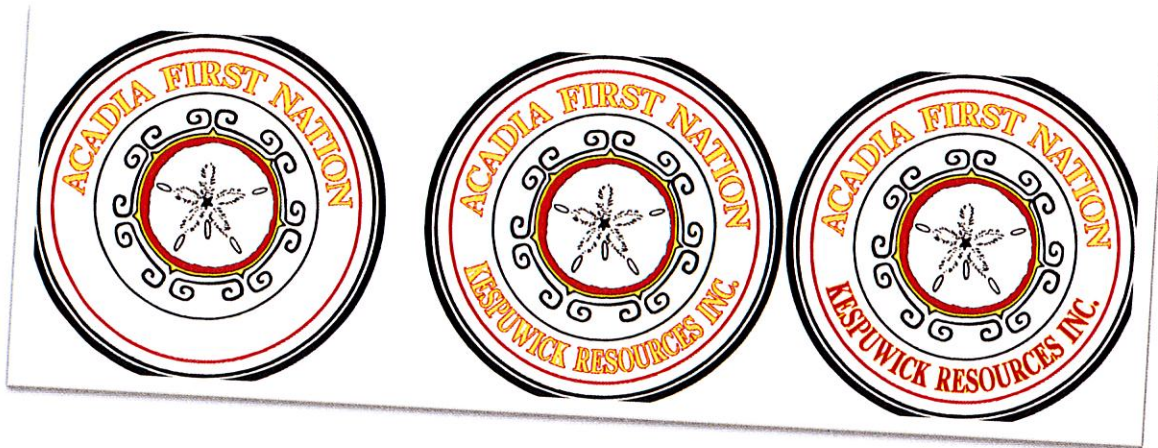
VON will be available on December 11th from 9-11am

Dentist will be available December 2nd and 9th from 8:30am-12pm.

Psychologist will be available on December 10th from 8am-5pm.

If you have any health benefit questions, please contact Marla Robinson-Pyne at 902-742-4337.





What does the Acadia First Nation logo mean?

Ed Benham designed the Acadia First Nation logo in 2002.

Beginning at the center of the logo, the elements and what they represent are as follows: the sand-dollar represents Acadia First Nation, the five points of the star on the sand-dollar represent the five reserves governed by Acadia First Nation, the red circle represents the circle of life, the yellow is the sun giving life, with the curved design around the outer edge representing seven canoes, each representing one of the seven traditional districts of Mi'kma'ki, "Mi'kmaq Territory".

Mi'kmaw Language Community Group

Are you interested in learning our Mi'kmaq Language?

Would you be interested in joining a group of other band members and learning together without an instructor?

There are so many different tools available today to help assist us with learning our Mi'kmaw Language such as social media, videos, tapes and websites.

There will be a meeting at the Yarmouth Health Centre on January 21st, 2015 from 6-8pm to discuss how we could work together to learn our language together.

For more information please contact Melanie Purdy at 902-742-5599.



Yarmouth Youth Centre

Holiday Hours: Monday-Friday 8am – 9pm, Saturday 12pm to 8pm.

Closed on the following dates: December 24th, 25th, 26th and 31st also closed on January 1st.

Regular hours for Head Start, after school and drop in programs will resume as usual on Monday January 5th, 2015.

Thursday, December 4th – In-service day NO HEADSTART, the after school program is available at 8am.

Thursday, December 18th – Last Day of Head Start and Christmas Party

December 19th – Last day of school, after school program opens at 10am.

Health Program Workshops

WILDCAT: December 3rd, 2014 11am-1pm at the Community Hall

Parent Sessions on how to better plan and feed your families plus adult vs. child responsibilities plus how food can act like medicine to help prevent disease with UNSI Nutritionist Angela MacDonald and Community Health Representative Marla Robinson-Pyne.

HAMMONDS PLAINS: December 4th, 2014 11am-1pm at the Hammonds Plains Office

Healthy Eating for Seniors: Tips to manage blood pressure, blood cholesterol and blood sugars with UNSI Nutritionist Angela MacDonald and Community Health Representative Marla Robinson-Pyne.

GOLD RIVER: December 1st, 2014 11am-1pm at the Health Centre

Must have items to place on a grocery list with UNSI Nutritionist Angela MacDonald and Community Health Representative Marla Robinson-Pyne. We will cover fat, sugar, salt and calories (adult vs. child). Angela will also bring some tips for eating over the holidays as well as some food safety around cooking your turkey.

SHELburne AREA: Darlene Coulton will be available during the following time:

December 1st from 11am-2pm in the Shelburne office to distribute Profit Sharing cheques for the ones who selected to pick up their cheque, **December 2nd** from 11am-2pm in the Shelburne office, **December 4th** – Recreation Committee meeting 12-3pm in the Shelburne office, **December 5th** Elder's Christmas Social from 11am-1pm for the Barrington/Shelburne area at Sophia's Café in the Shelburne Mall, **December 7th** Shelburne/Barrington area Christmas party, **December 8th** 1-3pm Shelburne office, **December 10th** Barrington area 10am-12pm and Shelburne 1-3pm and **December 11th** the Shelburne Office will be closing for the holidays.

Darlene wishes you all a very Merry Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year!

The House of Assembly proposed and passed Resolution No. 75 without wavier or debate that Elder Rose Morris be saluted for her life long commitment to creating awareness and understanding of her culture on October 6, 2014



A letter from Elder Rose Morris

"In regards to the Resolution proposed and passed without waiver in the House of Assembly on October 6, 2014.

I wish to thank the Hon. Denise Peterson Rafuse and the House for the recognition and addition of my name into the records for future generations.

Mi'kmaq culture, although under siege for centuries has endured; it is vibrant, alive in the eyes of our children. Our language, the key to any People's identity remains strong.

The years spent in the Residential School System as a child were difficult. It taught me many things about the human condition.

My Native Spirituality however has guided me. Meet anger with understanding, prejudice with sympathy, rage with a soft heart, and kindness with its reflection..."

Wel'a'liog,

Elder Rose Walgwasiyet (Sunset) Morris

Whynotts Wind Farm

On November 17th, 2014, Nova Scotia Bands celebrated the official launch of the Whynotts Wind Farm. This 4 mega watt project is one of two wind farms being developed by the Mi'kmaq Bands in Nova Scotia and will be officially plugged into the provincial grid on November 21, 2014 after 3 years of research, planning and development.

PROJECT BACKGROUND:

The Whynotts Mi'kmaq Wind Co. project began with the 2011 release of the Mi'kmaq Renewable Energy Strategy, by the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs (Assembly). In the strategy the opportunities inherent in large wind projects under the Nova Scotia COMFIT program were apparent. In September of 2011 the Assembly authorized the Kwilmu'kw Maw-Klusuaqn Negotiation Office (KMKNO) to investigate potential project partners and project sites.

On April 16, 2012 the KMKNO were successful in obtaining (on behalf of the Assembly) a COMFIT award for the Whynotts project and its partners. After a full year of development the Assembly developed a new corporate entity known as the Mi'kmaq Resource Development Partnership (MRDP), which took ownership of the Whynotts project, on behalf of their 13 Mi'kmaw community shareholders and are now completing the project and will run the operation for its shareholders.

Whynotts Wind Farm is located on private land, approximately 5km east of Bridgewater,

Nova Scotia. The project consists of two wind turbines that are able to generate approximately 4-megawatts; this is enough capacity to produce energy to power more than 1200 Nova Scotia homes with stable, local, renewable energy. For more information about this project including site maps please visit www.whynottswindfarm.ca/.

The MRDP is also developing a \$17 million 6-megawatts project in Amherst and is slated for completion in the fall of 2015. The MRDP is a self-reliant business partnership between the 13 Mi'kmaw communities and will strive to develop further renewable energy projects and economic development projects under the authority of the MRDP board of directors.

For further information please contact Rachel Pictou at 902-742-0257 or rpictou@acadiaband.com.



Physical Activity Program

YARMOUTH: Acadia school youth activity nights will begin on November 19, 2014. There will be a FREE drop in activity night for youth grades P-6, every Wednesday evening from 6-8pm until June (with the exception of March Break, snow days, or days without school). Activity leaders will organize games and sports for participants. This will be a great opportunity for youth to make friends, have fun, and get their recommended 60 minutes of daily physical activity! The Provincial Thrive Strategy, a plan for a healthier Nova Scotia, funds this program. Please contact the Yarmouth Recreation Office with any questions at 902-742-8868. No registration is required.

Zumba with Linda Wakerell starts December 8th at the bingo hall at 6:30pm and will run for 8 weeks.

In last months newsletter we offered 10 free one month passes to the YMCA. I will be in touch with those people who signed up in early December. There are still a few passes available. If you are interested please call Anita Howard at 902-685-2956.

There are now 3 children in the Yarmouth area taking part in the Canskate program funded by RBC.

LIVERPOOL: Chair yoga ended November 21st. Please contact Anita if you would like this program to continue through the winter.

SHELBURNE: The Shelburne recreation department will be doing a skating after school program in January/February 2015 and they are

looking into doing bowling, curling and golfing programs, but those will not be available until Winter/Spring. Available for all elementary students.

They will also be doing an Active Adventure Girls Program through after the bell in the Spring and possibly a tennis program. Both of these will be for Jr. and Sr. High School students. Anita Howard will update information when it comes in.

GOLD RIVER: 7 children are taking part in a learn to skate program at the Chester rink funded by RBC. Representatives from RBC will be at the Chester Rink on November 25th to present Acadia First Nation with a \$2500 cheque and to give the children water bottles.

Ten free one-month memberships were given out to the Oak Island Inn. Anita will be in contact with those participants in December to let you know when you can start going.

HALIFAX: Registration for free skating lessons on the oval begins December 10th. Email: skateHRM@halifax.ca or phone 902-490-2347. They also have skates and helmets that you can borrow if you do not have your own.

The online survey is now ready to access!
<http://goo.gl/vWUHYD>

As a thank you for providing your perspective, we will enter your name into 5 draws for \$50.00 Sobeys gift cards to those who participate in this survey for Acadia First Nation. The time commitment is about 20 minutes and the survey will close December 14th. The online survey is the same as the paper copy that some of you have already filled out.

Overabundance of Moose Population in the Cape Breton Highlands National Park

On November 6, 2014 there was an information session held at the Wagmatcook Culture and Heritage Centre for people to come together to discuss the overabundance of moose in the Cape Breton Highlands National Park.

Matthew Smith, park ecologist, said the population of moose in the national park has been a problem for some time. With the animals browsing and eating away at seedlings and young trees it has led to changes in the forest which affect all other forms of wildlife within the park.

In the early 1970s the spruce budworm consumed large areas of mature boreal forest in the park, creating lots of new growth. As a result, the moose population grew to numbers of almost 8000 in the early 2000s. Although there has been a decline in the moose population since then, it has not gone down enough.

Park officials have created a 4-year plan to begin restoring forest within the Skyline Trail, North Mountain and Warren Lake. Different methods will be done in each of the 3 areas.

Skyline Trail will have a small enclosure built to protect the vegetation from the moose.

Warren Lake will have a prescribed burn to regenerate the forest and small enclosures will be built to keep the moose out.

North Mountain has been proposed as the hunting site that will reduce the population of moose within a 20-kilometer radius by 90%, which would be approximately 40 moose over a two-year period. It is there hope that by reducing the number of moose in this area it will allow

vegetation to grow back. It has been proposed that they moose hunt will be a Mi'kmaq-led harvest in partnership with the Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources. The Harvest was scheduled for a December 2014 Hunt.

On November 21, 2014 Matthew Smith announced that while the plan is in the works, it is not complete and needs to be vetted by stakeholder groups before being submitted to Parks Canada for final approval.

Public meetings have been held in Pleasant Bay, Cape North and Wagmatcook and there have been some objections raised by non-native hunters who encourage planners to include them in any hunt.

Park officials are working closely with the Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources, which represent the interest of the Mi'kmaq. Supreme Court of Canada decisions have decreed that native groups have a treaty and aboriginal right to hunt and fish as a means to provide for ,their own and community needs.

While non-natives may end up being prohibited from participating in a winter hunt, they can still benefit from being hired as guides and offering other services as part of the hunt.

For more information please visit the following website: <http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn->



Yarmouth Light Decorating Contest

When: December 13th, 2014

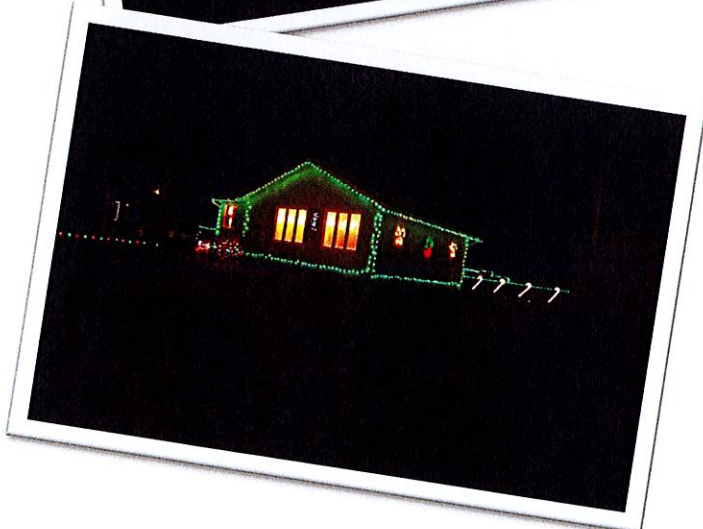
Time: Please have your lights on by 6:00pm

For Who: Yarmouth Reserve and Gardner's Mill residents.

There will be 5 prizes of \$200.00 each. Good Luck!

Categories:

1. "Christmas is for Kids" – Best decorated home which focuses on children and animation for children.
2. "WOW" – best decorated home which boasts the most "WOW FACTOR".
3. "Away in A Manger" – Best decorated home focusing on Traditional Christmas & the spirit of Christmas.
4. "Santa's Stuck in the Smoke Hole of our Tipi" – Best decorated home focusing on a Native Cultural Theme.
5. "HO!HO!HO! Lights all AGLOW!" – Best decorated home focusing on lights-color, color themes and color matches.



Interested In Becoming a Foster Parent / Family?

Mi'kmaw Family & Children's Services of N.S. is currently seeking Mi'kmaw Foster Homes in our First Nation communities and throughout the province of Nova Scotia.

Please join us for an Information Session to discuss the following:

Who should be foster parents?

Where are foster parents needed?

Who should I call?

Why should I become a foster parent?

What do I need to do?

Date: January 22, 2015

Where: Acadia First Nation Health Center, Acadia First Nation Reserve, NS

Time: To Be Determined

Pre-registering is MANDATORY

Please RSVP before January 19, 2015 by contacting
Ella Knockwood @ 1 800- 236-8686 or email: Ella.Knockwood@novascotia.ca

AFN ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE'S

NEW YEARS EVE



\$60 ADMISSION

15 regular books, 2 of each special, 2 jackpot, 6 bonanza, 2 early birds (minis), 2 warm ups.

DOORS OPEN: 1:00pm

Start Times:

Mini Games – 5:30pm

Regular Games – 7:00pm

LIMITED Handheld Packages

Includes: 15 regular books, 2 of each special, 2 bonanza, & 1 extra jackpot!!!

PRE-BOOK TODAY!!! Cost: \$40

\$1500 JACKPOT
GAME \$200 & \$250
Regular games \$300,
\$350, \$400 & \$500
SPECIAL GAMES!!!!!!

\$7,750 MUST GO!!
& DOOR PRIZES!!!!!!

DECEMBER 31st, 2014

Contact Us:

Please call us at
902-742-5501 or
902-742-7635 to
reserve your seats!!

If there is a storm that occurs, this bingo will be postponed until January 2nd, 2015.
This Event will be cancelled if there is not enough seats sold by December 19th, 2014.

NEW YEARS EVE BINGO

GAMES:

PATTERN:

PRIZE:

MINI GAMES:

1. LIME	1 LINE OR 4 CORNERS	\$50.00
2. OLIVE	1 LINE OR 4 CORNERS	\$50.00
3. BLUE	1 LINE OR 4 CORNERS	\$50.00
4. ORANGE	1 LINE OR 4 CORNERS	\$50.00
5. PINK	1 LINE OR 4 CORNERS	\$50.00
6. YELLOW	1 LINE OR 4 CORNERS	\$50.00
7. ORANGE	1 LINE OR 4 CORNERS	\$50.00
8. BLUE	1 LINE OR 4 CORNERS	\$50.00
9. BLACK	1 LINE OR 4 CORNERS	\$50.00
10. PURPLE	1 LINE OR 4 CORNERS	\$50.00

WARM UP GAMES:

1. PINK	1 LINE OR 4 CORNERS	\$75.00
2. YELLOW	1 LINE OR 4 CORNERS	\$75.00
3. ORANGE	1 LINE OR 4 CORNERS	\$75.00
4. BLUE	1 LINE OR 4 CORNERS	\$75.00

REGULAR GAMES:

1. SPECIAL GREY	TOP OR BOTTOM LINE	\$300.00
2. Regular BLUE	2 LINES OR 1 LINE & 4 CORNERS	\$200.00
3. Regular ORANGE	2 LINES OR 1 LINE & 4 CORNERS	\$200.00
4. Regular YELLOW	2 LINES OR 1 LINE & 4 CORNERS	\$200.00
5. Regular PINK	2 LINES OR 1 LINE & 4 CORNERS	\$200.00
6. Regular OLIVE	2 LINES OR 1 LINE & 4 CORNERS	\$200.00
7. SPECIAL PINK	TWO POSTAGE STAMPS	\$350.00
8. Regular RED	2 LINES OR 1 LINE & 4 CORNERS	\$200.00
9. Regular PURPLE	2 LINES OR 1 LINE & 4 CORNERS	\$200.00
10. SPECIAL WHITE	MISSING LINK	\$400.00
----- INTERMISSION -----		
11. Regular BLACK	2 LINES OR 1 LINE & 4 CORNERS	\$250.00
12. Regular AQUA	2 LINES OR 1 LINE & 4 CORNERS	\$250.00
13. Regular TAN	2 LINES OR 1 LINE & 4 CORNERS	\$250.00
14. SPECIAL GREEN	LETTER "X"	\$500.00
15. Regular BLUE	2 LINES OR 1 LINE & 4 CORNERS	\$250.00
16. Regular LIME	2 LINES OR 1 LINE & 4 CORNERS	\$250.00
17. BONANZA	FULL CARD	\$750.00
18. JACKPOT BROWN	AROUND THE FREE / AROUND THE WORLD / FULL CARD	\$250.00 / \$250.00 / \$1,500.00