



ACHIMOWIN

Buffalo Lake Metis Settlement Newsletter

Issue Date December 19, 2018
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Colossians 3:13

13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Buffalo Lake Metis Settlement Christmas Dinner



2018 Community Christmas Program

A big Thank you to Martha Joe and her team of wonderful Cooks for the amazing Christmas dinner at the Annual Community Christmas Dinner.

Hats off to Barb Daniels and her awesome team for the fantastic decorating, serving, and clean up!

Thank you to the Fire Department for helping Santa get here safely.

Thank you to all members who worked for the Christmas Work program! You all did awesome work for our community.

Thank you to staff who supervised and did your part to make this years' Christmas Program a great



Yearend Final Reports from BLMS Staff and Council Cont.



From the Administrator,

Christmas is here, and soon it will be the new year. This coming January will be one year as Administrator for our community. It has been a year of many changes with some people leaving and others joining the Administration team. While we were saddened and set back by some events, we know that the coming months will bring the rewards of hard work and determination of planning and working towards the future sustainability of our Settlement.

With guidance from our Council, Elders Council, General Council, and community committees, we strive to continue to provide our community with essential services and much needed infrastructure and housing gains.

Our team will continue to do our best to meet your needs to the best of our ability through fairness, and with transparency and accountability.

On behalf of the Staff and Council, we wish you the very best of the Christmas Season and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. May your Christmas Holidays be safe and with much laughter and Joy.



Highlights from Council

- Framework Agreement signed with the Government of Canada, December 17, 2018 on 19 articles of Reconciliation matters.
 - In March a committee of Senators visited Buffalo Lake to listen our community on our views into Reconciliation.
 - In June National Aboriginal Day Celebration held with the Mayors of Lac La Biche, Smoky Lake, RCMP, and local MLAs joined over 400 of our community members
 - In July, an Oil and Gas company tour was held with companies that have projects in or around our Settlement lands and traditional lands with the intent of developing Community Benefit Agreements
 - In November Minister Richard Feehan visited our committee to help celebrate the completion of Road C, an LTA infrastructure initiative, and to acknowledge our participation in the Alberta Climate Change programs.
 - In December, we celebrated our 80th year Anniversary of partnership with the Province.
 - Many working agreement advancements for Infrastructure and Housing, Education Monies, Student Training Monies, and Economic Development.
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Yearend Final Reports from BLMS Staff and Council



Consultation Office

The Buffalo Lake Consultation Office has had a busy year. A change in staff occurred in June of this year. As of June, the Consultation office was able to purchase a new UTV, the Polaris General to be used for site visits that are required for proponent projects on our traditional lands.

The following is also a list of activities completed this year:

Wolf Lake Culture Camp

BLMS Culture Camp

Land Use Secretariat Regional Planning sessions

Oil and Gas companies' preliminary meetings – Calgary tour

Caribou Range Planning meetings

General Development Plans ALPAC/Woodlands

Police Servicing Agreement Review

N.I.C.E Expo – Consultation Office Booth and Elders

Consultation Training - Bear Aware/PAL for members, Indigenous Mapping Conference.

The Pike 2 Devon Canada Corporation Traditional Land Use Study is nearing completion with a final report to go to Devon Canada and Council. Also, the Consultation office will be seeking participants in the spring of 2019 to take part in site visits for the West Fraser Mills 5-year General Development Plan.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the Consultation Office.



HRO/STI Coordinator Report

Tansi Buffalo Lake Metis Settlement,

I have been the HRO/STI Coordinator as of April 25th, 2018. My work involves working with Individual Sponsorships, Group Training Projects, training program development and initiatives.

To Date, December 5, 2018, the HRO/STI office has helped approximately 75 people, of these, 62 acquired their safety tickets, 10 involved resume assistance and 3 for other matters. My work also involves ensuring that our students on STI get the assistance they require. BLMS currently assists 15 students attending 5 education institutes.

****NOTE****

Please be advised, as of November 1, 2018, the Alberta Works Grant monies that Buffalo Lake Metis Settlement receives is available for non-Settlement Members who reside in the community. Each participant will be asked to provide proof of residency. Those members who live-off Settlement can access Alberta Works monies in the local community they are residing in, i.e. Edmonton, or other location.

If you have any questions please contact me at the office.

Thank you, and Merry Christmas

Priscilla Auger

HRO/STI Coordinator



Yearend Final Reports from BLMS

Staff and Council Cont.



Infrastructure Year End Report

- 1) Water Treatment Plant & Water upgrades
 - Numerous upgrades and maintenance issues were resolved this year. Items like pumps, toxic waste handling, and better water quality were maintained and established.
 - Aging infrastructure, new items needed.
 - Water Trucks – applied through the MSI Grant and will have a new Water truck in January 2019.
 - Digital Water Tracking – Due to rising cost in water control, digital water tracking was needed to address the free water situation. The Digital tracking set up is in pilot stage.
 - cleaned numerous water cisterns.
- 2) Transportation
 - Graders – Aging Infrastructure, graders needed numerous repairs, down to one grader and repair cost expensive.
 - Roads, compacted numerous roads in need of repair, only half of our goal met.
 - C-road completed.
 - Bridge File 85327, construction will commence on new Bridge on cut across road
 - New pavement for Buffalo Lake drive bridge.
- 3) Housing – Emergency home repair.
 - MSGC still in discussion with government regarding housing funding.
 - Emergency Home Repair – helped numerous members with ramps, and aging housing issues, addressed only critical and safety issues.
 - 22 new garbage bins were built for seniors and Disabled.
- 4) Landfill:
 - New Track hoe purchased through MSI Grant, needed for Garbage compaction and maintenance following government regulation, and will be used in Transportation and Fire Departments.
 - New signs installed following government regulations.
 - Water testing done and passed government regulations.
 - Negotiating with new vendors in regards to recycling.
- 5) Fire Department:
 - Assisted Community in various ways, regarding emergencies and fires.
 - A newer fire truck purchased through MSI Grant, here by February 2019.
 - TransCanada donating two fire truck pick-ups.

Overall in all departments Safety and Water priorities were number one. Aging infrastructure created many issues which could have harmed community members, such as Road cave ins, culvert collapses, electrical shortages, fire hazards, traffic hazards, and water contamination. These issues are being addressed on a daily basis, and considered in long term planning.

If you see a hazard, please Contact Jason Bourque, Infrastructure Manager
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year





Yearend Final Reports from BLMS Staff and Council Cont.



Buffalo Lake Metis Settlement Water Treatment Plant Year End Report

The Buffalo Lake water treatment plant uses Ultra filtration and Nano filtration to filter the water after chemical treatment. The final step is disinfection which is done with Sodium Hypochlorite and is injected into the water before entering the clear well. Water samples are sent to the provincial lab weekly which are collected from 3 locations for a total of 156 samples of which 99.9% passed provincial testing. We also collect samples from the two water trucks monthly and all truck samples have passed provincial testing.

For 2018; to date; 62,300 cubic meters of raw water has passed through the plant of which 30,700 cubic meters was treated, disinfected and sent out to the members homes via a distribution line or delivered by trucks. In December we implemented a new system which involves a prepay for members that haul their own water.

The water treatment plant undergoes a yearly Alberta Environment inspection to ensure that all proper drinking water guidelines and parameters are met and we passed this inspection on Oct.27, 2018. The plant is operated by both Malcolm Auger, who is certified as a level II water treatment and water distribution operator and Lance Patenaude, who is certified as a level I water treatment and water distribution operator. For 2019 we are hoping for upgrades to the older part of the plant as some of the equipment is aging and obsolete.

Submitted by:
Malcolm Auger



Greeting from Adult Foundational Learning / Family Literacy Program

Adult Literacy is simply working with Adults.

Foundational Learning:

Learning opportunities that support the development of Adult Literacy and numeracy skills, proficiency in the English language, the development of basic digital skills, and foundational life skills that enable individuals to pursue further learning, have satisfying and meaningful employment, and fully participate in society.

Foundational Life Skills:

- Oral communication skills
- Personal and interpersonal skills
- Decision – making and problem solving
- Creative thinking and critical thinking
- Self-awareness and self-assessment

Through out this year I have assisted persons with rides to do month end grocery shopping and assisting people to go and register for Library usage, or going to do tests for employment reasons eg... doing First Aide H2S, TDG these are just examples in areas I can be asset to our community.

I realize transportation has always been a big barrier to many in order to move to brighter future for yourself and family. I fill out many applications filing for EI Benefits / CPP/ Aish applications.

Triple P Programming I have certification to assist with parenting programming and have assisted person with Justice implementation and did many referrals to an appropriate area a person is seeking assistance with.

I can go on further naming all things I do these are just a few things I do. If you should require any kind of help do not hesitate give me a call at the Parent Link Centre @ 780-689-2275

With this I want to wish you all Merry Christmas and Joyous Brighter 2019 Happy New Year to one and all.

Respect

Marie Sparklingeyes



Yearend Final Reports from BLMS Staff and Council Cont.



Community Justice Program by Debbie Ladouceur

1. Interagency Meetings

- Hosted 4 interagency meetings during the year. These meetings were attended by agencies that serve Buffalo Lake Metis Settlement. Such as: RCMP, Victim Services, Probation, Metis Settlements Children Services, BLMS Fire Chief, Addictions and Mental Health, Community Health Rep, Hope Haven Outreach, Caslan School, J.A. Williams High School, Prevention and Education-Drugs and Alcohol, BLMS Cultural Program, BLMS Community Justice, BLMS Recreation, BLMS Parent Link.

2. Wellness Circles:

- We hold Wellness Circles twice a month. Members of BLMS really like the circles. We plan different topics for each one. We did Grief and Loss. This was attended by over 50 participants, we did candle making and put our loved one's picture on the candles. Everyone got a chance to say a bit about their memories of their loved one. We had a supper together and then went on a candle light walk. Other topics were having tea and cookies and just talking. We had a karaoke and food night, this was a big hit attended by about 25 people. We also did self care and Christmas decorations another one will be making Christmas cookies and sharing stories while we bake. The circles are always well attended people prove that they like these activities so we will keep on doing it.

3. Family Violence

- Hosted a couple of Family Violence workshops which had about 14-15 participants. I will do another one in the near future.
- Nutritious meal planning on a low in-come budget. Attended by 15 people. This was a very interesting workshop.

4. Bullying and Cyber Bullying

- We did this workshop at Caslan School to make sure the children attended this. One workshop was for the Junior High side and one was for the elementary side. The children enjoyed this workshop.
- We planned for two more bullying workshops for our community. For one we only had 13 participants and the other one the presenter had to cancel out.

5. Men's Group

- I have also transported 7 men to Lac La Biche on Tuesday evenings so they could participate in the 12 Step Men's Program.

6. Court

- Transported 6 people to attend court. I transport people that cannot get a ride to town to attend court this helps them to not get more trouble than they already have. I also can transport BLMS Members to anything Justice related.

7. Aboriginal Day

We had an awesome Aboriginal Day Celebration. We had Caslan School and Boyle School attend plus many many more people. My part was to help make bannock on a stick with everyone.

8. Cultural Camp

- Our Aboriginal Cultural Camp was a huge success. This is the fourth yearly cultural camp that we have had. We did aboriginal crafts, Jigging, Fiddling, and singing on a daily basis. We learned about natural medicine. Also canning berries and fruit. We had an aboriginal metis triathlon which involved making tea and bannock on an outside fire. Then served judges and ended with a red river jig. We had 5 teams. There was a men's team, a teen age team, a young girls team and a couple of mixed teams. It was amazing watching those little girls who didn't even know how to make bannock. Although they didn't win, they finished the contest. We need more of this kind of events here even if it is to teach our young people how we lived long ago.

9. Justice Committee Meetings and events

- We have had about 10 meetings during the year. We plan events that we would like to host. We did plan and host the 80yr celebrations of the Metis Settlements. We had speakers on how the Settlements came to be and on the history of Buffalo Lake Metis Settlement. We had entertainment by local members, Jigging Fiddling and Singing. This was followed by a delicious Traditional Metis Meal. In all 64 people attended.

10. Conferences and workshops attended

- I attended a disaster planning workshop.
- Attended a Women's Justice Forum
- Also attended the Justice Forum in Saddle Lake
- Attended the Restorative Justice Conference in Edmonton.



Yearend Final Reports from BLMS Staff and Council Cont.



PARENT LINK AND INTEGRATED SERVICES

The activities that we have are a great opportunity for community, and in particular families, to get together, visit and have fun. Along with the activities comes having transportation available when needed; providing adequate advertising such as social media – the Buffalo Lake and Parent Link page; making phone calls and information given through word of mouth. Then there are the planned and unplanned visits either in the home or at the Parent Link; phone calls of those who give constructive advice and those who need a listening ear. At the beginning of each month we plan a monthly calendar with various programs and activities and co-workers are given opportunity to add information they would like to share and then forwarded to the Achimowin.

With the Toddler Time we offer a get together time for young moms with babies and toddlers and sometimes older siblings depending on the situation. We also offer various parent education programs and activities which often include crafts with which participants can get quite creative. It's a time of sharing thoughts and ideas and especially a time of visiting and sharing baby ideas.

We also have a FREE STORE where anyone in the community can come and 'shop' for as much and as long as they like. We have some wonderful clothes given to us and we love being able to share them. It's been well utilized so come on in and shop and visit while you're here.

There is an open-door policy here which means you are welcome any time and there's always a cup of coffee, tea or juice available.

If you have any questions, concerns and would like to be part of our monthly planning, please let us know and call the Parent Link at 780-689-2275.

It's been a very busy and interesting year. There have been many and various activities held throughout this time.

Some of the activities were:

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| Outdoor Skating | Mother's Day Tea |
| Winter Craft Night | Family Board Game Night |
| Movie & Pizza Night | Father's Day Luncheon |
| Toddler Time | Aboriginal Day Celebration |
| Learn To Paint | Water Fun Day Fun @ P.L. |
| Ski Trip to Long Lake | Field Trip to West Ed Water Park |
| Edmonton Oil Kings Game | Wall Climbing at Portage College |
| Family Movie Nights | Summer Crafts |
| Family Matinee & Pizza | Family Fun Day & Flea Market |
| Ice Cream Days | Community Halloween Party |
| Easter Celebration @ the Gym | Toddler Time: Family Photos |
| Community Soup Kitchen | Christmas Craft, Bake Sale & Flea Market |
| Bannock Making | Carnival with special Vendors |
| Children's Craft Night (Bird Houses) | Gingerbread House Distribution |
| Introduction to Gardening | Community Christmas Craft Night |
| Teddy Bear Fair | Candy Bags distributed by Santa |
| Parent Education Workshops | |



Yearend Final Reports from BLMS Staff and Council Cont.



**Prevention & Education Coordinator
Buffalo Lake Metis Settlement
Yearly Report
Sharon Merrill**

Naloxone Training & Drug and Alcohol Awareness

I did a lot of research as to how i would conduct this program in our community. I began my research exploring through home visitations and community presentations with the general public. I also held weekend presentation with the youth, On dangers of drugs and alcohol. I did in home training sessions and community presentations on Opioids as well as Naloxone Training. Since the program started, I distributed 45 Naloxone kits to our community members. I introduced the awareness program to both Caslan and Crossroads schools based on the educational health curriculum. I continue to collaborate with other agencies for any information I require to make this program a success. My goal is to provide education and inform my fellow community members with all the vital information about the dangers associated with drugs and alcohol.



Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year

**From all Buffalo Lake
Staff and Council!!**

