



# MAZINIGAN

**MARCH 2026      Ziisbaakdow Giizis - Sugar Making Moon**

**Sugar Making Moon is the third moon of Creation.**

**This is a time when new life begins to show itself and providemedicinesfromallCreationforpurification. The sugar maple is one of the medicines that the Creator has given us to balance our blood, within the season of spring. It is a stong medicine that, along with the other plants, roots and herbs, carry the spirit of healing within.**

**For this we acknowledge that we are forever thankful.**

## **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

**| WINTER COMMUNITY UPDATE**

**| DODEM (CLAN) TEACHINGS**

**| MARCH BREAK DAY CAMP**

**| TRADES UP! SKILLED TRADES**

**| DEV CORP INFO SESSION**

**| COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENTS**

**| NUTRITION PROGRAM**

**| HOCKEY TOURNAMENT**



ARNOLD LAVERNE  
ALBERT

On behalf of the Albert family, we would like to extend a heartfelt Chi Miigwech to everyone in our community who supported us as we celebrated the life of Arnold Albert.

We are deeply grateful to all who donated, to the speakers who shared meaningful words, to the fire keepers who tended the sacred fire, and to everyone who offered condolences, stories, and comfort. Your kindness, generosity, and the strength of community that surrounded our family during this difficult time will never be forgotten.

We are truly humbled and thankful for the love and support you have shown us.

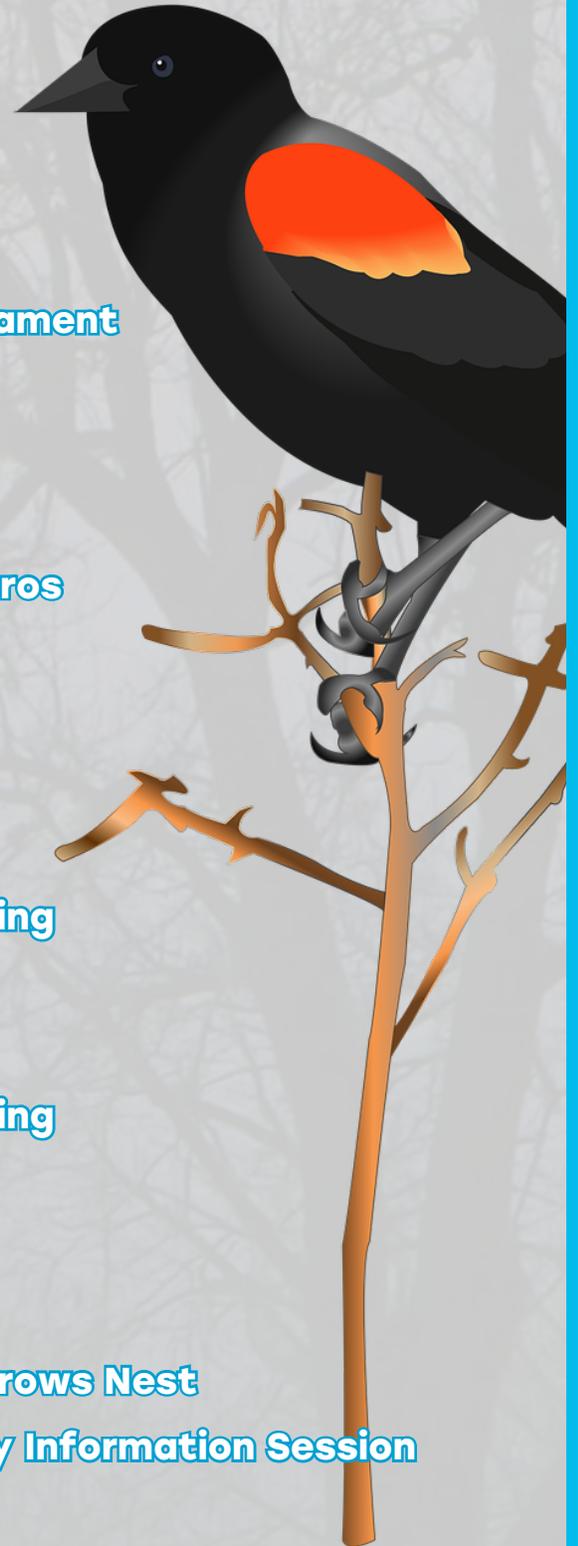
With sincere gratitude,  
The Albert Family

# Ziisbaakdow Giizis

## Sugar Making Moon

### MARCH EVENT ACTIVITY LIST

DAY	EVENT
2	AFR Food Basket Pick-Up
3	Soup Competition
6	Winter Community Update
6	Standing Stone School Hockey Tournament
9	AFR Food Basket Pick-Up
9	Dodem (Clan) Teachings & Gathering
10	Dodem (Clan) Teachings & Gathering
10	TradesUp! – Guest Speaker: Forbes Bros
11	AFR Food Basket Pick-Up
11	Regular Council Meeting
13	AFR Food Basket Pick-Up
16	March Break Day Camp Start
18	Fall Protection & Ladder Safety Training
19	March Break Day Camp End
19	Horned Serpent Teachings
19-20	Fall Protection & Ladder Safety Training
20	Healthy Balance – Nutrition Program
23	Resume Workshop
24	Regular Council Meeting
25	Building Healthy Relationships with Crows Nest
26	Development Corporation Community Information Session
28	Safe Food Handling Training
31	Community Engagement Sessions



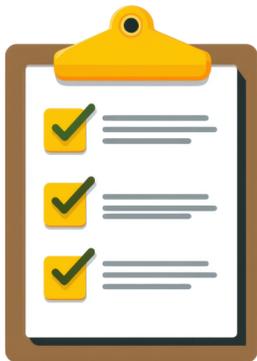
## GOOD TO KNOW

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](mailto: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](mailto:jdoxtator@cottfn.com) to arrange a time slot on their agenda.

## Life changes? Let us know!



If there's been a birth, death, change of address, or name change, please contact the Membership & Estates Office to keep your records and contact information up to date.

**Beulah Kechego**, [beulah@cottfn.com](mailto:beulah@cottfn.com)  
**Skloud Riley**, [sriley@cottfn.com](mailto:sriley@cottfn.com)  
519-289-5555



**Deshkan Ziibiing**  
Chippewas of the Thames  
First Nation Membership  
and Estates

## Green Lane Landfill

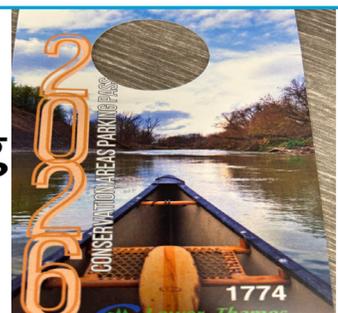


## Odor reports

**519-652-0929**



Lower Thames Valley  
Conservation Areas Parking  
Passes are available at the  
Band Office



# OGIMAAKAAN Aaniish enkamgak?

March 2026 Chief and Council, What's happening?



## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETINGS

- **Wed, March 11, 1PM**  
Regular Council Meeting

- **Tues, March 24, 5PM**  
Regular Council Meeting

*Everyone is welcome to attend these in-person meetings*

## SAVE THE DATES

- **SPRING COMMUNITY UPDATE**  
**Thurs, May 28th, 5PM**  
London - Location TBD
- **SUMMER COMMUNITY UPDATE**  
**Thurs, Aug 27, 5PM**  
Pow wow grounds (*weather permitting*) **or** Antler River Seniors Complex
- **FALL COMMUNITY UPDATE**  
**Thurs, Nov 26, 5PM**  
London - Location TBD

## COUNCIL AGENDAS AND MINUTES

- Council agendas are **finalized on the Friday** before the meeting and posted at the band office.
  - If you would like to be on the agenda, a "Notice of Intent" form needs to be submitted in advance. The form can be found at the band office or requested from Justine Doxtator, [jdoxtator@cottfn.com](mailto:jdoxtator@cottfn.com), 519-289-5555 x229.
- Printed copies of council minutes are currently available at the band office. Electronic copies can be requested via Justine Doxtator, Executive Assistant, [jdoxtator@cottfn.com](mailto:jdoxtator@cottfn.com)

# OGIMAAKAAN Aaniish enkamgak?



**March 2026** Chief and Council, What's happening?

## WINTER COMMUNITY UPDATE

**NEW DATE: FRIDAY, MARCH 6TH (5-8PM)**  
**NEW LOCATION: COMMUNITY CENTRE**

(rescheduled from Feb 26th)

Chief and Council invite all community members to join us for our first Winter Community Update.

These **new quarterly gatherings** are an opportunity to come together, share a meal, and hear directly about the work underway across Council portfolios. We will provide updates on mandates, governance priorities, and progress within our child-centric framework that guides decision-making for present and future generations.

This is a space to listen, learn, and stay connected to the direction of our Nation. We look forward to gathering with you. A light meal will be provided.

For those unable to attend, follow-up materials will be shared so everyone can remain informed.

# DODEM (CLAN) TEACHINGS & GATHERING

Facilitated by Knowledge Keepers  
Richard Assinewai & Chop Waindubence  
from Anishinabek Nation.

Over two days, we will deepen our  
understanding of:

- The Anishinaabe worldview
- The Dodem (Clan) system
- Traditional leadership roles & responsibilities
- How clan-based governance can guide the future direction of our Nation

**March 9 & 10, 9AM - 4PM**

Chippewas of the Thames

Community Centre

(breakfast & lunch served both days)

**\* registration required as space is limited**



<https://forms.office.com/r/mDu2Lj7T7W>

Questions? Please reach out to [comms@cottfn.com](mailto:comms@cottfn.com)



**Deshkan Ziibiing**  
Chippewas of the Thames  
First Nation



# Deshkan Ziibiing Development Corporation

## COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION

We invite all Chippewas of the Thames members to join a session to learn:

- How the new Development Corporation helps build Nation-owned wealth and economic independence
- How we are learning from past challenges
- How this work benefits us and future generations

This is an opportunity to ask questions, hear the facts, and be part of the conversation.

# Thurs, March 26

Antler River  
Seniors Complex

6:00 PM

All Citizens welcome.  
We will begin with a light meal.

For more information:

Kodi Chrisjohn-Deleary  
Stakeholder Relations  
Manager

kodi.deleary@cottfn.com  
226-919-7160

*\*Presentation materials will be shared afterwards for those interested.*



**Deshkan Ziibiing**  
Chippewas of the Thames  
First Nation

**Save  
the  
Date**

Anishinaabe'aadziwin

**ZIIGWAN**  
SPRING

**Artists**

**MARKET**

**Saturday, May 2**

**10 am to 3 pm**

Community Center, COTTFN

Vendor info: [keriley@cottfn.com](mailto:keriley@cottfn.com)



**Deshkan Ziibiing**  
Chippewas of the Thames  
First Nation Employment  
and Training

# MARCH

03 / 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13 FREE Internet use day	14
15	16	17	18	19 Fall Protection Training	20 Ladder Safety Training	21
22	23 Resume + Cover Letter Workshop	24	25	26	27 FREE Internet use day	28 Safe Food Handling (student only)
29	30	31				



Scan QR code  
to register for  
training programs



**MOST IMPORTANT**

- MAR. 19<sup>TH</sup> & 20<sup>TH</sup> – F.P + L.S TRAINING**  
1:00PM – 2:00PM
- MAR. 23<sup>RD</sup> – RESUME WORKSHOP**  
9:00AM – 12:00PM
- MAR. 13<sup>TH</sup> & 27<sup>TH</sup> – FREE INTERNET USE DAY**  
8:30AM – 4:30PM
- MAR. 28<sup>TH</sup> – SAFE FOOD HANDLING**  
(STUDENT ONLY) 9:30AM – 3:30PM



Register Online Today!



**Deshkan Ziibiing**  
Chippewas of the Thames  
First Nation Employment  
and Training



# FALL PROTECTION + LADDER SAFETY TRAINING



**WORKSITE**  
safety

*\*COMMUNITY TRAINING\**

*2-day 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!***

**March 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

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

***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#\****



Register Online Today!



**Deshkan Ziibiing**  
Chippewas of the Thames  
First Nation Employment  
and Training

# RESUME WORKSHOP

*\*Community Development\*  
Employment & Training will  
be offering a Resume and  
Covering Letter workshop for  
anyone who would like  
assistance in updating or  
creating their resume.*

***DROP INS WELCOME!  
No appointment  
necessary***

**March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026**

at Portable-2 beside the  
Chippewa community center  
from 9:00am-12:00pm  
(30min presentation)

***Training includes:***

- Resume Basics
- Cover Letter Basics
- What to include and not include
- Formatting
- How/when to update
- Professional wording

**QUESTIONS?:** [ETADMIN@COTTFN.COM](mailto:ETADMIN@COTTFN.COM) OR 519-962-8688



Register Online Today!



**Deshkan Ziibiing**  
Chippewas of the Thames  
First Nation Employment  
and Training

# SAFE FOOD HANDLING TRAINING



## *\*COMMUNITY TRAINING\**

*The Safe Food Handler Certification Program teaches food handlers the general principles of safe food handling. This certificate meets the mandatory Ontario food safety training requirements and is recognized by all health units in Ontario.*

***Space is limited to 10 people. Register today!***

**March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

at Portable-2 beside the Chippewa community center from 9:30am-3:30pm

### ***Training includes:***

- public health legislation
- food microbiology
- temperature control
- cross-contamination
- personal hygiene
- cleaning and sanitizing

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

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

## Help Shape the Future of First Nations Apprenticeships in Skilled Trades

Are you First Nations and connected to Skilled Trades in Southwestern Ontario?

We're inviting participants to join a one-day co-design workshop on Mar 3, 2026 to share experiences and help build better supports for First Nations apprentices.

**TIME:** 915AM-300PM **LOCATION:** 328B Portable-2, Chippewa Rd., Muncey, ON, NOL 1Y0

### What's Involved:

- Participate in a group workshop with others connected to Skilled Trades
- Share your experiences, ideas, and insights
- Help co-create strategies for improving apprenticeship pathways
- Receive a \$35 gift card for your time

### Who Can Participate:

- First Nations (status or non-status) individuals
- Apprentices, journeypersons, educators, or anyone interested in Skilled Trades
- Must live or work in Southwestern Ontario

### Interested?

Complete a short screening survey to see if you're eligible.

📱 Scan the QR Code or visit:

<https://forms.office.com/r/XwwiDq8H5P>



*This study is part of a graduate research project at OCAD University and has been approved by the Research Ethics Board.*

*Participation is voluntary, and your responses will be kept confidential.*

## COTTFN YOUTH SKILLED TRADES SERIES



# TradesUp!

## Explore. Learn. Build Your Future.

TradesUp! is a youth focused series designed to introduce young people to skilled trades careers through real conversations visiting subject matter experts who will share their journey, training, pathways, and what a career in the trades can look like.

**ALL CMO Youth Welcome**

**Guest Speaker: Forbes Bros.  
March 10, 2026  
6:30pm- 7:30pm  
Chippewa Youth Center**



**FORBES BROS**  
INFRASTRUCTURE | CONSTRUCTION

Made with PosterMyWall.com

More informatin contact Megan Huff at [mhuff@cottfn.com](mailto:mhuff@cottfn.com)

# HR DEPARTMENT MARCH 2026

The Human Resources Department is excited to share a staffing update with the community.

In February 2026, we welcomed two new team members to Chippewas of the Thames First Nation:

- **Jordan Deleary** - Archeology Field Liaison
- **Naomi Beauchesne** - Consultation Engagement Specialist

As COTTFN continues to grow, we will be posting new employment opportunities on the COTTFN website and encourage community members to apply. If you are looking for general support with your resume, are exploring a career change, or would like to talk about future career opportunities with the Nation, feel free to reach out to the HR Department—we welcome the chance to get to know you.

Miigwech,

**Human Resources Department**  
Chippewas of the Thames First Nation

# COTTFN EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

## **Staff Spotlight: Elijah Jewell – Supporting Language, Culture, and Food Sovereignty**

Please join us in recognizing Elijah Jewell, Language Teacher Assistant with the Anishinaabe'aadziwin Department's Paswe'aatigook Language Immersion program based at the Chippewa Heritage Center.

Elijah is known for the steady, behind-the-scenes work that strengthens our community year after year. His commitment to community sovereignty and language reclamation is reflected not only in his daily role, but also in the many ways he supports others across the Nation whenever help is needed.

Over the past several years, Elijah has dedicated his time each spring to helping community members by tilling gardens and supporting families who may not have the equipment or resources to prepare their land. This work has been a meaningful part of our Nation's garden initiatives and contributes directly to food sovereignty for many households.

Elijah also supports cultural and community initiatives in impactful ways, including:

- Offering Anishinaabemowin openings and prayers at events when asked, honouring the community through language.
- Supporting the language immersion program through hands-on learning, including annual maple syrup making each spring since 2020.
- Helping ensure the success of our annual Powwow, where he takes on responsibilities supporting the grounds, staff, and volunteers.

Thank you, Elijah, for your dedication, your willingness to step in, and for the care you show our community through your work. Your efforts make a real difference!

# COTTFN RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

## Staff Spotlight: Wanda Riley – Celebrating Over 40 Years of Service

For more than 40 years, Wanda Riley has dedicated her time, care, and heart to the children and families of Chippewas of the Thames First Nation through her work in Early Years as a Cook. Each day, Wanda showed up with steady commitment and a deep sense of responsibility for the well-being of the little ones in her care.

Wanda's impact goes far beyond preparing meals. She helped ensure children were not only fed, but supported and cared for—paying close attention to allergies, special diets, and individual needs, and helping create an environment where children could feel safe and nurtured. Her kindness and consistency were felt by everyone around her: children who grew to love her, parents who trusted her, and coworkers who depended on her support and willingness to step in wherever needed. Wanda is being recognized for a legacy of service that has touched generations of families and helped strengthen Early Years programming and community wellness and a celebrating of her upcoming retirement in April.

Chi-miigwech, Wanda, for your decades of dedication, for the warmth you brought into the centre, and for the lasting difference you've made in the lives of so many.





# COTTFN IS HIRING!

We're growing our team and looking for dedicated individuals to fill the following roles:



**Energy Assistant**



**Home & Community Care Nurse (RPN)**



**Home Support Worker (5 Positions)**



**Finance & Audit Committee Member**

**Scan the QR codes to view full job descriptions and apply online.**

**Application Deadline: March 13, 2026**

**Be part of meaningful work that supports our community.**

**FRIDAY MARCH 6, 2026**



# **STANDING STONE SCHOOL HOCKEY TOURNAMENT**

**NICHOLS ARENA  
799 HOMEVIEW RD  
LONDON, ONTARIO**

**MUST BE CHIPPEWA  
BAND MEMBER /  
ANTLER RIVER  
STUDENT**



**CONTACT: JEFF CLARKE (519) 289 - 1000 OR  
JCLARKE@COTTARES.CA**

# HORNED SERPENT TEACHINGS

WITH NICK  
DELEARY



Join us for an evening to learn about the horned serpent including discussions on our responsibilities to Deshkan Ziibi.

## HIGHLIGHTS

DINNER PROVIDED

HORNED SERPENT TEACHINGS

DESHKAN ZIIBI DISCUSSION

LAND RESTORATION OPPORTUNITIES

# 19 MARCH 2026, 5-7 PM

ARROWWOOD FARM  
6460 RIVERSIDE DRIVE  
MELBOURNE, ONTARIO N0L 1T0

**Registration not required but appreciated**

Please email: [eyoung@cottfn.com](mailto:eyoung@cottfn.com) if planning to attend



**Deshkan Ziibiing**  
Chippewas of the Thames  
First Nation Treaties, Lands  
and Environment

**AKI DEBWEWIN  
PROJECT**



**Deshkan Zibiing**  
Chippewas of the Thames  
First Nation Treaties, Lands  
and Environment

# SAVE THE DATE

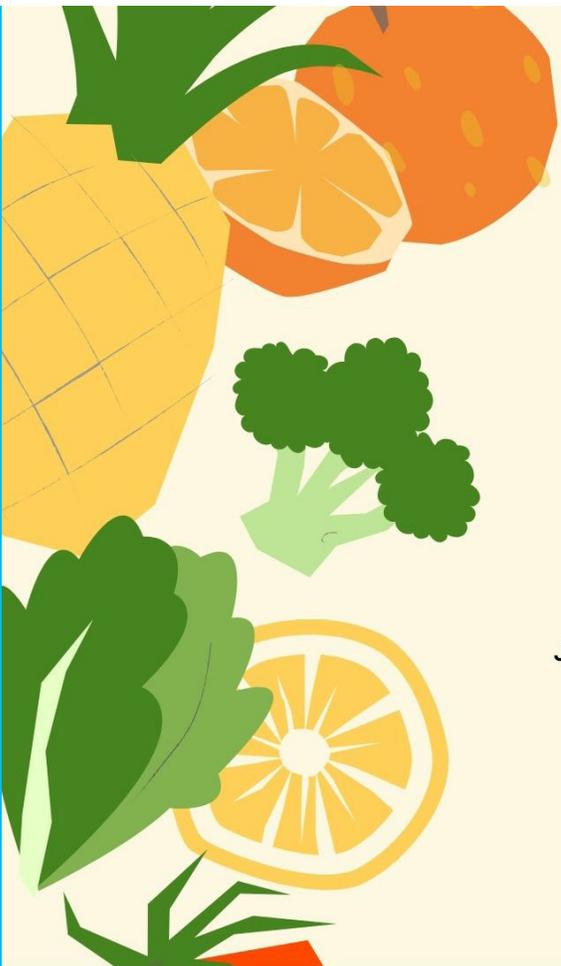
**INTEGRAL ECOLOGY GROUP (IEG) WILL BE PRESENTING THE  
FINDINGS OF MAPPING CUMULATIVE IMPACTS IN COTTFN  
TERRITORY AND NEED YOUR FEEDBACK!  
OPEN TO ALL COTTFN BAND MEMEBERS**

**APRIL 13, 2026 (5-730PM)  
DINNER SERVED AT 5PM**

**ANTLER RIVER SENIORS COMPLEX  
20723 MUNCEY ROAD**

**VIRTUAL OPTION:  
PLEASE EMAIL FOR ZOOM LINK**

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE REACH OUT TO:  
CONSULTATION@COTTFN.COM**



# Healthy Balance

## Nutrition Program

JOIN US FOR A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE CLASS LED BY  
A REGISTERED DIETITIAN.

MARCH IS NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH!  
JOIN US IN LEARNING ABOUT CARBOHYDRATES  
AND HOW THIS ESSENTIAL NUTRIENT  
GIVES YOUR BODY THE ENERGY IT NEEDS.

**FRIDAY, MARCH 20TH**  
**FROM 1PM - 3 PM**

- ✓ **NUTRITION PRESENTATION**
- ✓ **HEALTHY FOOD & BEVERAGES PROVIDED**
- ✓ **OPTIONAL HEALTH CHECKS UPON REQUEST:**

- **WEIGHT UPDATES**
- **BLOOD SUGAR TESTING**
- **BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS**

**EVENT WILL BE HOSTED IN THE BOARD ROOM  
AT THE COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE**

**CALL TO RSVP WITH THE  
COMMUNITY DIETITIAN REBECCA  
AT 519-289-5641 X257**



ANTLER RIVER  
ARCHERY

# MARCH BREAK

TRANSPORTAION PROVIDED MEET AT THE HEALTH CENTER

**17TH AND 19TH OF  
MARCH**

**FROM 2PM-3PM**  
2517 GIDEON DRIVE  
DELAARE

FEATURING  
THE YOUTH MENTAL  
HEALTH TEAM

FOR MORE DETAILS,  
CONTACT US: 519 289-5641  
EXT. 234

JOIN US FOR SOME FRIENDLY COMPETITION AND A FAMILY STYLE MEAL!

# SOUP Competition

HELD ON TUESDAY MARCH 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2026

AT THE ANTLER RIVER SENIORS COMPLEX

Bring a copy of your recipe to share with community members. All soups will be enjoyed together, so please also label any possible allergens.

**Doors open at 4:00pm  
Judging begins at 4:30pm  
Followed by a Shared Soup Meal**

Register Now to Reserve your Spot  
Contact: Rebecca Hartley, Community Dietitian  
rhartley@cottfn.com  
519-289-5641 x257



**PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED FOR 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2<sup>ND</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE!**

# JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE IMPORTANT UPDATE

**All approved Jordan's Principle funding must be used or fully accounted for by March 31, 2026.** Caregivers who have not accessed their child's approved supports by this date will be required to submit a new application if supports are still needed.

This requirement is set by Indigenous Services Canada under the Jordan's Principle operational procedures.

## **What you need to do:**

- Make sure your consent forms are up to date
- Submit all outstanding receipts
- Access your approved supports before the deadline

Taking these steps will help ensure a smooth transition and avoid delays.

**If you have any questions about your file, please reach out to the following contacts:**

**Jordan's Principle Navigator Katharine Hopkins**

**khopkins@cottfn.com 519-289-5641 ext.259**

**Jordan's Principle Supervisor Beth Young**

**bethyoung@cottfn.com 519-289-5641 ext.258**

# PET WELLNESS CLINIC

## Sterilization & Vaccinations

 Friday, May 15, 2026

 9:30 AM – 5:00 PM

 COTTFN Firehall & Admin Complex  
Hosted by East Village Animal Hospital (EVAH)

 To Register:  
Chris Saxby, RN/RSW  
519-289-5641 ext. 241  
[csaxby@cottfn.com](mailto:csaxby@cottfn.com)

### WELLNESS EXAM PACKAGE – \$50

- Vet exam
- Core vaccines (incl. Rabies)
- Dog blood testing (if required)

### CATS

Male Neuter (surgical) – \$150

Exam + Vaccines + Surgery

Female spays scheduled in London (details below)

### DOGS

Male (4 months–6 yrs) – \$150

Non-surgical neuter needle

Includes exam, sedation & vaccines

Female dog spays available (2-step process)



## COTTFN Pet Wellness – Sterilization & Vaccination Campaign

Licensed veterinarians from East Village Animal Hospital will be providing full examinations and core vaccinations (parvovirus, parainfluenza, distemper, adenovirus, leptospirosis, rabies, and applicable cat vaccines). Dog blood tests for tick-borne disease and heartworm are included if required.

Male cats receive surgical neuters on-site for \$150.

Male dogs (4 months–6 years) may receive a non-surgical neuter needle including sedation, exam, vaccines, and blood tests for \$150. Surgical neuters in London are \$375–\$475 + HST.

Female cat and dog spays are performed at EVAH London. Female dogs (4 months–6 years) must attend May 15 without the dog to complete consent and pre-payment. Surgery is scheduled for June 9 (additional dates may be added). Spay costs range from \$225–\$325 (subsidized by Canfix.org) + \$54 for vaccines if required. Volunteer transportation may be available upon request.

Exam & vaccine-only packages are available for already sterilized pets, dogs outside eligible age ranges, or pets needing vaccinations only (\$50).

Services are not available for breeders or breeding animals.

Pre-payment for sterilizations is required by May 1, 2026.

To register, contact Chris Saxby at 519-289-5641 ext. 241 or [csaxby@cottfn.com](mailto:csaxby@cottfn.com)



# CHI MIIGWECH



Miigwech to everyone who stopped by our Jordan's Principle booth at the Boon Winter Artists Market! Miigwech to the Anishinaabe'aadziwin Department and our Resident Elder for their assistance.

Thanks to your support, we were able to share 45 Mino-zaagidiwigiizhigad cards with the Seniors at the Antler River Seniors Complex- spreading zaagi'idiwin (love) throughout the community. Your kindness helps us continue lifting up and supporting one another. Miigwech!



2026

# DESHKAN ZIIBLING



**BRING  
INDOOR  
SHOES!**

## March Break Day Camp

**HELP KEEP  
THE GYM  
FLOOR  
CLEAN!**

**For Chippewa Members aged 6 - 11 Years Old**

**START DATE:** Mon. Mar. 16

**END DATE:** Thurs. Mar. 19

**AT THE CHIPPEWA YOUTH CENTRE**



CAMP WILL BE FILLED WITH

## TEAM BUILDING EXERCISES

ENERGIZERS, SPORTS  
AND ARTS AND CRAFTS!

**MONDAY TO THURSDAY**

**8:30AM DROP OFF**

**4:30PM PICK UP**

**BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH: MON + WED**  
**LUNCH PROVIDED: TUES + THURS**

**Register with Wyatt:**

**Email: [wyatt@cottfn.com](mailto:wyatt@cottfn.com) OR via Telephone: 519-289-1549**

# COTTFN Roads Department

## 2026 Spring Cleanup



### Spring Cleanup Map Legend:

- Colborne - April 7th - 9:00h ● - Start Point ■ - End Point
- Regular Garbage Pickup - April 8th 🗑️
- Townline - April 10th - 13th ● - Start Point ■ - End Point
- Back Settlement - April 14th - 16th ● - Start Point ■ - End Point
- Regular Garbage Pickup - April 15th 🗑️

**Please NO - tires, batteries, paint cans, furniture, electronics, and building materials. Most appliances will be picked up.**



bdyer@cottfn.com



519-289-5555 ext. 241



## Public Works



**SAVE THE**

**DATE**

## Community Engagement Sessions

**Chippewas of the Thames First Nation will be hosting Community Engagement Sessions on March 31 and April 1 to discuss important topics related to Community Development, Housing, and Capital Planning.**

**We will be offering:**



**One in-community session at the Community Centre**



**One session in London for off-reserve members**

**(location details coming soon)**

**Your voice matters as we plan for the future of our Nation. More details to follow – we hope you'll join us!**





## **Anishinaabek Food Rights (AFR) Program**

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

**ADDED EXTRA DAYS AND TIMES for March Pick-Up.**

**Monday March 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Friday March 6<sup>th</sup>  
Monday March 9<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesday March 11<sup>th</sup>  
Friday March 13<sup>th</sup>**

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

### **PLEASE NOTE**

**\*\*\*\* Seniors' delivery will be on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026 \*\*\*\***

**\*\*Please make sure that you sign up with an AFR staff member \*\***

To contact the AFR department please call **519-289-5621 EXT. 251**

To contact Brittney Chrisjohn, please call her cell phone or text **226-378-4264** from Monday to Friday between the hours of 8:30am to 4:30pm or you can reach her by email at [afr@cottfn.com](mailto:afr@cottfn.com)

You **must** register ahead of time to receive a food basket through the Anishinaabek Food Rights (AFR) program. If your application is not in before the pickup dates, you will not 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 and we can release your food basket.

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







March, 2026

All staff are available through the office phone line, their cell phones or emails. Please keep all office related calls between the hours of 8:30am to 4:30pm from Monday to Friday.

1. Sherry Steuer, Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) Caseworker will be here in the office on the following dates;

- March 12<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-4:30pm
- March 26<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-4:30pm

If you need to contact Sherry outside of these dates, you can reach her by phone at 519-438-5111 Ext. 3193. If she does not answer, please leave her a message and she will get back to you as soon as she can.

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 Kehego to make an application.

3. Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP) may provide you with a credit if you're the customer of an electricity utility and you have filed your taxes. The credit, if your eligible would depend on your income, base off your income taxes and household size. When completing the application all household members over the age of 18 years old must have filed their taxes and must sign off on the OESP consent form. You can apply for the OESP credit through the OESP application either online at [ontarioelectricitysupport.ca](http://ontarioelectricitysupport.ca) or mail the application to Ontario Electricity Support Program, PO BOX 1540 STN B, Ottawa, ON K1P 0C7. The application for the OESP credit is included in this month's newsletter. If you have any questions, you can contact the office and speak with one of the workers.

4. **Please make sure to check your propane tank and place an order for propane when your tank is at 25-30%. Propane companies are taking anywhere from 5-7 business days to deliver propane and will not make acceptations.**

**Office closures and when staff are out of the office for March, 2026:**

- Staff out of Office March 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> for training through Stepping Stones (Tentative)
- Jana Kehego – Vacation March 16-20, 2026
- Liz Grosbeck – Out of the Office March 16-20, 2026



# Secure Certificate of Indian Status (SCIS) & Registration Session

*Supporting identity. Supporting community.*

Walk-In Event – Open to All First Nations People

**Friday, April 24, 2026**

9:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Closed 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM for Lunch

167 Central Avenue, London, ON N6A 1M6

*No appointment needed.*

*Bring your documents. Get registered.  
Apply for your Secure Status Card.*

## Registering Under the Indian Act



Birth certificate with both parents.



Government photo ID  
(Health Card, Driver's Licence)



Both parents must sign if child is under 16



Custody documents (if applicable)

## Applying for Secure Status Card (SCIS)



Government photo ID



Email for SCIS app or Passport photos



Name change/marriage documents



Registration number (Status/Band)

## Questions?

### Contact Beulah



[beulah@cottfn.com](mailto:beulah@cottfn.com)  
519-289-5555 ext. 273

or



[Skloud Riley](mailto:skloud@cottfn.com)  
[skloud@cottfn.com](mailto:skloud@cottfn.com)  
519-289-5555 ext. 237



**Deshkan Ziibiing**  
Chippewas of the Thames  
First Nation



Forms & Info:

**Scan Here!**



**Deshkan Ziibiing**  
Chippewas of the Thames  
First Nation

## **Option to Receive Account Statements, Invoices and other documents by Email**

Dear Members,

We are working to improve communication and provide faster access to account information.

Beginning this year, we are offering members the option to receive Accounts Receivable statements and invoices by email. This includes water billing and other account statements issued through our office.

If you would like to receive your statements electronically, please provide us with your email address by:

- Emailing Courtney at **criley@cottfn.com**
- Calling our office at **519-289-5555 ext 235**, or
- Stopping by the office and we will update your file.

Participation is completely optional. If you prefer to continue receiving paper statements, no action is required and paper delivery will continue as usual.

We understand that not all members use email, and we will continue to accommodate those who prefer traditional methods. However, providing an email address allows you to receive your statements more quickly and helps ensure you stay informed about your account.

If you have any questions, please contact our office.

Sincerely,

Courtney Riley

### **Accounts Receivable Clerk**

Chippewas of the Thames First Nation  
Email: [criley@cottfn.com](mailto:criley@cottfn.com)  
Telephone: 519-289-5555 ext. 235  
320 Chippewa Road, Muncey, Ontario



**Justice Department**  
Chippewas of the Thames  
First Nation

# Building Healthy Relationships with Crows Nest

The Healthy Relationships Workshop, in partnership with Crows Nest, is a trauma-informed, culturally grounded program that strengthens self-awareness, communication, and accountability to support healthy, respectful relationships and break cycles of harm.



## What to Expect:



Practical tools for emotional regulation and self-awareness



Skills for respectful, needs-based communication



Teachings on co-regulation and healthy connection



Culturally grounded discussions on healing and responsibility

**Aaniish Pii (When): March 25<sup>th</sup> 1pm–5pm**

**Aapiish (Where): TBD**

**Register with Alyssa: [asturgeon@cottfn.com](mailto:asturgeon@cottfn.com)**

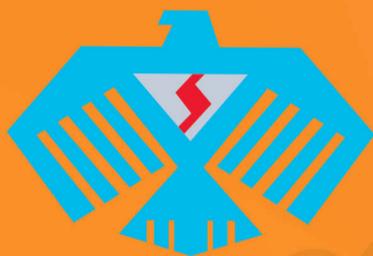
**Questions? Call or email below**



**(519)962-8544**



**[skechego@cottfn.com](mailto:skechego@cottfn.com)**



*Anishinaabe 'aadziwin Dept.*

*Presents:*

# Community Language Nights!

w/ Shauna K-N.  
+  
Ardy A.

Located @ Chippewa Heritage Building  
300 East River rd.

February  
+  
March



## Monday Evenings

excluding Family day, february 16th

**5:30-7:00**

**Meal provided**

All welcome. Email [ejewell@cottfn.com](mailto:ejewell@cottfn.com)



# 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](http://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](mailto:jsmith@cottfn.com)**





# Essentials of Workplace Mental Health



## Overview

Please join us for a virtual one-hour presentation which serves as a foundation for building mental health literacy in the workplace context.

- Understand the spectrum of mental health and the various risk factors that affect vulnerability
- Recognize some of the common signs and symptoms in individuals who may be struggling with their mental health
- Understand the business impact of not addressing employees' mental health
- Recognize the role that organizations, leaders and colleagues play in reducing stigma and supporting employee's mental health

## Workshop Details

### **Date & Time:**

Wednesday, March 4, 2026  
10:00am – 11:00am

### **Location:**

Virtual via WebEx

### **Presenter:**

Louisa Pike, CAMH Learning and Development Consultant

### **Key Benefits:**

- Improved mental health literacy
- Provides a structured approach to starting and navigating conversations about mental health
- Learn how to contribute to building a psychologically safe and supportive work culture

### **Register:**

To register, please contact Lori Fisher, Executive Assistant by email [exec.assistant@sfns.on.ca](mailto:exec.assistant@sfns.on.ca) or phone 519-692-5868 ext. 234.



Southern First Nations  
Secretariat

# SFNS Entrepreneur Focus Group



## Event Details

**Date:** Monday, March 9, 2026  
**Time:** 9am - 1pm (lunch provided)  
**Location:** Maawn Doosh Gurnig  
 Community Centre  
 1972 Virgil Ave, Sarnia, ON

**Date:** Tuesday, March 24, 2026  
**Time:** 9am - 1pm (lunch provided)  
**Location:** Oneida Community Centre  
 2017 Ball Park Rd,  
 Southwold, ON N0L 2G0

### Are you a First Nation business owner or entrepreneur?

#### We'd like to hear from you.

We are hosting focus group discussions with our member First Nation entrepreneurs to gather feedback on the SFNS Economic Toolkit (SET) and to better understand whether it is meeting the real needs of business owners.

These sessions are an opportunity to:

- Share your experiences as a First Nation entrepreneur
- Provide feedback on the SFNS Economic Toolkit (SET); [www.sfnsgset.com](http://www.sfnsgset.com)
- Help shape tools and supports for First Nation businesses
- Connect with other entrepreneurs in a supportive setting

**Eligible participants will receive an honorarium.**

To register to attend one of these focus groups, please reach out no later than

Thursday, March 6, 2026 to Lori Fisher, Executive Assistant:

[exec.assistant@sfnson.ca](mailto:exec.assistant@sfnson.ca)



# SET Skills & Job bank

Powered by Labourly

## SET to Work: Community Onboarding Event

Chippewas of the Thames First Nation Employment & Training  
328B Chippewa Rd Muncney, ON N0L 1Y0

The SET Skills & Job Bank has been upgraded and is now powered by Labourly, automatically matching skills, experience, and certifications with employers.

The SFNS team will be on-site to help you create or update your profile and upload your resume, or build one on-site using the SET Resume Builder so your skills are ready to be matched.

**Already registered in the previous Skills & Job Bank?**  
Attend the session to update or transfer your information

**\$150 gift  
card draw for  
all new  
registrants**

**Thursday, March 26, 2026**

**1pm - 4pm**

No registration required — drop in welcome.

### Questions?

Kayla Martin, *Communications Officer*  
[communications@sfnson.ca](mailto:communications@sfnson.ca)

In partnership with



Southern First Nations  
Secretariat

Hosted by: Indigenous Student Council & Indigenous Student Centre

Vendors • Food Booths • Information Booths • Participation Prizes



# POW WOW

at Lambton College

## THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2026

🕒 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. | 📣 Grand Entry ▶ 11 a.m.

📍 **Athletics & Fitness Complex**

1457 London Road, Sarnia

Emcee: **Biindige-gizhig**

Arena Director: **Animikeence Plain**

Host Drum: **Snye Creek**

Head Dancers: **Gordon Bressette & Rayah Bressette**

📣 First 50 dancers registered will receive honorarium ★ Drums must pre-register

**FREE ADMISSION • EVERYONE WELCOME**



**Indigenous**  
Student Centre  
Lambton College

**For more information or to register:**

📞 519-479-2383 ✉ [ISC@lambtoncollege.ca](mailto:ISC@lambtoncollege.ca)

Ⓞ All schools must register due to limited space.



# Deshkan Ziibiing

Chippewas of the Thames  
First Nation

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

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

## **Sugar Moon Prayer**

**I offer my tobacco and humble myself to you for the special way you care for me and my thirst for life. I know the Creator would expect this of me. Nookmis, my body and mind are heavy and my blood is thick. I am thankful to see the Sugar Moon has arrived, with the medicines that will thin my blood and make my body and mind sharp for new life. The spirit within me will flourish and he filled with the spirit that all Mother Earth has to offer from the riches of her body. In the time of this moon, I am thankful for the weather and purity in these plants that the Sugar Moon has brought to me. I now humble myself and ask forgiveness for the things I do not speak of and the things I have forgotten. So the next time we meet at the crossroads, I will be able to respect myself for all that I am.**

**Until the next time we meet, Sugar Moon, I am forever grateful.**

**Miigwetch.**