



October 2025

Binnaakwe - Giizis

Falling Leaves Moon is the tenth moon of Creation. This is a time when all Creation honors Mother Earth by preparing the most beautiful colors imaginable. On the Falling Leaves full moon, leaves begin to blanket Mother Earth. The spirit of each leaf is placed upon her with the gentleness and grace that only the spirits of Creation allow. Many offerings take place from all Creation, preparing for the journey of the spirits, in the teachings of the tenth moon.

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- | New Staff at BOE
- | Harvest Feast
- | COTTEN Forest Guardians
- | E&T Training

Binaakwe-Giizis

Falling Leaves Moon

**THE ADMIN COMPLEX WILL BE CLOSED
MONDAY OCTOBER 13TH FOR THANKSGIVING**

Chippewa Transit Notice 2025

NEW SCHEDULE

Morning Run:

Bear Creek Gas Bar
Pick—7:15am

Chippewa Community Center
Pick up—7:30am

Oneida Community Center
Pick up—7:45am

Fanshawe College
Pick up—8:15am

White Oaks Mall
Pick up—8:35am

Westmount Mall
Pick up—8:55am

Oneida Community Center
Drop off—9:30am

Chippewa Community Center
Drop off—9:40am

Bus Fare: \$5.00 (one way)

Afternoon Run:

Bear Creek Gas Bar
Pick—3:45pm

Chippewa Community Center
Pick up—4:00pm

Oneida Community Center
Pick up—4:15pm

Fanshawe College
Pick up—4:45pm

White Oaks Mall
Pick up—5:05pm

Westmount Mall
Pick up—5:25pm

Oneida Community Center
Drop off—6:00pm

Chippewa Community Center
Drop off—6:10m

Bus Pass: \$60.00 (per month)

Chippewa Transit follows all Middlesex County bus cancellations

TRANSIT INQUIRIES: 226-386-6545

TRANSPORTATION@COTTFN.COM

GOOD TO KNOW

Hard copies of Council Meeting Minutes can be picked up at the band office. Alternatively, members can also request to have Meeting Minutes mailed out to them. Please direct all inquiries to Justine Doxtator at jdoxtator@cottfn.com, or by calling 519-289-5555 ext 229.

Regular Council Meetings

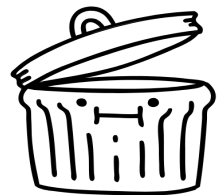
Members wanting to meet with council are requested to contact Justine Doxtator - jdoxtator@cottfn.com to arrange a time slot on their agenda.

Green Lane Landfill



Odor reports

519-652-0929



A Halloween-themed illustration for a 'Trunk or Treat' event. At the top center is a large, carved jack-o'-lantern with the words 'TRUNK OR TREAT' in a dripping, white, horror-style font. To the left and right of the pumpkin are two friendly-looking grey ghosts with pink cheeks and simple smiles. Two round, orange lollipops with jack-o'-lantern faces are positioned below the pumpkin. The background is dark with faint silhouettes of trees and a spider. In the center, a semi-circular yellow moon contains the text 'ALL TREATS, NO TRICKS' in a red, distressed font. Below the moon, three black silhouettes of children in costumes (a witch, a girl with a heart, and a boy) are walking. To the left is a black car trunk, and to the right is a black tombstone.

TRUNK OR TREAT

ALL TREATS, NO TRICKS

OCTOBER 31, 2025 | 5:30 - 7:00 PM

DAYCARE PARKING LOT
330 CHIPPEWA RD, MUNCEY
ON NOL 1YO

TRUNK OR TREAT

Big Bear Creek Trust

Chippewa Rd

EXIT

Enji-Maahtaawaad
Early Years

ENTER

OCTOBER 2025 WORKSHOP ACTIVITY LISTING

DAY	EVENT	DEPARTMENT	CONTACT
1	Quarter Bingo 18+	Health - ARC 4:30 p.m.	519-289-5641 / chendrick@cottfn.com
3	Anishinaabek Food Rights Program	Pick up 10a.m. to 12:00 p.m. or 1:00p.m. to 4p.m.	226-378-4264 / afr@cottfn.com
3	Indigenous Breast & Cervical Screening	Health - CMD 9 to 12 p.m. and 1 to 4p.m.	See Flyer
6	Children First: Safety & Protection	Justice 5 to 6:00 p.m.	519-962-8544 / asturgeon@cottfn.com
6	Anishinaabek Food Rights Program	Pick up 10a.m. to 12:00 p.m. or 1:00p.m. to 4p.m.	226-378-4264 / afr@cottfn.com
6	Water Ceremony	Treaty, Lands & Environment 9:30 a.m.	519-289-5555 / guardians@cottfn.com
7	Play and Connect	Early On-Day Care 10 to 12 p.m.	519-289-3415 / dhutton@cottfn.com
8	Euchre 18+	Health -ARC 5p.m.	519-289-5641 / chendrick@cottfn.com
9	Ladder Safety Training	Employment & Training 1 to 5:00 p.m.	519-962-8688 / etaadmin@cottfn.com
9	Ontario Disability Worker on Site	Ontario Works form 1p.m. to 4p.m.	519-438-5111 X 3193
10	Anishinaabek Food Rights Program	Pick up 10a.m. to 12:00 p.m. or 1:00p.m. to 4p.m.	226-378-4264 / afr@cottfn.com
10	Harvest Feast	AFR-Community Centre 5:00 p.m.	See Flyer
12	Hazard Recognition Training	Employment & Training 1 to 5:00 p.m.	519-962-8688 / etaadmin@cottfn.com
14	Clan Teaching & Gathering	Community Centre 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.	See Flyer
15	Clan Teaching & Gathering	Community Centre 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.	See Flyer
15	Quarter Bingo 18+	Health 4:30 p.m.	519-289-5641 / chendrick@cottfn.com
15	Anishinaabek Food Rights Program	Pick up 10a.m. to 12:00 p.m. or 1:00p.m. to 4p.m.	226-378-4264 / afr@cottfn.com
17	Anishinaabek Food Rights Program	Pick up 10a.m. to 12:00 p.m. or 1:00p.m. to 4p.m.	226-378-4264 / afr@cottfn.com
17	Learning Bundle	Justice 5 to 7:30 p.m.	519-962-8544 / asturgeon@cottfn.com
18	Point of Sale Training	Employment & Training 10 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	519-962-8688 / etaadmin@cottfn.com
20	Family Language Night	Justice 5 to 7:00 p.m.	519-962-8544 / skechego@cottfn.com
21	Sensory Craft	Early On-Day Care 10 to 12 p.m.	519-289-3415 / dhutton@cottfn.com
21	Senior Nutrition Bingo	Health	519-289-5641 / chendrick@cottfn.com
22	CMD Career Awareness Fair	Grades 7 & 8	See Flyer
23	CMD Career Awareness Fair	Grades 9 to 12	See Flyer
23	Paper Bag Pumpkins	Early On-Day Care 10 to 12 p.m.	519-289-3415 / dhutton@cottfn.com
23	Ontario Disability Worker on Site	Ontario Works from 8:30 am to 4:30 p.m.	519-438-5111 X 3193
23	Annual General Meeting	Big Bear Creek Trust 5:00 p.m.	519-289-5555 X.222 / bigbearcreek@cottfn.com
24	Halloween Party	Child, Youth, & Family Well-Being	See Flyer
27	Euchre 18+	Health-ARC 5p.m.	519-289-5641 / chendrick@cottfn.com
27	Energy Management & Leadership	Treaty Lands, & Environment-all day	548-388-9225 / c.kechego@cottfn.com
27	Solar Bingo	Treaty Lands, & Environment-all day	548-388-9225 / c.kechego@cottfn.com
28	Indigenous Community Gathering	Southwest Regional Cancer Care Program	See Flyer
28	Energy Management & Leadership	Treaty Lands, & Environment-all day	548-388-9225 / c.kechego@cottfn.com
29	Quarter Bingo 18+	Health-ARC 4:30 p.m.	519-289-5641 / chendrick@cottfn.com
29	Chippewas Youth Ambassador Gala	Community Centre 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.	See Flyer
29	Energy Management & Leadership	Treaty Lands, & Environment -all day	548-388-9225 / c.kechego@cottfn.com
30	Energy Management & Leadership	Treaty Lands, & Environment-all day	548-388-9225 / c.kechego@cottfn.com
31	Trunk or Treat	Administration Complex 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.	See Flyer
Every Wed	Well-Brierty Group	Health 5 to 7:00 p.m.	519-289-5641
Every Fri	Grief Recovery Group	Child, Youth, & Family Well-Being 6 to 8 p.m.	519-878-0165

Eshkiniigijig Radio can be heard through the following link: www.eshkiradio.com



Please join us for
Chippewas of the Thames
13th Annual

HARVEST FEAST

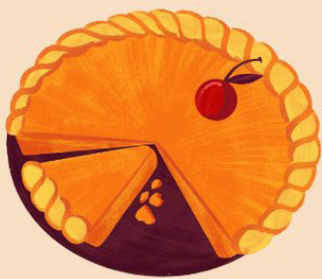
Dinner at 5:00pm

Friday, October 10, 2025

Chippewa Community Centre
328 Chippewa Rd. Muncey

Draws for Turkey dinner
baskets will be held.

Hosted by Anishinaabek
Food Rights (AFR) and
COTTEN Depts.



Big Bear Creek Trust

Annual General Meeting

Date: Thursday October 23, 2025

Dinner: 5:00 p.m.

Start: 5:30 p.m.

Where: Antler River Seniors Complex

Child Care provided. Transportation Provided. Gas Cards Provided.

Please register if you require childcare, transportation or a gas card with the Trust Administration Manager by Wednesday October 22, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. at 519-289-5555 ex. 222 or bigbearcreek@cottfn.com

Cash prizes, door prizes available to be won!

ENERGY MANAGEMENT & LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM



EMPOWERING INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES THROUGH STRONGER BUILDING CODES

FREE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

♥ Interested in learning more about Canada's National Building Code or National Energy Code of Canada for Buildings?

Join this free training session provided by ECO Canada in collaboration with Chippewas of the Thames Treaties, Lands, and Environment Energy Team. This training is open to the CMO area.

 **DATE:** OCTOBER 27 – 31, 2025

 **TIME:** 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM DAILY

 **COST:** FREE OF CHARGE

 **HOSTED BY:** ECO CANADA

 **LOCATION:** TBD


KEY TOPICS WILL INCLUDE:

- National Building Code & National Energy Code (NECB)
- Practical Application of Codes in Indigenous Contexts
- Effective Communication & Stakeholder Engagement
- Strategies for Enforcement & Compliance
- Leadership in Sustainable Development

REGISTER NOW

CONTACT INFORMATION

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER, PLEASE CONTACT:
CHANTELLE KECHEGO, COMMUNITY ENERGY COORDINATOR**

 **548-388-9225**

 **C.KECHEGO@COTTFN.COM**



Deshkan Zibiing
Chippewas of the Thames
First Nation Housing

320 Chippewa Road
Muncey, ON, N0L 1Y0
Tel: 519-289-5555
Fax: 519-289-2230
info@cottfn.com



RENTAL HOUSING UNITS FOR RENT



The Chippewas of the Thames FN is now accepting rental applications for:

1. A tiny home on Muncey Road
 - a. Monthly Rent = \$340, which includes \$15/month for water
 - b. **Occupancy Requirements** = **minimum** 1 person, **maximum** – 1 couple (2 persons)
 2. A two-bedroom unit on Chippewa Road
 - a. Monthly rent = \$415, which includes \$15/month for water.
 - b. **Occupancy Requirements** = **minimum** - 2 persons **maximum** – 3 persons
- Applications can be picked up at reception of the Administration Office during office hours, emailed if requested.
 - The successful tenant(s) will be required to pay a security deposit equal to one month's rent plus the first month's rent before move in.

Screening Requirements:

- Fit within the occupancy requirements stated above.
- Residency letter for all non-COTTFN members to be provided.
- Current income slips for two most recent pay/reporting periods (payroll, ODSP, OW, EI or Post Secondary School funding payments).
- Details of current living accommodations/conditions.
- Support letters from organizations/people providing temporary living arrangements.
- List TWO prior addresses and provide reference letters from the landlord. (Can be from family that you have lived with.)
- Details required by all occupants listed on the application – such as Age, revenue/income, membership numbers (if available).

If you have already completed an application for any previous rentals in the last six months, you can contact the Housing Department to discuss how to update information.

Deadline date to apply: October 11, 2025

Completed applications can be emailed to info@cottfn.com or dropped off at the administration office.

For inquiries, please contact Emily Kechego 519.289.5555, (x225), ekechego@cottfn.com



Posted: September 12, 2025



BIG NEWS FROM ESHKINIIGIJIG RADIO!

**WE'RE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THE
LAUNCH OF OUR BRAND-NEW WEBSITE!**



Eshkiniigijig Radio Station - is an Indigenous-led media platform that uplifts Anishinaabe voices through radio, storytelling, language, and music.

visit us at www.eshkiradio.com

Explore, Stream, Share - it's just a click away!

**You can now listen live and stay connected
to community stories - anytime, anywhere!**

**Miigwech for growing with us.
Eshki Radio - Where spirit speaks**

NOW ONLINE!

jsmith@cottfn.com



Justice Department
Chippewas of the Thames
First Nation

Family Justice Learning Bundle: Taking Care of One Another

A hands-on family learning bundle focused on wellness, culture, and connection. Learn about traditional medicines, create affirmations in Anishinaabemowin, and explore your family's strengths using fun tools like Mentimeter and build upon these connections on a monthly basis.



What Families Will Experience Together



Creating affirmations
in Anishinaabemowin



Monthly sessions with
different themes & activities



Setting wellness goals
using the Medicine Wheel



Share your voice with
interactive Mentimeter polls

Aaniish Pii: October 17th 5pm–7:30pm

Aapiish: Seniors Complex (ARC)

Register with Alyssa: asturgeon@cottfn.com

Questions? Call or email below



(519)962-8544



skechego@cottfn.com



Justice Department
Chippewas of the Thames
First Nation

COTTFN Members:

**We're here
to
support you!**



*Do you need clarification,
guidance, or help breaking
down legal language?*

The Justice Department offers a dedicated email service for community members who have questions about court orders of any kind.

How it Works:

- ✓ Send any questions about a court order by email to Justicedepartmentinquiry@gmail.com
- ✓ We will review your inquiry
- ✓ We will be in touch for next-steps

**AAMBE!
ANISHINAABEMADAA!**

**LET'S GO SPEAK THE
LANGUAGE!**



Justice Department
Chippewas of the Thames
First Nation

Anishinaabemowin Family Language Night

AANIISH PII: October 20th

AANIISH PII: 5PM-7PM

AAPIISH: Chippewa Community Centre

DINNER AT 5PM!

GAMES

DOOR PRIZES

A fun family night
learning the language,
playing games, and a
delicious meal catered
for you and your family!

No registartion required!
Drop in!
Questions? Email
skechego@cottfn.com



CHILDREN FIRST: SAFETY & PROTECTION CONTINUING TO BUILD THE FAMILY RESOURCE



OCTOBER 6TH



5PM-7PM ✦ DINNER AT 5



CHIPPEWA COMMUNITY
CENTRE



Register with Alyssa Sturgeon
asturgeon@cottfn.com

WHAT TO EXPECT

Participants will explore simple ways to keep children safe and supported in everyday life. The learning bundle will cover how to notice when a child may need extra care, understand common challenges, and build practical strategies for home, school, online, and the community. Through activities and open discussion, participants will share ideas, contribute to a future family resource, and leave with helpful tools and greater confidence in supporting children's safety and well-being.

KEY FOCUS AREAS

- Explore common challenges that affect children's safety and well-being
 - Discover practical strategies to support children at home, online, and in the community
 - Take part in hands-on activities such as creating safety plans for real-life situations
 - Join an open discussion on responding with care when children reach out for support
 - Contribute ideas that will help shape a future community resource for families
- "When we put children first, we build safer, stronger communities for everyone."*

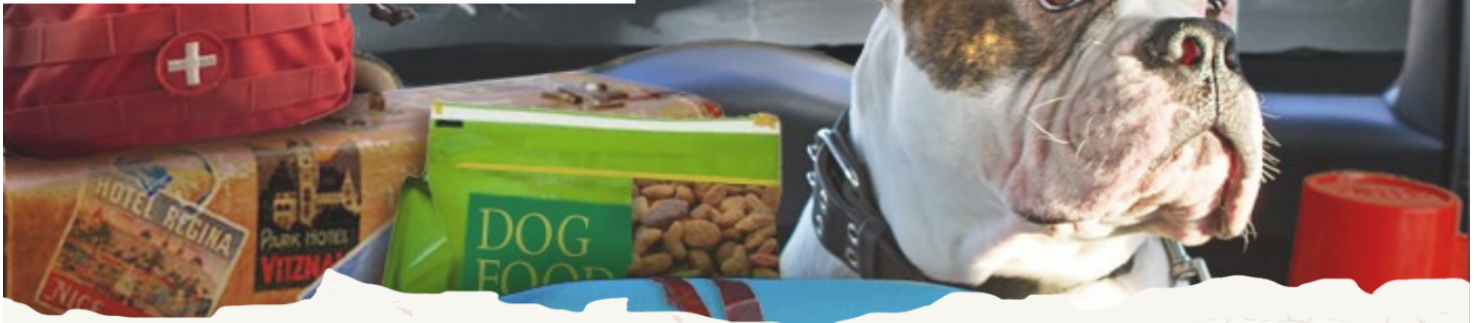


Justice Department
Chippewas of the Thames
First Nation

Questions? Email Sydney: skechego@cottfn.com



Justice Department
Chippewas of the Thames
First Nation



PREPARING FOR EMERGENCIES PETS AND SERVICE ANIMALS

PLAN FOR EVACUATIONS

- The best way to protect your pet in an emergency is to bring it with you. Most evacuation shelters will only accept service animals.
- Make a list of where your pet can be taken in case you need to evacuate. This list can include:
 - Hotels that accept animals even during emergencies
 - Boarding centres and animal shelters
 - Animal clinics
 - Family members and friends



Be sure to include pet supplies in your 72 hour preapredness kits! This includes enough food and water (4L/ day per average dog)

DURING AN EMERGENCY

- Keep your pet inside during severe weather. Animals are very sensitive to sudden changes in temperature and often isolate themselves when scared. Never leave a pet outside or tethered during a storm.
- Separate cats and dogs. Keep smaller pets such as hamsters away from larger animals. Stress can lead to unusual behaviour.
- If you must leave your pets in the house, do not tether or cage them. Leave a sign in the window and a note on the door indicating what animals are inside. Provide water and food in timed dispensers. Leave toilet seats up.

HAVE QUESTIONS? REACH OUT!

✉ gcloud@cottfn.com

☎ (519) 488-5057 Ext.407

CMO Communities

Indigenous Breast AND Cervical Screening Day

Please join us at the Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital in a private and supportive day of breast mammography screening and cervical screening.

CMO WOMEN

BREAST SCREENING: AGE 40-74
CERVICAL SCREENING: AGE 25-69

WHAT TO EXPECT?

Each session we will have health professionals give short presentations on the cervical screening, mammography and FIT testing prior to getting their screening.

A great opportunity to ask questions from health professionals in a supportive and private setting. Cervical screening will be done by the Midwives of Middlesex and Area (MOMA).

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2025
9 am - 12 pm | 1 pm - 4 pm

**TRANSPORTATION & LIGHT
REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED**

**PRE-REGISTRATION
IS REQUIRED**

TRADITIONAL TEACHINGS

Traditional knowledge on women's health will be offered by a Knowledge keeper/Elder.

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TO REGISTER:

CHIPPEWA

Call Connie French at
Chippewa Health Centre
519-289-5641 ext. 231

ONEIDA, OTHER FIRST NATIONS & URBAN

Call Kathy Rowe at Oneida Health Centre
519-652-0500 ext. 817

South West
Regional Cancer Program
Ontario Health (Cancer Care Ontario)

Middlesex Hospital Alliance

MOMA
Midwives of Middlesex & Area





Deshkan Ziibiing Guardians

Water Ceremony for Deshkan Ziibiing

*Join us in Honouring The Water
Monday October 6th*

*Ceremony with Cheryl Riley
9:30 - Meet at Band Office and we
will head over to location together*

*Please wear skirts .
Questions? please email
guardians@cottfn.com*



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact your local
health care centre



**3RD
ANNUAL**



CMO DIABETES CARE *Gathering*

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2025

From 10am-3pm

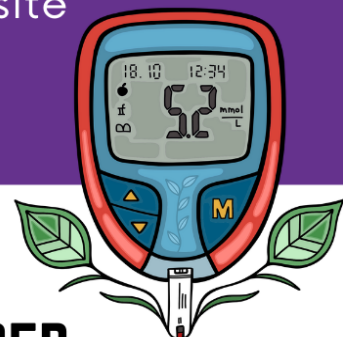
Hosted by Oneida Nation of the
Thames

Oneida Community Centre

2017 Ball Park Rd, Southwold, ON
N0L 1W0

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- ✓ Health fair, drop-in style event
- ✓ Browse and collect swag from educational booths
- ✓ Enter door prize raffle
- ✓ Diabetes and eye health screening on-site



REGISTRATION NOT REQUIRED



*Marley Fisher,
Community Dietitian*

Will be on maternity leave
starting Sept 19th, 2025

Congrats Fisher-Thomas Family



Marley Fisher, Paul Thomas,
& Presley Thomas



Waaxaweew
(wock-eh-weh) Sunflower
grown in MDN won 2nd
place in the Western Fair's
tallest sunflower contest!



Bwaa-bnaajchigeng aawan egiiyakwang mshkiki

“Harm reduction is good medicine”

If you or someone you know is using, it is important to do so safely. It keeps you, the people close to you and the community healthy. Please contact the Outreach team.

Have you got questions about naloxone? How to use it? What is it for? Naloxone kits are available for pickup and delivery.

If you are interested in Naloxone training for yourself, family, staff? We can facilitate.

Ready for a change? There are options! If you or someone you know would like to explore a change on their path lets take a look at doing so together.

Sexual health effects the wellbeing of ourselves and those around us. Left unattended STI's (sexually transmitted infection) and STBBI's (sexually transmitted blood borne infection) can be destructive to our health. We can help you get connected to testing or with safe sex gear.

Harm reduction equipment, safe sex gear, naloxone, traditional medicines are available to all CMO. Pickup at Chippewa health center or contact us for delivery.

Lets spread nothing but love!

Cultural Harm Reduction Outreach Team

emilian@cottfn.com / 519-289-5641 ext. 230 / 226-386-3176

Indigenous Communities Gathering

THE CANCER JOURNEY:

**Cancer Screening & Prevention, Traditional
Medicines, Survivorship and the Continuum of Care**

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

8AM- 4:30PM

Oneida Community Centre

2017 Ball Park Rd, Southwold ON, N0L 2G0

***BREAKFAST AND REGISTRATION BEGIN AT 8AM ***

This event will be recorded for future viewing

JOIN US FOR THIS FREE EVENT

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

RSVP Online or Scan QR code

Mileage reimbursement not provided



For more information or to register over the phone :

Lisa Jackson, Program Coordinator
South West Regional Cancer Program
519-685-8500 ext 77037



Antler River Seniors Program **October 2025**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Quarter Bingo 5-7pm	1 Lasagna soup with garlic bun Activity- Ghost Garland	2 3	4
5	6	7 Burrito bowl Activity: Spooky coloring	Euchre 5-8pm	8 Chicken & rice soup & buns Clay ghost tealights	9 10	11
12	13	14 No lunch	Quarter Bingo 5-7pm	15 Meat loaf & scalloped potatoes Congregate Dining	16 17	18
19	20	21 Nutrition Bingo Bacon cheeseburger tortellini & bun	22 Euchre 5-8pm	23 Mini English muffin pizzas & BBQ chicken wings Activity: Spooky Garland	24	25
26	27	28 Hamburger gravy with garlic mashed potatoes Activity: Moon dough	Quarter Bingo 5-7pm	29 No Lunch	30 31	

EVENTS

- Monthly Events**
- Euchre 5:00-8:00pm
 - Quarter bingo 5:00-7:00pm
 - Congregate Dining 5-6pm
 - Nutrition Bingo 3rd Tuesday from 1-3pm Monthly Events Cont'
- Activities will follow lunch on Tuesday and Thursday
 1-3pm Program Menu Notes
- And this is offered every Tuesday and Thursday
 Congregate Dining happens on the 3rd Thursday of the month

Chippewa Seniors Program

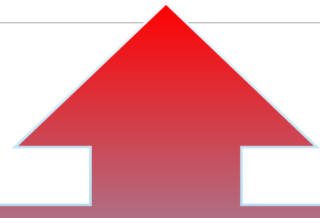
October Programs at the Antler River Seniors Complex



Quarter Bingo
5:00pm-7:00pm



Euchre
5:00pm-8:00pm



October 1st, 15th, 29th, 2025

Door will open at 4:30, and potluck will start.
Bingo will start at 5:00pm SHARP

Players must be 18+.

Space is limited to 50 players



October 8th, & 27th, 2025

Doors will open & Potluck will start
at 5:00pm.

Euchre will start at 5:30 SHARP

Must be 18+ to play

If you have any comments or concerns please contact
Courtney Hendrick at 519-289-5641 ext. 228

COMMUNITY SWEAT LODGE

September 11th, & 18th
October 9th & 16th

5-9pm

Behind Antler
River Elementary

Co-ed sweat, bring ribbon skirt, shorts,
towel, tobacco.

Come as you are, CMO welcome

Facilitated by: Albert Doxtator



Deshkan Ziibiing

Chippewas of the Thames
First Nation Health Centre

Cultural Harm Reduction Outreach team

Call 226-386-3172 for more info

Jordan's Principle



What is Jordan's Principle?

Jordan's Principle was created to ensure that First Nations children do not experience delays or disruptions due to jurisdictional disputes, as tragically happened to Jordan River Anderson. Jordan was a First Nation child that passed away in the hospital while governments argued over who was responsible for paying for his at home care because of his First Nation status. Jordan's Principle ensures that children receive the services and supports they need without delay. To access funding, a request must be submitted to Indigenous Services Canada for approval.

What Can I Request?

You can request any item, services or supports that your child needs in relation to Health Services, Educational Services, or Social Services. In early 2025 there were changes to the implementation of Jordan's Principle which restricted service eligibility, and caused persistent delays resulting in reduced access to crucial supports. Applications are being submitted, however applications are not guaranteed to be approved. If your child requires support, please reach out.

What is Needed?

To begin the request process we will need to complete an intake, receive written consent, obtain a letter of support and other additional documentation needed to support your request. Once the information is received a request will be sent to Indigenous Services Canada for a funding decision. If a request is approved we can help your children access the approved supports. If a request is denied we can assist in the appeals process.

What is the Eligibility?

A child under the age of majority in their province or territory (18 in Ontario) can access Jordan's Principle if they permanently reside in Canada and if the child meets **one** of the following criteria:

- Is registered or eligible to be registered under the Indian Act.
- Has one parent or guardian that is registered or eligible to be registered under the Indian Act.
- Is ordinarily resident on reserve.
- Is recognized by their Nation for the purposes of Jordan's Principle.

Jordan's Principle

Chippewas of the Thames First Nation Health Centre



322 Chippewa Rd, Muncney ON



519-289-5641

2024 to 2025 Fiscal Updates

Overview of individual applications staff supported between
April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025

858

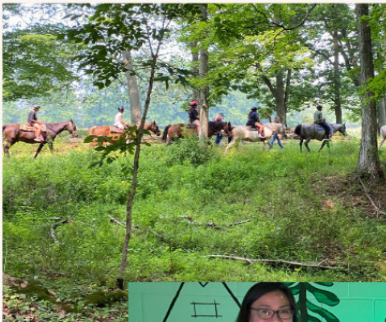
Children Supported

- 858 First Nation children were approved items, services, and supports through individual applications.
- Top 5 supports requested and approved: food support, clothing support, furniture/appliances, rent support/arrears, and transportation.

1.7M

Funding Spent on Children

- COTTFN Jordan's Principle processed \$1,773,008.52 in payments for approved items, services, and supports through individual applications.
- Top 5 most funded supports: emergency accommodations, food support, rent support/arrears, transportation, and allied health services.



Additional Supports Provided

- Referring children and their families to existing community, provincial and federal supports.
- Specialized services for children at Enji-Maaajtaawaad Early Years (physiotherapy, occupational therapy etc.) for children 12 and under.
- Youth mental health services and programming (on the land activities, ranch socials, etc.)
- Antler River Elementary School items and programming (Snoezelen room, graduation, moccasin making, etc.).



Jordan's Principle Staff

Jordan's Principle Navigator Katharine - khopkins@cottfn.com



Jordan's Principle Supervisor Beth - bethyoung@cottfn.com





Deshkan Ziiibiing
Chippewas of the Thames
First Nation Employment
and Training

HAZARD RECOGNITION TRAINING

WORKSITE
safety

COMMUNITY TRAINING

Employment & Training will be offering ONLINE Health and Safety & Hazard Recognition training to get members ready for casual work with the roads dept. This Hazard Recognition Course will guide you through all aspects of workplace hazards, from Slips, Trips and Falls to Fire and Electrical Hazards.

Space is limited to 2 people. Register today!

Monday, October 13th

at Portable-2 beside the Chippewa community center from 1:00pm-3:00pm

Training includes:

- Laptop provided for training
- Average Duration: 1 Hours
- Digital & Printable Certificate
- Plastic Proof Of Training Card Included
- Unlimited Exam Attempts
- Accepted Across Canada
- Self-Paced. Available 24/7
- Permanent Record of Training
- User Management Tools Available

HOW TO REGISTER: ETADMIN@COTTEN.COM OR 519-962-8688

****PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR NAME, PHONE#, STATUS#****



Deshkan Zibiing
Chippewas of the Thames
First Nation Employment
and Training



LADDER SAFETY TRAINING



WORKSITE safety

COMMUNITY TRAINING

Employment & Training will be offering ONLINE training Any person working at elevations is required to be trained in fall protection safety. Worksite Safety's universal Fall Protection Certification program has been developed in accordance with federal and provincial legislations as safety training for workplaces across Canada

Space is limited to 2 people. Register today!

Friday, October 10th

at Portable-2 beside the Chippewa community center from 1:00pm-3:00pm

Training includes:

- Laptop provided for training
- Average Duration: 1 Hour
- Digital & Printable Certificate
- Plastic Proof Of Training Card Included
- Unlimited Exam Attempts
- Accepted Across Canada
- Self-Paced. Available 24/7
- Permanent Record of Training
- User Management Tools Available

HOW TO REGISTER: ETADMIN@COTTFN.COM OR 519-962-8688

****PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR NAME, PHONE#, STATUS#****



Deshkan Zibiing

Chippewas of the Thames
First Nation Employment
and Training

POINT OF SALE TRAINING

Goodwill
Career Centre

Community Development

Join us for an interactive event where you'll learn all about handling POS systems like a pro!

Whether you're new to the job or looking to brush up on your skills, this in-person training session at the London Goodwill Career Centre is perfect for anyone wanting to improve their cash handling abilities.

Space is limited to 10 people. Register today!

Saturday Oct 18th, 2025

at Goodwill Career Centre.
10:00am-12:00pm

Training includes:

- Logging into the software and initiating a sale
- Looking up products and customers in the system
- Completing transactions and processing various payment types
- Transportation Provided - Transit Bus leaves E&T office at 9:15am

HOW TO REGISTER: ETADMIN@COTTFN.COM OR 519-962-8688

****PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR NAME, PHONE#, STATUS#****

A women's healing journey

**This 8 week session will meet
every Thursday.**

If you are carrying heaviness because of a loss of a loved one. If you have been having feelings of depression, anger or fear. Please join us in a safe space where we will share and listen.

Supper & transportation provided

**Starting September 25th at the
ARC**

**Contact Cynthia Tribe for more
information.**

519-878-0165



Anishinaabemowin Word of the Day

A Anishinaabemowin word/phase will be posted each day of the week.

Virtual

Videos will be posted throughout the month.

Play & Connect:

*Registration is required. Lunch is provided.

Wegonesh: Handprint Leaves

Aapiish: Enji-Maaajtaawaad Early Years

Aaniish pii: Tuesday October 7th, 2025

Time: 10am - 12pm

Wegonesh: Sensory Craft

Aapiish: Enji-Maaajtaawaad Early Years

Aaniish pii: Tuesday October 21st, 2025

Time: 10am - 12pm

Wegonesh: PaperBag Pumpkin

Aapiish: Enji-Maaajtaawaad Early Years

Aaniish pii: Thursday October 23rd, 2025

Time: 10am - 12pm

Wegonesh: Scarecrow Craft

Aapiish: Enji-Maaajtaawaad Early Years

Aaniish pii: Thursday October 30th, 2025

Time: 10am - 12pm



Maamwi Gindaasdaa

Wegonesh: Book: Animals of Canada Box Set

Aapiish: Enji-Maaajtaawaad Early Years

Aaniish pii: Friday October 3rd, 2025

Time: 8am

Note: 15 Books will be available on a first come, first served basis only.

SLCP

*Registration is required.

Wegonesh: Parent & Tot Swim

Aapiish: 585 Bradley Ave, London

Address: 327 Quaker Ln, Middlesex Centre

Aaniish pii: Monday October 6th & 20th, 2025

Time: 10am - 11am

Come out and play! Join me for interactive sessions that promote learning through play, creativity, and social interaction. Whether it's arts and crafts, storytime, or outdoor games, there's something for everyone! Bring your little ones to explore, learn, and make new friends in

Odaminodaa

*Registration is required. Supper provided.

Wegonesh: Floor Hockey

Aapiish: MDN Community Center

Aaniish pii: Thursday October 2nd, 2025

Time: 5pm - 7pm

Wegonesh: TBA

Aapiish: Enji Maaajtaawaad Early Years

Aaniish pii: Thursday October 9th, 2025

Time: 5pm - 7pm

Activity Kits

Wegonesh: TBA

Aapiish: Enji Maaajtaawaad Early Years

Aaniish pii: Thursday October 16th, and Tuesday October 28th, 2025

Time: 8am

Note: 15 Kits will be available on a first come, first served basis only.

Family Outings

*Registration is required. Limited Spots.

Wegonesh: Play Away

Aapiish: 2469 Aviation Ln, London

Aaniish pii: Monday October 14th, 2025

Time: 10am

Wegonesh: TBA

Aapiish: Enji Maaajtaawaad Early Years

Aaniish pii: Saturday October 25th, 2025

Maamwi Jiibaakwedaa

*Registration is required.

Wegonesh: TBA

Aapiish: Enji Maaajtaawaad Early Years

Aaniish pii: Wednesday October 22nd, 2025

Time: TBA

Anishinaabemowin with Russ

*Registration is required. Supper provided.

Wegonesh: Learning Anishinaabemowin (Crafts, Activities, Songs & Stories)

Aapiish: Enji Maaajtaawaad Early Years

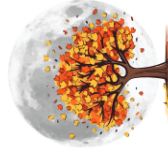
Aaniish pii: Wednesday October 1st, 8th, 15th & 29th, 2025

Time: 5pm - 6:30pm

Contact: Amanda Hutton

Address: 330 Chippewa Rd., Muncey

Tel: 519-289-3415



Niizhwaaso giizhgaad	Ntam giizhgaad	Niizo giizhgaad	Niizho giizhgaad	Niiwo giizhgaad	Naano giizhgaad	Ngodwaaso giizhgaad
			1 Anishinaabemowin with Russ 5pm - 6:30pm Play-doh Making	2 Odaminoda MDNCC 5pm - 7pm Floor Hockey	3 Maamwi Gindaasdaa Animals of Canada Box Set / 8am	4
5 	6 SLCP Parent & Tot Swim 10am - 11am 	7 Play & Connect Handprint Leaves 10am - 12pm	8 Anishinaabemowin with Russ 5pm - 6:30pm Turkey Craft 	9 Odaminoda MDNCC 5pm - 7pm TBA	10 Virtual Program Song/Book	11
12	13 Closed for Thanksgiving 	14 Family Outing Play Away 10am	15 Anishinaabemowin with Russ 5pm - 6:30pm Pumpkin Carving 	16 Activity Kit: TBA 8am	17 Virtual Program Song/Book	18
19 	20 SLCP Parent & Tot Swim 10am - 11am 	21 Play & Connect Sensory Craft 10am - 12pm	22 Maamwi Gindaasdaa TBA	23 Play & Connect Paper Bag Pumpkin 10am - 12pm	24 Virtual Program Song/Book	25 Family Outing TBA
26	27 Virtual Program Song/Book 	28 Activity Kit: TBA 8am	29 Anishinaabemowin with Russ 5pm - 6:30pm Candy Pots 	30 Play & Connect Scarecrow Craft 10am - 12pm	31 	
<p>Our programs are for families with children 0-6 years of age.</p> <p>Programs are by registration only, drop in are not available at this time. Miigwech!</p> <p>Contact: Amanda Hutton Address: 330 Chippewa Rd., Muncey Tel: 519-289-0584 Email: ahutton@cottfn.com Facebook: Enji Maajitaawaad Child & Family EarlyON</p> <p>If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call, or email me. Miigwech!</p>						

HOSTED BY ONEIDA NATION OF THE THAMES



23RD ANNUAL ABORIGINAL YOUTH CAREER AWARENESS FAIR

Oneida Community Centre
2017 Ballpark Rd, Southwold, ON, N0L 2G0

OCTOBER 22, 2025
GRADES 7-8

OCTOBER 23, 2025
GRADES 9-12

Registrations submitted by September 26,
2025 will receive a hoodie!!!

Registration due by: October 3, 2025

No late registrations will be accepted

All registered
participants
will receive a
swag bag

Lunch and snacks will be provided

A list of confirmed vendors will
be posted at a later date



Please contact your local First Nation Employment
& Training office to register

Vendors, please contact: shaolin.antone@oneida.on.ca

First Nations:

Aamjiwnaang First Nation * Caldwell First Nation * Chippewas of Kettle &
Stoney Point * Eelūnaapeewii Lahkéewiit * Munsee-Delaware Nation * Oneida
Nation * Walpole Island First Nation

Tyanna Soucy

Secondary Student Advocate

Where you can reach me

324 Chippewa Road.
Muncey ON.
(519) 289-0261 ext-201
tsoucy@chippewa-ed.on.ca



4 SEPTEMBER 2025

Deshkan Ziibiing
Chippewa of the Thames First Nation
Gagige Gikinomaagoziwin
Board of Education

Dear Chippewa Families and Community Members,

Aanii, Boozhoo! Introducing myself as the new Secondary Student Advocate for the Chippewa of the Thames Education Board fills me with great happiness and appreciation. I am incredibly honored to be a part of this welcoming and kind community, and I am looking forward to helping and supporting the staff, students, and families.

I am Anishinaabe Kwe from Atikameksheng Anishnawbek First Nation and part of the Makwa (bear) clan. My home territory extends from the valley of the Vermillion River eastward to the valleys of the Wahnapiatae and Sturgeon River. I graduated in 2024 with a double major in Criminology and Sociology at Western University, and I am now completing my Master of Professional Education in Leadership in Indigenous Education.

I have had the joy of working with Indigenous youth for a number of years through advocacy, culturally-based programs, and mentoring. I most recently worked at Western's Indigenous Student Centre, part of the Office of Indigenous Initiatives as a Community Enhancement Coordinator. During my time there I helped students navigate their academic, personal, and cultural paths while fostering a strong sense of community. My passion to walk beside Indigenous students and make sure they feel empowered, respected, and supported in their schooling has grown as a result of these experiences.

My goals as a Secondary Student Advocate is to foster trusting relationships with students, families, and schools while establishing welcoming and safe environments for our young people to thrive. I'm committed to giving students a voice, supporting them academically and personally, and assisting them in achieving the variety of options that are open to them.

In the coming weeks, I look forward to meeting many of you in person. Please feel free to introduce yourself, share your thoughts, or simply say hello. I truly value the wisdom and experiences of the community and I am here to listen, learn, and support.

Miigwech for your warm welcome. I am excited for what lies ahead and proud to be serving as your Secondary Student Advocate with the Chippewa of the Thames Education Board.

Sincerely,
Tyanna Soucy



Deshkan Zibiing

Chippewas of the Thames
First Nation Gagige Gikinomaagoziwin
Board of Education

320 Chippewa Road
Muncey, ON, N0L 1Y0
Tel: 519-289-5555
Fax: 519-289-2230
info@cottfn.com

September 12, 2025

The post-secondary program deadline for Fall 2025 was May 1, 2025, and we received so many applications that we are not accepting applications at this time. I am sorry to deliver this unfortunate news. We will be accepting applications on May 1, 2026, for Fall 2026. I am providing a list of possible education funding sources.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES

We'd like to encourage you to explore alternative sources of financial assistance to support your educational goals. Some options to consider include:

1. www.Thunderbirdtrust.ca – COTTFN Individual Benevolent Category.
2. www.cottet.ca – COTTFN Employment and Training
3. Scholarships and Grants: Many external organizations offer scholarships and grants based on a variety of criteria, such as academic achievement, field of study, and community involvement.
 - a. www.Indspire.ca
 - b. www.Aandc.gov.ca/bursaries
 - c. www.scholarshipscanada.com
 - d. Defund.ca – Dream Catcher Fund
 - e. Future Generations Fund - <https://www.fgfoundation.ca/granting/how-to-apply>
 - f. Bank of Canada - https://careers.bankofcanada.ca/job/Scholarship-Award-for-Post-SecondaryStudents/590758617/?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAYnJpZBExckJDOUtvTDFMcXVaNTlyZQEeDWkKq7mPFAj4JWNEK6a2mTY4G1j7GB6Lc9mpcCpZxRI9C8bYrQA4KrSHE4_aem_6VQ1QVx0GDqLd4KdSILMQA
 - g. Anishinabek Nation 7th Generation Grant - <https://www.an7gc.ca/>
4. Student Loans: Federal and private student loans can provide necessary funding. Be sure to review the terms and repayment options. OSAP provides grants and loans.
5. Work-Study Programs: These programs allow students to work part-time while attending school, providing both income and valuable work experience.
6. Institutional Aid: Contact the financial aid office at your chosen institution for information on other funding opportunities they may offer.

If you require assistance with the applications, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Debbie Dolson

Post-Secondary Counsellor
Deshkan Zibiing
Chippewas of the Thames First Nation
Gagige Gikinomaagoziwin
Board of Education
324 Chippewa Road
Muncey, ON
N0L 1Y0
Cell: 519-282-1463
T: 519-289-0621 X 205
F: 519-289-0633
Email: ddolson@chippewa-ed.on.ca



Deshkan Zibiing

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Board of Education

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Fax: 519-289-2230
info@cottfn.com

September 10, 2025

Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians,

Re: Post-Secondary Information & Career Exploration Events

I am pleased to share information about upcoming post-secondary and career exploration events taking place in our area. These events are designed to support students and families in exploring career pathways and identifying the college or university that best suits their goals. Representatives from a variety of institutions will be available to answer questions about programs, admission requirements, financial aid, and campus life.

I would like to especially highlight the **Aboriginal Postsecondary Information Program (APSIP)** event on **Thursday, November 13, 2025, from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Antler River Elementary School**. For more details, please visit www.apsip.ca. This event brings together Indigenous recruiters from colleges, universities, and polytechnics to help Indigenous learners connect, explore, and discover post-secondary opportunities.

I look forward to supporting you and your student as they plan their educational journey.

Sincerely,

Debbie Dolson

Post-Secondary Counsellor
Deshkan Zibiing
Chippewas of the Thames First Nation
Gagige Gikinomaagoziwin Board of Education
324 Chippewa Road
Muncey, ON
N0L 1Y0
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Board of Education

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Fax: 519-289-0633
Ddolson@chippewa-ed.on.ca

COTTFN Post-Secondary Program

Fall 2025 Post-Secondary Recruitment Dates

<p>Ontario Universities Fair September 27 & 28, 2025 9:30 am to 5 pm, daily Metro Toronto Convention Centre, www.ouac.on.ca</p>	<p>Ontario Universities Regional Fair London: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm Western University Student Recreation Centre 1151 Richmond St., London, ON www.ouac.on.ca</p>	<p>Ontario Universities Virtual Information Sessions 2 virtual sessions: Tuesday, September 16, 6 to 8 pm and Monday, November 10, 5 to 7 pm www.ouac.on.ca</p>	<p>Western University Fall Preview Day Sunday, November 16, 2025 www.uwo.ca</p>
<p>Ontario College College Information Program (CIP) tour TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2025 Fanshawe College - London Campus 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. www.ontariocolleges.ca</p>	<p>Fanshawe College Open House Saturday, October 25, 2025 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. www.fanshawec.ca</p>	<p>Aboriginal Postsecondary Information Program (APSIP) Thursday, November 13, 2025 5:00 PM to 8:00 pm At Antler River Elementary School. www.apsip.ca</p>	<p>Debbie Dolson Post-Secondary Counsellor Deshkan Zibiing Chippewas of the Thames First Nation Gagige Gikinomaagoziwin Board of Education 324 Chippewa Road Muncey, ON N0L 1Y0 Cell: 519-282-1463 T: 519-289-0621 X 205 E: ddolson@chippewa-ed.on.ca</p>



Deshkan Zibiing
Chippewas of the Thames
First Nation Ontario Works

328 Chippewa Road
Muncey, ON, N0L 1Y0
Tel: 519-289-5621
Fax: 519-289-3013

Anishinabek Food Rights (AFR) Program

The \$5.00 restocking fee will be due on the day of pick up.

DATEs AND TIMES for October's Pick-Up.

Friday, October 3rd
Monday, October 6th
Friday, October 10th
Wednesday, October 15th
Friday, October 17th

Pick up times are from:
10:00am-12:00pm & 1:00pm-4:00pm

PLEASE NOTE

******Seniors' delivery will be on Wednesday October 8, 2025. Please make sure that you sign up with an AFR staff member *******

At this time, we would like to send warm wishes to Ryan on her maternity leave and we are hoping this time will be filled with joy, love and beautiful memories for her and her family. Ryan will be returning from her maternity leave around the same time next year, 2026.

To contact the AFR department please call 519-289-5621 EXT. 251, or the cell phone at **226-378-4264**, the cell phone will still be monitored from Monday to Friday between the hours of 8:30am to 4:30pm or you can also email AFR applications or inquires to afr@cottfn.com.

PLEASE NOTE THE NEW EMAIL ADDRESS.

Please register ahead of time in order to receive a food basket through the AFR program. If your application is not in before the pickup dates, you will may receive a food basket until the next pickup day. If you apply on a later pick up day, please be aware that all items may not be available.

For those that have registered and do not have a ride to pick up food basket please, call, email or text letting us know someone is picking up on your behalf.

Must be a Chippewa band member and only one food hamper per household due to limited funding available.





October, 2025

Ontario Works staff are available through the office number at 519-289-5621 or their office cell phones. Extension and cell phone numbers for staff are as follows; Jana Kechego ext. 221 or cell # 519-868-0376 for Elizabeth Grosbeck ext. 223 or 226-268-5225 for Kristen Hendrick ext. 224 or cell # 519-281-6284.

We are sad to announce that Tracy French has resigned as the Ontario Works Receptionist and her last day will be October 10th. Tracy was a valuable part of the AFR and Ontario Works team and will be sadly miss. We would like to wish her well in all of her endeavors.

At this time, we would again like to send warm wishes to Ryan on her maternity leave and we are hoping this time will be filled with joy, love and beautiful memories for her and her family. Ryan will be returning around the same time next year, 2026.

To contact **AFR**, please contact above phone number at 519-289-5621 Ext. 215 or AFR cell # 226-378-4264 or through email at afrcottfn.com.

Please keep phone calls and texts between the hours of 8:30am to 4:30pm from Monday to Friday. If calls or text are received after hours or on weekends they will be returned on the next business day.

PLEASE NOTE*****

1. Sherry Steuer, Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) Caseworker will be here in the office on the following dates;
 - October 9th from 1:00-4:30pm
 - October 23rd from 8:30am–4:30pm (Sherry will not be available from 12:00-1:00pm for lunch)

If you need to contact Sherry outside of these dates, you can reach her by phone at 519-438-5111 Ext. 3193.

2. Ontario Works has a Transitional Support Fund (TSF) to help with emergency housing repairs, appliance repairs, moving costs, heating and/or hydro costs. You do not have to be an Ontario Works client to qualify for TSF but you do have to reside within Chippewas of the Thames First Nation in order to be eligible for TSF. TSF is unable to help with major repairs or repairs to homes that are in an estate. Maintenance and repairs to homes in estates are the responsibility of the Administrator or Executor of the estate. For low-income clients, please contact Jana Kechego to make an application.

3. **If you are experiencing a pest infestation in your home and need the assistance of an exterminator, please call the office to request the benefit for service. Please do not attend the office in person until treatment of your home has been fully completed by an exterminator.**

Office closures and when staff is out of the office for October, 2025:

- Office Closed October 13th for Thanksgiving
- Office Closed October 22nd and 23rd for professional development (tentative)
- Kristen Vacation – October 16th, 17th & 24th
- Liz Vacation – October 10th & 24th
- Jana Vacation – October 6-10



A Festive Ramble from the Crossroads

*Wonder and mysteries and marvels strange
Rain on us thick as leaves in brown October.
—Barton**

Autumn frequently meets us with a duet of contrasting emotions. The vivid foliage, rich harvest, and cozy hearths produce feelings of awe, gratitude, and comfort. Yet it is against such idyllic backdrops that the strangest mysteries often reside. As we witness the falling leaves and feel the winter approaching, the cycle of life becomes strikingly apparent. Perhaps it is because of this cyclical seasonality, and what it implies for our own lifecycle, that the most beautiful time of year is so strongly associated with spookiness, demise, and supernatural qualities. It is then altogether fitting that during this time of year we should explore an oddity in our own neck of the Longwoods.

There are many tales, mysteries, and ancient traditions which can be found in the area known as the Long-woods. This once heavily wooded corridor follows along the Thames River through the peninsula separating Lakes St. Clair, Huron, and Erie. From the trove of curiosities found in this region, we shall explore a historical peculiarity which begins at a familiar setting for frightful tales: an unassuming crossroads.

The village that sits at the crossroads of Longwoods Road and Melbourne Road, now called Melbourne, Ontario, has gone through several name changes in the last couple of centuries. Of all the names given to the modest settlement one stands out for its foreboding and devilish namesake. For a brief period in the 1880s the village was known by the name *Wendigo*, after the gruesome spirit from Algonquian tradition. As with the fearful beast itself, a great deal of mystery and excitement surrounded this choice of name, and in an attempt to untangle this curious case we shall delve deeper into the history of this humble village.

Precise information on the original Indigenous name(s) for Melbourne, Ontario is relatively scarce, but one of the first recorded European names for the village might suggest First Nations activity. The Old Fort, among the oldest English names for the village, hints at a possible tribal village or outpost. There is no question that the “Indian trails” through the Longwoods served an important transportation role in the centuries preceding the arrival of Europeans.

In the late-18th century British interest in the region increased, and the paths which would eventually form Longwoods Road saw an uptick in European traffic, carrying dignitaries and miscreants alike. These pathways also saw their fair share of action in the War of 1812, with sections of trail being widened and adapted for military use.

In 1822, the Indentured Longwoods Treaty was signed between representatives of the British Crown and the Chippewas of the Thames and Bear Creek. With the Treaty in place, the British began settling the 580,000-acre tract and establishing townships within. By the early 1830s a small European settlement had taken shape in the Old Fort, adjacent the northwest corner of the Chippewas of the Thames Reserve.

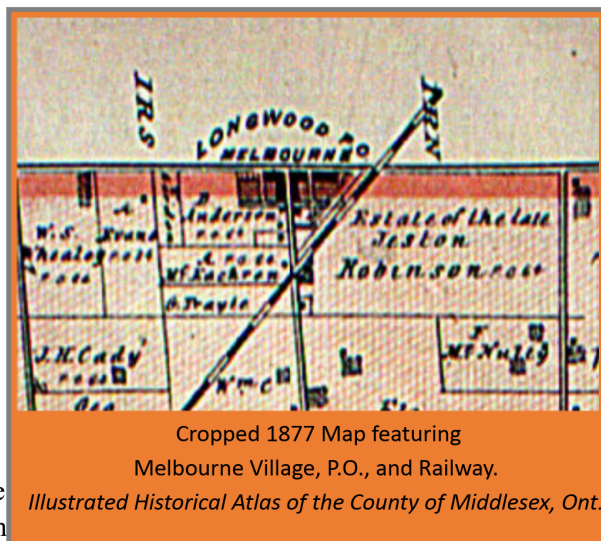
**The opening paragraph of the novel 'The Baldoon Mystery' by Neil T. McDonald. The poetic stanza is attributed to an author identified only as Barton. The actual origin of this quote is uncertain, presenting a mystery onto itself.*

By 1833, a fledgling village stood at the crossroads, featuring a tavern and store. In 1837, the Ekfrid Post Office was established slightly to the north of modern Melbourne. The post office was named for the larger township which then administered the smaller settlement. In 1857, the name of the post office was changed to Longwood, and in the following year the village was renamed Melbourne. It is not exactly clear how the villagers arrived at the name Melbourne, but its name was likely borrowed from the Australian city, itself named in honour of William Lamb, the Second Viscount Melbourne.

With its new name established, the village of Melbourne began to grow in population and importance. A railway station was opened in 1872, connecting the village to the Canadian Southern Railway (CSR) line. This was not, however, the first rail station in the area, as some 16 years earlier a Great Western Railway station was established about 2 miles to the north in the settlement called Longwoods.

The relationship between the Melbourne and Longwoods villages is difficult to untangle. The villages seem to have had overlapping names for their infrastructure and may have been mistakenly interchanged at several points in the historical record. These two villages, with their overlapping nomenclature, have long been a point of confusion for local historians.

Confusion aside, one such local historian has stated that it may have been the northern railway station which first bore the name Wendigo.



It is uncertain when the name Wendigo entered the regional European vocabulary. Likewise mysterious is *why* this name resonated so strongly with the villagers in the mid-to-late 19th century. Several local newspapers in the 1880s attributed the name to Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's 1855 epic poem *The Song of Hiawatha*, a work inspired by Anishinabek traditions and stories. In his poem Longfellow generously translated the word 'Wendigoes' to mean giants.

Longfellow's poem was indeed popular in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Though other spirits are mentioned frequently, 'Wendigoes' appear only once in the entire poem. It seems somewhat odd that the name could be solely credited to a passing literary reference, when the village neighboured a longstanding Chippewa community. Though likewise speculative, I would like to present an alternative hypothesis. In my preferred version of events the name was introduced to the villagers by one or more trickster Chippewas, who presented the name Wendigo as auspicious, knowing well its ominous nature. Perhaps something like this could have happened not out of malice or spite, but as a humorous dig at their gullible neighbours.

As referenced before, a Wendigo is a frightful spirit from Anishinabek tradition, but what exactly is the nature of this beast?—Well, there are several interpretations. The Wendigo is often said to be an embodiment of gluttony and excess. Traditionally they take the form of a humanoid beast, or a spirit that takes possession of a person. Scholar Carol Edelman Warrior, of the Niniichik Village Tribe in Alaska, stated that traditional interpretations of the Wendigo relate to the following: "...a person or spirit who terrorizes other creatures through deception, confusion, isolation, and especially, through insatiable [cannibalism]." Warrior has also explored how such a concept can relate to the suffering of Indigenous peoples under colonialism.

Other scholars, such as John Borrows from the Chippewas of Na-wash First Nation, take a more legalistic approach to the Wendigo. Interpreting the beast in legal and ethical terms. According to Burrows, “Windigos can also be institutions or individuals who selfishly cannibalize our social, emotional, economic, or environmental infrastructure.” Such people or creatures, according to Burrows, can require legal intervention and healing from a community. There are, of course, many other interpretations of the Wendigo put forth by scholar and knowledge keepers. However, these examples demonstrate that although there is a range of interpretations, the Wendigo is almost always associated with forms internal or external wickedness.

As wide-ranging as definitions of *Wendigo* can be, it is unlikely that any definition provides a desirable namesake for a small country village (or any village for that matter). Nevertheless, it appears that by the 1870s the spectre of the Wendigo hung over Melbourne and the surrounding area.

It was during this time, 1878 to be exact, that an unexplained and destructive inferno tore through the settlement causing extensive damages. According to the memoirs of Melbourne resident Laura Petite, the fire destroyed the original village. A local historian named Esther Beattie corroborated this, stating, “[the fire] nearly wiped out the old village completely.” The cause of the fire is not known, but perhaps originated from railway sparks, a barn fire, or another such human error. Whether this event was brought upon by Wendigo-bewitchment is a matter exceeding the expertise of a local historian. However, the episode may raise some eyebrows amongst those more mystically attuned.

Evidently, many of the villagers did not understand the fire to have resulted from an ill-omened hex, as they slowly but surely rebuilt the village in the following years and even changed the official name of the settlement to Wendigo in 1881. A contemporary newspaper article described the new name as an “enigma”, before suggesting the Longfellow hypothesis. The name change was immediately met with controversy from the villagers. A so-called “anti-Wendigo party” emerged amongst the villagers who desired to return the name back to Melbourne.

By early 1882, the post office and telegraph office had taken the name Wendigo, but the CSR station held onto the Melbourne designation. The anti-Wendigo party petitioned the CSR not to change their name, but were met with some opposition from those who thought a unified nomenclature would better facilitate business. The debate between these factions presumably continued over the next several years. Although any recorded public discourse around the naming controversy seems to be lost to history, until the latter years of the decade.

Throughout the early-to-mid 1880s, the village officially bore the name Wendigo, Ontario, and the village’s infrastructure reflected this eerie epithet. In a twist of irony, fit for the pages of macabre fiction or dark comedy, several sources recorded the establishment of the “Methodist Church of Wendigo”, which opened its doors in the autumn of 1886. By this time the township boasted a population of over three hundred, and amongst these residents were some who wished to reassess the village’s uncanny name.



Despite many of the villagers, including the devout Christians, seeming to embrace the Wendigo designation, the town's ghoulish name was ultimately as ill-fated as the victims of the beast itself. In the spring of 1887, calls to return the village's name to Melbourne once again appeared in the public record. In the summer of 1887, Wendigo resident Henry Harvey created a petition to return the village's name back to Melbourne. Notwithstanding the opposition of some villagers, that year the post office moved into the village proper under the name Melbourne and the village readopted its earlier name. To this day the village bears the name Melbourne, Ontario, and according to the 2021 Census of Canada is home to just shy of 1,100 citizens.



Photograph of Melbourne bank robber, William Murrel, tied to phone pole (1923).

Melbourne, Ontario, Canada: A Split Village at a Crossroad (pg. 54)

Although the township seems to have civilly accepted the 1887 name change, the Wendigo-Melbourne affair was not the only excitement experienced at the ordinarily quiet crossroads. In April of 1921, the village gained firsthand experience with the so-called Public Enemy Era of criminality. A gang of four outlaws performed a bloody armed robbery on the Melbourne bank and attempted a ruthless escape. At least one villager was killed in the fray. Thankfully, the violent thugs ultimately proved no match for the townsfolk, who formed an armed posse, captured three of the robbers, and tied them to telephone poles. The men were arrested, tried, and sentenced to be hanged. Two of the convicts eventually had their sentences commuted to life in prison. The fourth perpetrator escaped, and his true identity was never revealed.

A notable occurrence following the robbery, was the apprehension of one of the bandits in a village barn. An unarmed Oneida man named Wilfrid Danford is said to have used his, "keen Indian tracking skills" to find the robber in the barn covered in hay. Assuming Wilfrid was armed the outlaw dropped his gun. Wilfrid is then said to have grabbed the man and threw him out of the barn window into a crowd of righteously indignant townsfolk.

In the spirit of the season, and on a much lighter note, this article has room for one final historical account from the crossroads. On November 8, 1923, Melbourne hosted a Halloween Ball, possibly the first of its kind in the village. The decorations were orange and black and the orchestra were dressed as clowns. A prize of \$2.00 was awarded to the best male and best female costumes, and to the best male and female dancers. The best female costume was awarded to a woman dressed as Martha Washington, and the best male costume was awarded to a man dressed as a Spanish cavalier. An honourable mention was also given to a lady wearing a pierrette costume (a stock character from the European pantomime tradition).

That concludes our exploration of strange stories from the unassuming crossroads of Melbourne, Ontario. A glimpse into how a humble village can mysteriously adopt the most fabulously sinister of names, only to return to something more familiar. Melbourne, Ontario, a hardworking agricultural town, which experienced horrible tragedies, exhibited resilience and heroic bravery, and was also an early adopter of modern Halloween traditions. Hopefully this article has provided some insight into how the most unassuming of places can have a fascinating history. On that note, we at the Treaties, Lands, and Environment Department wish you and your families a pleasant autumn season and a Happy Halloween!

Cheers,
Brandon Graham, Treaty Research Coordinator

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Note to Future Researchers:

- Archival railway maps from the Elgin County Archives (or elsewhere) could assist greatly in developing a timeline for township/infrastructure name changes. Time simply got away from this researcher.
- Historically, Post Office name changes required a petition to be sent to the Postmaster General in Ottawa. These petitions are held at Library and Archives Canada, but the original petitions for Melbourne/ Wendigo are yet to be found.

Chippewa Ice Time

at Mt Brydes Arena



Beginning October 5th

Sundays 3pm to 6pm

Pucks and Sticks for last hour

✓ 5-6pm ✓



343 RICHMOND STREET ELDERS LOUNGE

MEDICINE WHEEL

Addictions and Recovery

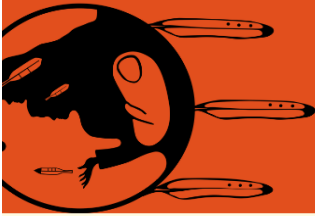


Join us starting
September 8th,
in the Elder's lounge
for open discussion
group of recovery
5:30-7PM
Refreshment and light
snack will be provided



ATLOHSA

FAMILY HEALING SERVICES



Maureen Bulbrook OCL
Joyce Soney, Legal Aid



LEGAL INFORMATION SESSION

Maureen Bulbrook Ontario Childrens
Lawyer, speaking on their role for
children in our court systems.

If your in family court or the justice
system with your children, this
would be the session for you!

Joyce Soney Speaking on Legal Aid

October, 6, 2025, 1pm-3pm

343 Richmond St

Elders Lounge

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT

Stacey Puyenbroek Cultural Justice Worker
spuyenbroek@atlohsa.com

Fall Fasting Camp



Wed, Oct 8 – Sun, Oct 12, 2025

Important: If you're going out for 1-4 nights, please gather for a teaching and potluck on **Sat, Sept 13th from 3-6PM**. Helpers welcome, too.

477 Deer Dodem Road, Muncey



Deshkan Ziibiing Nimkii Binesi SunDance
nbzaswan@gmail.com

Ontario Trillium Foundation  Fondation Trillium de l'Ontario

An agency of the Government of Ontario
Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

*We acknowledge support
from the Ontario Trillium Foundation*



FOOD TRUCK

FRIDAY'S



JULY 25
AUG 22
SEPT 19
OCT 24

ROLLING IN
WITH THE
REAL FLAVOUR

11:00 AM - 10:00 PM

JDT First Energy Veterans Memorial Fields
10 Bear Creek Road, Melbourne, ON

UPDATED AFR APPLICATION

CHIPPEWA ANISHINAABEK FOOD RIGHTS APPLICATION

Personal information provided on this form is kept confidential. Only statistical information will be reported.

Please Print Clearly

Part A: General Information

Please Circle One

Male/ Female

On Rez/ Off Rez

Age Group:

18-24

25-35

36-45

46-55

56-64

65+

Date: _____

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____
Street City Postal Code

Phone No: _____ Email: _____

Band #: _____

Part B: Additional Household Members

Please lists all dependent adults and/or child(ren) within your household.

IDENTIFICATION MAY BE ASKED TO BE SHOWN AT TIME OF PICK UP

Spouse/Dependent(s) Name:	Age:	If you require any of the following items, please circle
1 _____	_____	1. Feminine Products
2 _____	_____	2. Tooth Brush
3 _____	_____	3. Tooth Paste
4 _____	_____	4. Deodorant
5 _____	_____	5. Depends - Please Circle Mens or Ladies
6 _____	_____	
7 _____	_____	List any dietary restrictions (Food Allergies):
8 _____	_____	_____

Please circle 3 items if baby items are needed also please list diaper and pull ups sizes needed; Diapers size _____, Pull-ups _____, Wipes, Form Formula, Baby Cereal, Baby Snacks, Baby Body Wash, Baby Lotion

Part C: Financial Overview Information.

Please identify your monthly income by checking the appropriate box(es):

____ Ontario Works
____ Disability-WSIB
____ ODSP
____ Student

____ Other (Please Specify:)
____ Employment Income
____ Employment Insurance
____ Old Age Security

Part D: Eligibility Criteria

1. THIS IS OPEN TO ALL CHIPPEWA MEMBERS ON & OFF RESERVE REGARDLESS OF INCOME

2. A \$5.00 re-stocking fee payment is required before pick up of basket
3. Last day of pick up that is posted will be the last day to pick up any food baskets
4. Only **one** food basket per household, per month due to limited funding available

Office Use

____ \$5.00 Paid _____:Initial Date of Pick Up: _____ Initial: _____



Deshkan Zibiing
Chippewas of the Thames
First Nation

**The Mazinigan is published monthly by the
Communications Department.**

**To submit a community posting please send it to
newsletter@cottfn.com or drop off at the band office
front desk.**

**Postings must be community-centric; not business
advertisements or political.**

**For inquiries please reach out to Shadia Ali,
Communications Officer at sali@cottfn.com.**

Falling Leaves Moon Prayer

**Falling Leaves Moon, I offer my tobacco and humble myself to you
for what you have shown me. I ask that I may sit and absorb,
though my eyes, the miracles of Creation unfolding in front of me.
Nookomis, I hear the sounds of my heart beat with every passing
moment becoming more spirit than human. Once again, my
spiritual energies are awakened, in this union of the Falling Leaves
Moon. I ask forgiveness for what I do not speak of and the things
I have forgotten. So I may be able to respect myself more then
next time we meet, in the time of the Falling Leaves Moon. Until
then, for all that I am, Miigwetch.**