



# MAZINIGAN

May 2026

## Waawaaskone Giizis: Flower Moon

During the fifth moon of creation, flowers and medicines are given life and begin to bloom. All the plants display their Spirit sides for all the world to see. This life giving energy is one of the most powerful healing medicines on Mother Earth. During this moon we are encouraged to explore our Spiritual essences.

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Paswe'aatigook Graduation  
Chippewa Golf League  
Thunderbird Trust Proposals

# MZHIKENYAG DKAMSEWAAD TURTLES CROSSING



Snapping Turtle



Painted Turtle



Map Turtle



Blanding's Turtle

Our turtle relatives are waking up and searching for food and mates. They will be crossing roads and may make nests in locations dangerous to themselves or their young.

If you see a turtle in a dangerous location or laying eggs, contact the Treaties, Lands and Environment Department and we will rescue the turtles and protect the nest

We can be reached at: 519-289-5555 x257 or [cmckay@cottfn.com](mailto:cmckay@cottfn.com)



# In-person Workshop

## “The Resilient Home: Towards a Net-Zero Community”

**Saturday**  
**May 16**  
**1:00 - 2:30 pm**

Antler River Seniors  
Complex, 20723  
Muncey Rd.

**Refreshments  
included!!**

Learn how to make your home more  
energy-efficient and sustainable.  
**Register today** to qualify for **FREE  
energy retrofits!**



**Scan the QR** or email  
c.kechego@cottfn.com with  
the subject “Workshop - [Your  
Name]”



London  
Environmental  
Network



For paper applications, please reach out to Chantelle Kechego  
c.kechego@cottfn.com

# May Activity & Event Master Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
						Zligwan Artists Market
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	3 EVENTS Men's Drop-In Series Community Language Nights Chainsaw Safety Training	Elevating Work Platforms	3 EVENTS Walking Club begins every Wed Locating & Marking Training Chippewa Golf League	Traffic Control Training Day 1 Celebrating Her Food Sale	3 EVENTS Pasweatigook Class of 2026 Graduation Coffee Hour: Recovery Support Group Traffic Control Training Day 2	Emergency System Alert
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Bear Witness Day	Community Language Nights	Regular Council Meeting	Track & Field Day Chippewa Golf League	Community Engagement Evening ODSP Caseworker Visit	Coffee Hour: Recovery Support Group	3 EVENTS TradesUp! Resume Workshop The Resilient Home: Net-Zero Workshop
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Community Language Nights	WHMIS Training	Workers Health & Safety Training Chippewa Golf League	Custom Shoe Design Night 1	Custom Shoe Design Night 2 Coffee Hour: Recovery Support Group	Free Fruit Trees & Berry Bushes Pickup Free Veggie Seedlings Pickup
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	Community Language Nights	3 EVENTS Regular Council Meeting Maarnwi Kitchen Grade 7 Immunizations	Chippewa Golf League	Spring Community Update ODSP Caseworker Visit	3 EVENTS Thunderbird Trust Proposal Deadline Coffee Hour: Recovery Support Group Employment & Training Open House	Customer Service Training Yard & Food Sale
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

For Child, Youth & Family Well-Being Services calendar, refer to page 26

For Seniors programming, refer to page 53

# SPRING COMMUNITY UPDATE

Share a light meal and hear from Chief and Councillors about the governance work being done, the decisions being made, and what's ahead for the community.

**Thurs, May 28th, 5PM**  
Wampum Learning Lodge  
Western University  
1137 Western Road



## We want to stay connected with you.

We're excited to be launching email newsletters this May, so everyone can stay informed, with regular updates.

Help us get to (at least) 1300 !

1500

1000

500

0



Scan to join the new email list

170 COTTFN citizens have signed up...



# Membership Code renewal coming soon

## What is happening

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Federal legislation (Bill S-2; see *the next page for background info*) is about to change who qualifies for Indian status. We need to renew our own Membership Code (in draft since 2018) so we define belonging on our terms, in alignment with *Chi-Inaakonigewin*, not the Indian Act's.

This work is about something fundamental: *who we are as a Nation, and how citizenship is defined going forward*. This is not simple work. It involves community input, legal review, and important decisions that will impact future generations.

## What to expect

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This work will move in stages between now and Fall 2026:

1. A revised membership document will be developed using information gained from past community engagements
2. Community members will receive a copy of the draft Membership Code in the mail
3. Meetings, both in-person and online, will be held to gather feedback on the draft
4. The document will go through a thorough legal review
5. A final version will come back to the community for approval and a ratification vote

## What this means for you

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Everyone will have multiple opportunities to see the draft Membership Code and respond to it.

We will also be hosting information sessions in the coming months, so we can learn from people engaged in political advocacy around Bill S-2.

## What you can do right now

This work is being led by a Working Group from the Membership and Estates Department in collaboration with Councillors Betsy Kehego, Monica Hendrick and Heather Nicholas.

Do you have questions? Reach out to [membershipcodeWG@cottfn.com](mailto:membershipcodeWG@cottfn.com).



Scan the QR code to join COTT FN's new members-only emails, so you don't miss receiving updates on this and other important work happening in the community.

# WHY BILL S-2 MATTERS TO YOU

## An overview for COTTFN members

### It's about who belongs

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For generations, the federal government - not our Nation - has decided who counts as a member of a First Nation. That power was written into the Indian Act, a colonial law that has separated families, erased identities, and told people they don't belong to the community that raised them. Bill S-2 is positioned by Canada as a step toward changing that.

### The government took status away. Now it wants to give it back.

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Thousands of people lost their Indian status because of rules that were discriminatory. Women who married non-status men lost status. People who wanted to vote or own property had to give up their status entirely. Their children and grandchildren grew up without legal recognition — cut off from their Nation, their rights, and in many cases, their family connections to community. Bill S-2 would restore status to many of those people and their descendants.

### This could mean thousands more members

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The Senate's amended version of the bill could restore or grant status to an estimated 300,000 people across Canada over the next 40 years. Some of them may be connected to our community. That has real meaning — for families reunited, for children who finally have legal recognition, and for our Nation's future.

### Federal law and our law are two different things

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Indian status under the Indian Act is a federal category. It's not the same as citizenship in our Nation. We get to decide that. That's exactly why renewing our Membership Code matters right now — so that we define belonging, rooted in *Chi-Inaakonigewin*, not in Ottawa's rules.

### To learn more

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- Bill S-2 Webinar, by Anishinabek Nation (January 2026)  
<https://bit.ly/Bills2webinar>
- Bill S-2 Information Kit, from the Government of Canada  
<https://bit.ly/Bills2infokit>
- Reach out to the COTTFN Membership Code Working Group  
[MembershipCodeWG@cottfn.com](mailto:MembershipCodeWG@cottfn.com)



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

# Ogimaakaan, aaniish enkamgak?

Chief and Council, what is happening?  
Spring 2026 Update



**Boozhoo.** This update is for every citizen of this Nation: on-reserve and in the city, those who follow Council closely and those who are just checking in. It is an account of the ongoing work Council is doing, why we are doing it, and what we are up against in doing it.

The work is complex. The systems we are navigating were not built for us, and most were built to contain us. We also carry, collectively, the weight of what those systems have done to our families and our community over generations. That reality sits inside every council meeting, every negotiation, every decision.

What Council is doing right now is serious structural work that is meant to bring about transformative change: reforming governance, asserting jurisdiction, building economic independence, and creating the conditions for a future where our children have more options than we did. This is not a vision document. This is an account of where that work stands.

## Why This Work?

**We are doing this because our rights were never surrendered.** Our inherent and treaty rights exist. They have been suppressed, ignored, and worked around by federal and provincial systems for generations. Reclaiming jurisdiction where it involves our children, our lands, our governance, or our economy, is not a political aspiration. It is an assertion of what was always ours.

**We are doing this because dependency is not our destiny.** 83% of this Nation's revenue currently comes from government funding. That funding comes with conditions, with reporting requirements, with other people's priorities attached to it. Every initiative on the following pages is, in some way, about reducing that dependency and building something that belongs to us.

**We are doing this because we all carry pain.** Intergenerational trauma is a lived reality that shows up in every family, every program, every relationship between our members and the services meant to support them. We cannot plan around it. We must plan through it, and with it, and for the people living inside it right now.

**We are doing this for the children coming after us.** Every decision made at the council table is supposed to answer one question: does this leave things better for the next generations? It is not about what is politically convenient, not what the funder will approve, not what is easiest. It is about what is better for the children.

*This work is not new. It is grounded in our Chi-Inaakonigewin (2018), which affirms our authority, our responsibilities, and the path forward as Anishinaabeg.*

## What Council Is Navigating

Before listing the work, it is worth being honest about the environment in which it is happening. Community members deserve to understand what their elected leadership is up against.

## The Indian Act

Many aspects of how this Nation is governed - how we hold elections, how we manage land, how we access funding - is still shaped by the Indian Act. Reforming governance from the inside of a colonial structure is slow, complicated, and sometimes contradictory work. Council is actively working to transition away from Indian Act governance through initiatives like the Customary Election Code and the Clan-System Revitalization project.

## Federal and Provincial Systems

The 1965 Welfare Agreement. The Child and Family Services Act. Federal funding formulas. Addition to Reserve processes. These are not just bureaucratic inconveniences; they are structures that limit what we can do and when we can do it. Council is engaged in active negotiations and reform on several of these fronts simultaneously. Progress is real but it is measured in years, not months.

## Capacity Constraints

This is a Nation of people navigating enormous complexity with limited staff, limited funding, and the weight of everything described above. Building internal capacity, through strategic partnerships, will help us develop the infrastructure and quality assurance mechanisms that makes the rest of this work successful, sustainable, and in alignment with the Deloitte Assessment (2025).

## Council Principles

- **Nation-building:** emphasizing self-determination, cultural revitalization, and the strengthening of community identity
- **Better governance:** serving as the backbone for implementing transparent, accountable, and culturally respectful leadership practices
- **Community inclusion:** reflecting the Nation's commitment to engaging members in meaningful dialogue and decision-making, honoring diverse voices and perspectives
- **Rights-based agenda:** ensuring that reforms uphold the inherent rights of Indigenous children as recognized in both Indigenous law and international frameworks
- **Prosperity:** envisioned not merely as economic growth but as holistic well-being—spanning spiritual, emotional, mental, and physical dimensions

## How Council Is Organized

Chief and Council set direction. They do not deliver programs or services or operate in the day-to-day work of staff and departments. Council's role is to decide where the Nation is going, build the relationships and partnerships to get there, and be accountable for the results. This work, since 2023, has been organized into portfolio mandates.

## Governance & Jurisdiction: Councillor Betsy Kechege & Councillor Jacqueline French

This is the work of changing how we govern ourselves. It means transitioning away from Indian Act structures toward governance that reflects who we are as Anishinaabe people. It includes how we choose our leaders, how our laws are made, how our citizens are defined, how we keep each other safe, and how we keep our memory alive. This work is foundational. Almost nothing else can be fully realized without it.

## **Health Transformation:** Councillor Monica Hendrick & Councillor Heather Nicholas

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Health in this community cannot be separated from history. The trauma carried by our members, across generations, shapes how people access care, how they trust institutions, how they parent, how they cope. A health system built without acknowledging that will keep failing. This portfolio mandate is about structural reform: redesigning how health services are organized and delivered so that culture, healing, and community are built in.

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## **Lifelong Learning:** Councillor Terri Fisher, Councillor Evelyn Young, Councillor Frank French

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Education does not begin at school enrolment and end at graduation. It begins before birth. It happens on the land, in the family, in the community. This portfolio mandate is about building learning systems that reflect that from the ground up, not from a provincial curriculum down. It includes advocating at regional tables for First Nation-led education and building trade and skills pathways so young people can build a future here, at home.

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## **Youth Wellness & Leadership:** Councillor Terri Fisher & Councillor Delbert Riley

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Young people are not just the future of this Nation, they are the present of it, too. This portfolio mandate is about creating real structures, not token gestures, for youth voice, youth leadership, and youth wellbeing. That means a Youth Council with genuine influence. It means a Youth Hub with actual funding. It means the Nation committing to youth as foundational priority, not an afterthought.

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## **Capital Projects & Infrastructure:** Councillor Warren Huff & Councillor Gene Hendrick

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Infrastructure is not separate from Nation-building. Water. Roads. Housing. Internet. These are the conditions that make community life possible. They are also areas where this Nation has been chronically underfunded by governments that were responsible for them. This portfolio mandate is about managing what we have strategically and building what we need.

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## **Prosperity Development:** Chief Joe Miskokomon

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Prosperity, the way this Council understands it, is not simply a dollar figure. It is Mino Bimaadizwin, the good life. It is measured in the wellbeing of people, the opportunities available to youth, and the strength of what gets left behind. Building that requires an economic base that belongs to us: a Development Corporation, alternatives to trust funds, land back, and regional partnerships that work on our terms.

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## **Social Redevelopment:** Councillor Beverly Deleary & Councillor Norma Albert

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By placing the Child-centric model at the heart of what we do, we can reclaim the social fabric of the Nation. This means strengthening social systems so they can focus on healing and self-determination, ensuring they reflect Anishinaabe values, strong families, and the conditions that children and future generations need to thrive.

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## **Finance Audit:** Councillor Warren Huff & Councillor Norma Albert

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The Finance Audit portfolio mandate is responsible for protecting the Nation's financial health - today and for future generations - while advancing financial sovereignty. This is governance-level stewardship over how money is generated, used, protected, and aligned with Nationhood.

## The Work

What follows is a summary of each portfolio mandate and the initiatives currently being advanced. Stages reflect where each initiative stands at the time of publication (May 2026).

	1. Exploring: early conversations	2. Planning: building the path	3. Implementing: work underway	4. Active: ongoing and monitored
Initiative	Stage	Why it matters		Portfolio Mandate(s)
1834 Land Claim	2	We are moving a land claim negotiation forward. Success will generate revenue we control and a future we build on our own terms.		All
1965 Welfare Agreement negotiations	2	This agreement handed control of social services to the province. A human rights tribunal found it discriminated against our children, and now we're restoring our jurisdiction.		Social Redevelopment, Governance and Jurisdiction
Addition to Reserve process	2	Expanding our land base through this federal process is going to support our future growth, bringing more housing and services the community.		Prosperity Development, Capital Projects & Infrastructure
Asset Management Initiative	2	Every road, building, and pipe we own costs money to maintain. This initiative makes sure we know what we have, what it costs, and how to plan before things break down.		Capital Projects & Infrastructure
Building Internal Capacities	2	We have big plans and complex work. A partnership with the University of Waterloo gives us access to graduate-level planners, researchers, and co-op students who work under our direction, building our capacity from the inside out.		Prosperity Development, Governance and Jurisdiction
Capital Planning Study	2	We're planning 20 years ahead — housing, roads, utilities, community spaces. This study maps what we'll need and what it will cost, so growth happens on our schedule, not in reaction to crisis.		Capital Projects & Infrastructure
Child Wellbeing Jurisdiction	2	Our children have been removed from our community under provincial laws that don't know us. We are withdrawing from that system and building our own, grounded in Chi-Inaakonigewin and the responsibility that has always been ours.		Health Transformation, Governance and Jurisdiction
Child-centric model	3	A child's wellbeing can't be separated from their family, their community, their culture. This model will put that truth at the centre of every decision we make, across every department, every portfolio.		All
Clan-system revitalization	2	The Doodemag, our clan system, is how Anishinaabe governance was always organized. We are exploring what it would mean to structure our governance around our own laws again, rather than systems imposed from outside.		Governance and Jurisdiction
Community Policing Safety Model	1	The current policing model is changing and we're getting ahead of it by studying a fourth option that combines our own peacekeepers, prevention, and healing-centred safety supports.		Governance and Jurisdiction
Comprehensive Community Plan	2	Our last community plan is 13 years old. This renewal is a chance for citizens to shape the direction of what we want our community to look and feel like in the next generation.		Social Redevelopment
Cultural Archive Initiative	1	Our language, history, and knowledge belongs to us. This initiative creates a Nation-designed archive to preserve and protect that memory, starting with a Heritage Committee and the materials we already have.		Governance and Jurisdiction

Customary Election Code	1	Right now, our elections run under the Indian Act, with two-year terms and rules we didn't write. We're looking at building our own election system: longer terms, fewer seats, grounded in our own governance traditions. Community dialogue will help finalize what this looks like.	Governance and Jurisdiction
Development Corporation	3	The Deshkan Ziibiing Development Corporation keeps business decisions separate from politics and keeps the revenue flowing back to the Nation.	Prosperity Development
First Nations with Schools Collective	2	Our children deserve an education that reflects who they are. We're at regional tables pushing for First Nation-led education, because the current agreements aren't meeting our community's needs.	Lifelong Learning
Health Needs Assessment	2	A thorough assessment identified service gaps and what community members said they need. Now we're in Phase II, looking at how health services are delivered and structured around Anishinaabe wellness, not provincial templates.	Health Transformation
Land Back	4	We're advancing a strategy tied to the recovery of our 1834 lands, using a Nation-owned land-holding corporation. Six farmland properties totalling 625 acres have been acquired to date, representing a \$13.7 million investment for the benefit of our people.	Finance Audit, Governance & Jurisdiction,
Lifelong Learning reform	2	A review done in 2014 identified real problems with how education is governed. Many of those recommendations were never acted on. We're picking that work back up, because our children's education matters too much to not follow-through.	Lifelong Learning
Membership Code & Bill S-2	2	Federal legislation (Bill S-2) is about to change who qualifies for Indian status. We need to review our own Membership Code so we define belonging on our terms, not the Indian Act's.	Governance & Jurisdiction, Health Transformation
Regional Economic Development	4	We've moved from being consulted on projects in our territory to owning a piece of them. Hydro One, Forbes Bros., joint ventures. This is what economic sovereignty looks like in practice.	Prosperity Development
Sovereign Wealth Fund	1	Revenue coming in today should still be working for us in 50 years. A Sovereign Wealth Fund is how we can grow and protect that money for future generations.	Prosperity Development
Trade School & Skills Development	3	Our young people shouldn't have to leave to build a career. The Trade School creates pathways, from Grade 4 awareness through apprenticeship, so skills, jobs, and wages stay in the community.	Lifelong Learning
Water Feasibility Study	2	The study recommends a stand-alone treatment plant, not a municipal connection, so we keep full authority over one of the most essential things we have.	Capital Projects & Infrastructure
Youth Council	1	Youth aren't just the future; they're teaching us now. The Youth Council will create a real structure for young people to shape decisions that affect them, with their voices in the room.	Youth Wellness and Leadership
Youth Hub	1	Right now youth programs are scattered. The Hub would bring them together into a safe, accessible place where young people can find support, connection, and programming without having to search for it.	Youth Wellness and Leadership

## A Note on Accountability

Sharing this update is itself an act of accountability. Council is committed to doing this because citizens deserve to know what is happening in their name. This work is not finished. Some of it is just beginning. Some of it will move slowly because the systems being navigated move slowly. Council will not always

get it right. What Council commits to is being honest with you about where things stand and continuing to show up for this work even when it is hard.

Updates will be shared on the [www.cottfn.com](http://www.cottfn.com) website, through email newsletters, at regular Council meetings and at in-person seasonal community meetings hosted by this Council.

If you have concerns or questions, we want to hear them.

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETINGS**

- Tues, May 12 1PM
- Tues, May 26, 5PM

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.

**SAVE THE DATES**

*Share a light meal and hear from Councillors about the work, the decisions being made, and what's ahead for the community.*

**SPRING COMMUNITY UPDATE**

- **Thurs, May 28th, 5PM**  
Wampum Learning Lodge, Western University  
(1137 Western Road)  
*\* free parking available*

**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

Name	Email
Chief R. K. Joe Miskokomon	<a href="mailto:Joemiskokomon@cottfn.com">Joemiskokomon@cottfn.com</a>
Councillor Norma Albert	<a href="mailto:Councillor.nalbert@cottfn.com">Councillor.nalbert@cottfn.com</a>
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Councillor Delbert Riley Sr.	<a href="mailto:Councillor.driley@cottfn.com">Councillor.driley@cottfn.com</a>
Councillor Evelyn Young	<a href="mailto:evyoung@cottfn.com">evyoung@cottfn.com</a>



Scan to join

Join the email list to get regular Council updates & other news delivered to your inbox. Questions? Contact [comms@cottfn.com](mailto:comms@cottfn.com)

# TradesUp!

Inspiring the Next Generation of Skilled Trades

## Bringing Trades to Life: One Simulation at a Time.

On April 2nd, Chippewas of the Thames First Nation welcomed the Skills Ontario Tech Truck for a day of hands-on learning and exploration into the world of skilled trades.

At Antler River Elementary School, 67 students from Grades 4 to 8 tried skilled trades simulators—virtual welding, painting, tire changing, heavy equipment operation, and more—gaining a realistic glimpse into careers they may one day pursue.

From 3:00 to 6:00 p.m., the community joined in. Families, youth, and Elders explored the Tech Truck and shared conversations about the value of skilled trades, noting how important it is for young people to see the possibilities available to them.

The future of skilled trades is growing strong in Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, and days like this remind us why.

COTTFN's TradesUp! Series introduces youth to skilled trades through hands-on experiences and conversations with professionals, covering training requirements, career pathways, and real life in the trades. Supported by the COTTFN Trades School, Board of Education, Youth Center, and Employment & Training, TradesUp! is building a pathway that is practical and full of possibility.

For more info, contact Megan Huff, [mhuff@cottfn.com](mailto:mhuff@cottfn.com)



**Next TradesUp! Session**  
May 19 @ 6:30pm  
COTTFN Youth Center  
Skills Ontario presentation with  
First Nations mentor Bill Couchie.  
All CMO youth welcome!

# Growing Our Team

In April we welcomed new staff members!  
Miigwech for choosing to work with our community.

**Wahsayzee Deleary**  
Knowledge Keeper (CYFWB)

**Marissa Kechego**  
Energy Assistant (Public Works)

**Jennifer Antone**  
**Stephen Doxtator**

**Sabrina Bachewsky**  
Human Resources Specialist, CYFWB  
(Administration)

**Scot Weeres**  
Senior Business Development Officer  
(Administration)

**Konrad French**  
**Patricia Henry-Huff**

**Makayla Cassell**  
Child Therapist (CYFWB)

**Tristan Smyth**  
CEO, DZDC (Development Corporation)

**Lisa Kechego**  
**Brendan Riley**  
Archaeological Field Liaisons (TLE)

**Alisson Deleary**  
Home Support Worker (Health Department)

[www.cottfn.com/jobs](http://www.cottfn.com/jobs)

Eshki Radio & Justice Dept.  
present

## COMMUNITY FORUM: SENIORS

Eshkiniigijig Radio invites seniors to a friendly, easy-to-follow session on our radio station and mobile app.

Learn how to listen to Indigenous music, stories, language, and community voices, live or anytime.

- No tech experience needed
- Everyone is welcome, with step-by-step support.

### WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

- How to download and use the Eshkiniigijig Radio mobile app
- How to listen live on your phone, tablet, or computer
- How to access Ojibwe language programming and community stories
- How to stay connected with local news and events
- One-on-one help with your device (bring your phone or tablet if you like)



**25 May, 2026**  
**11:00AM - 12:00PM**



**THE ARC/SENIOR'S CENTRE**





# FREE FRUIT TREES & BERRY BUSHES

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**SATURDAY, MAY 23RD  
9AM-12PM**

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**HERITAGE CENTRE  
300 EAST RIVER ROAD**

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**LIMITED QUANTITIES  
CHIPPEWA BAND MEMBERS ONLY**





FREE  
VEGETABLE  
SEEDLINGS

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SATURDAY, MAY 23rd  
9AM-12PM

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HERITAGE CENTRE  
300 EAST RIVER ROAD

---

CHIPPEWA BAND MEMBERS  
ONLY

---

LIMITED QUANTITIES

TREATIES, LANDS



& ENVIRONMENT

# ECOLOGICAL FIELD LIAISON OPPORTUNITIES



## APPLY ONLINE

[COTTfn.com/job](https://cotton.com/job)

Contact Lauren Little for more info –  
[llittle@cotton.com](mailto:llittle@cotton.com)

UPDATED ON-SITE TRAINING JUNE 2026 – TBC  
HOSTED BY: CHIPPEWAS OF THE THAMES  
TREATIES, LANDS, & ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

# 01

## OPPORTUNITY SUMMARY



The Treaties, Lands, and Environment department is seeking interested band members to join our team of Ecological Field Liaisons (EFLs). Qualified candidates will complete a comprehensive training course to learn the necessary skills to become a true ambassador of Traditional and Treaty land. After training, EFLs will have access to year-round opportunities to work on site and gain in-field experience.

Environmental field work is critical to maintaining healthy ecosystems, strengthening biodiversity, and protecting traditional values of land stewardship. Your work as a field liaison will ensure companies are fulfilling their duty to consult and respecting the environment in which we live.

Apply here: <https://cottfn.com/job/ecological-field-liaison-contract/>



# 02

## WHY APPLY?

- **BUILD YOUR RESUME** *Learn valuable environmental surveying and compliance skills.*
- **WORK OUTDOORS** *Bond with nature and explore traditional territory.*
- **MAKE MONEY** *Earn a competitive wage and practical on-the-job experience.*
- **STEWARD THE LAND** *Improve the quality of the natural environment around you.*

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](mailto:Justicedepartmentinquiry@gmail.com)
- ✓ We will review your inquiry
- ✓ We will be in touch for next-steps



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

# Justice Department Services

**Focus Areas: Compliance Division, Justice Operations, Special Projects, Legislative Services**

## **Compliance Division:**

Legislative Systems require oversight to ensure compliance.

- Emergency Management Preventative Practices
- Responsible Dog Ownership Strategy
- Crime Prevention
- Personnel Policies

Contacts: Garret & Brenda

## **Justice Operations:**

### **Family Justice Unit**

Assistance with Family Law Forms, Family Law Explanations (including FHRMIRA), Family Mediation, Violence Prevention, MMIWG Calls for Justice, and Skills Training.

Contact: Brenda

### **Administration of Justice**

Indigenous Justice Systems, Creations of Resolution Bodies

Contact: Brenda

## **Staff Directory:**

**Brenda Young:** byoung@cottfn.com

**Alyssa Sturgeon:** asturgeon@cottfn.com

**Garett Cloud:** gcloud@cottfn.com

**Jason Smith:** jsmith@cottfn.com

## **Special Projects:**

### **Radio Station Development:**

Contact Jason

### **AHT Protecting Our Inner Fire:**

### **UNDRIPA Action Plan:**

Contact Brenda

## **Legislative Services:**

International law and legal systems development: Contact Brenda

## **Department Phone Number:**

**519- 962-8544**

**or email administrative assistant:**

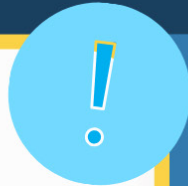
**asturgeon@cottfn.com**

**Location: 320 Chippewa Rd,  
behind band office**



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

# COTTFFN's Emergency Alert System



Did you know that Chippewa has a dedicated emergency notification system used to keep community informed during an emergency?

A test alert will be conducted May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 2:00pm/EDT.

To register to receive critical alerts during emergencies. Choose an option below.



Scan the QR code with your phone. Or type in the site address in your search browser

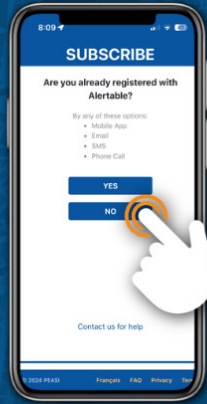
<https://alertable.ca/signup/index.html>

# SETUP ALERTABLE SMS, EMAIL & PHONE CALL



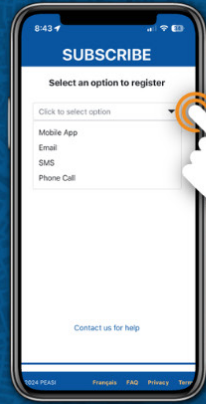
1

IF IT'S YOUR FIRST TIME  
SIGNING UP, CLICK **NO**



2

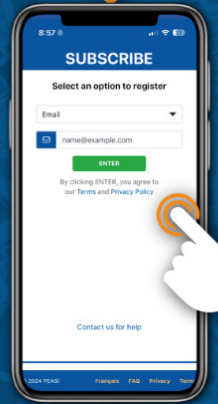
SELECT HOW  
TO RECEIVE ALERTS



3

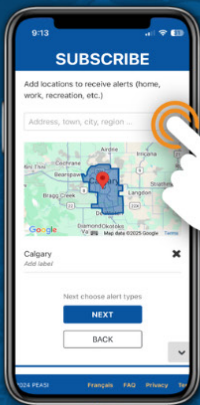
ENTER CONTACT  
INFORMATION

4



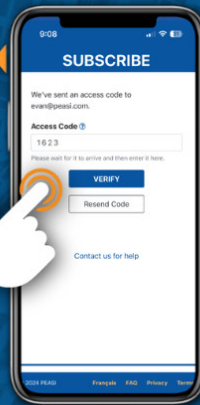
6

CHOOSE  
LOCATIONS



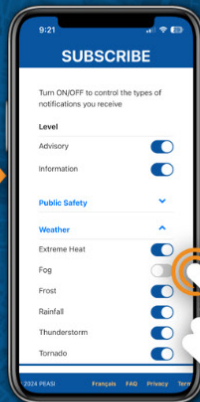
5

ENTER  
ACCESS CODE



7

CHOOSE  
ALERT TYPES

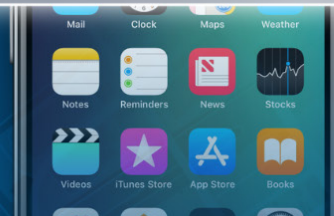
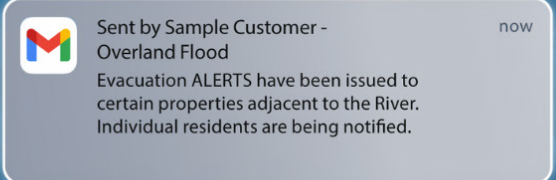


8

CLICK  
FINISH



YOU'RE SET TO  
GET NOTIFICATIONS!



# 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).

**Thursday, June 4, 2026**  
**10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

**TRANSPORTATION & LIGHT REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED**

**PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED**



### TRADITIONAL TEACHINGS

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



## TO REGISTER:

### CHIPPEWA, OTHER FIRST NATIONS & URBAN

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

### ONEIDA, OTHER FIRST NATIONS & URBAN

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

### MUNSEE

Lauryn Kehego at  
Munsee Health Centre  
519-289-5396 ext. 229

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

Middlesex Hospital Alliance



Youth Mental Health Team and Chippewa Registered Dietitian

# Maamwi Kitchen

Youth will learn different dishes and skills  
to use in the kitchen!

Ages 17-29 Chippewa Youth

Date: May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Time: 5pm - 7pm

Where: Chippewa Health Centre Board  
Room

322 Chippewa Road Muncney ON

Free Grocery Store  
Gift Card!!!

\*\*Limited Spots Available\*\*

To Register or for more information please contact  
Justice Doxtator, Youth Mental Health Worker  
[justicedoxtator@cottfn.com](mailto:justicedoxtator@cottfn.com)



**Doshkan Ziibiing**  
Chippewas of the Thames  
First Nation Health Centre



# BEAR WITNESS DAY

*Honouring Jordan River Anderson and all First Nations children.*

## **What is Bear Witness Day?**

*A day to stand up for the rights of First Nations children and ensure they receive the care they need- without delay or barriers.*

## **Why it Matters**

*Jordan River Anderson from Norway House Cree Nation, died in hospital while governments disputed who should pay for his at home care.*

*His story reminds us:*

- *Every child deserves fair, needs-based care*
- *No child should face delays due to jurisdictional disputes*
- *First Nations children's rights must always be upheld*

## **Bear Witness**

*To "bear witness" means to:*

- *Recognize inequities*
- *Speak up for children's rights*
- *Support real, meaningful change*



***Jordan River Anderson's legacy reminds us that protecting the rights of First Nations children is a shared responsibility within every community.***

# IMPORTANT REMINDERS FOR FAMILIES



## CONSENT FORMS

Please ensure your consent forms are up to date. This helps us properly advocate for your child and coordinate services without delay.



## LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Letters of support must be written by:

- A licensed or regulated professional (e.g., doctor, therapist, teacher), or
- A Knowledge Keeper or Elder, if the request is for cultural supports

These letters help confirm the need for requested services.



## NEW INFORMATION

If there is any new information that increases or changes your child's needs, please let your worker know as soon as possible.

This may help strengthen or update your request for support.



## CONTACT UPDATES

Please make sure your worker has accurate contact information to ensure you don't miss important updates.



Child, Youth & Family Well-Being Services Presents:  
Youth & Recreation Updates

*Mary*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 NVO Archery Practice 7:00 - 8:00	2
3 Guitar Lessons 5:00 - 6:00	4 Guitar Lessons 5:00 - 6:00	5 Bo-fit Training 5:30 - 6:30	6 Walking Club 5:00 - 6:00 Aquatic Centre - Swim Night	7 Cooking Class Session 1: 5:00 - 6:30 Session 2: 7:00 - 8:30	8 NVO Archery Practice 7:00 - 8:00	9
10 Guitar Lessons 5:00 - 6:00	11 Guitar Lessons 5:00 - 6:00	12 Bo-fit Training 5:30 - 6:30	13 Walking Club 5:00 - 6:00 NVO Track & Field Practice 6:00 - 7:30	14 Cooking Class Session 1: 5:00 - 6:30 Session 2: 7:00 - 8:30	15 NVO Archery Practice 7:00 - 8:00	16
17 Guitar Lessons 5:00 - 6:00	18 Guitar Lessons 5:00 - 6:00	19 Bo-fit Training 5:30 - 6:30 Trades up! 6:30 - 7:30	20 Walking Club 5:00 - 6:00 NVO Track & Field Practice 6:00 - 7:30	21 Cooking Class Session 1: 5:00 - 6:30 Session 2: 7:00 - 8:30	22 Custom Shoe Design Workshop 6:00 - 8:00	23 Native Youth Olympics Archery Day - Walpole Ages 7-17
24 Guitar Lessons 5:00 - 6:00	25 Guitar Lessons 5:00 - 6:00	26 Bo-fit Training 5:30 - 6:30	27 Walking Club 5:00 - 6:00 NVO Track & Field Practice 6:00 - 7:30	28 Cooking Class Session 1: 5:00 - 6:30 Session 2: 7:00 - 8:30	29 Basketball Drop-in	30
31						

To inquire or to sign-up for any of the programming please text or email Becky.

Email:

rebyoung@cottfn.com

Text:

226-378-7374

**To book a workout room time:**  
**Morning session - Text Myles**  
**Evening Session - Text Becky**

Myles French

Youth Program Coordinator

mfrench@cottfn.com

519-872-0936

Wyatt Kecheago

Youth Prevention Worker

wyatt@cottfn.com

519-639-9347

Becky Young

Youth Prevention Worker

rebyoung@cottfn.com

226-378-7374



# Miigwech

to Our

# Chippewa Fish Fry Helpers!



A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make the Chippewa Fish Fry a success.

Miigwech to Barry Sturgeon Jr., Steve Sturgeon, Dennis Whiteye, Labon Kechego, Billy “Chang” Fisher, and Elijah Jewell for sharing your time, skills, and support.

We also extend our appreciation to the Anishinaabe’aadziwin Department, the staff of TLE, CYFWBS, and Enji Maajtaawaad Early Years Program departments for helping bring this community gathering together.

Your hard work, teamwork, and dedication are deeply appreciated.



Miigwech for helping feed and bring our community together.

# CUSTOM SHOE DESIGN NIGHTS

UNLEASH YOUR CREATIVITY. YOU  
WILL BE DESIGNING YOUR OWN  
CUSTOM WHITE NIKE SHOES



**THURS, MAY 21/26**  
**& FRI, MAY 22/26**

**6:00 - 8:00**

**FOR CHIPPEWA YOUTH AGES 13 - 19**

10 SPOTS ARE AVAILABLE TOTAL. 5 SPOTS EACH EVENING

WHEN REGISTERING PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR NAME, SHOE SIZE AND WHICH NIGHT YOU'D PREFER TO ATTEND.

SPOTS ARE LIMITED. TO REGISTER CONTACT DOUG SMALLBOY  
DSMALLBOY@COTTFN.COM

# NATIVE YOUTH OLYMPICS

*Bkejwanong*

**20 Archers per Nation**

**35 Athletes per Nation**

## ARCHERY

**Ages 7-17**

## TRACK & FIELD

**DATE : 23 MAY 2026**

**DATE : 30 JUNE 2026**

✓ **60FT** Ages 15-17

✓ **30FT** Ages 11-14

✓ **20FT** Ages 7-10

**770 Tecumseh Rd, Walpole  
Island ON N8A 4K9**

## TRACK

## FIELD

Running Events:  
50m-800m

Ball Throw  
Long Jump  
Short Jump

**920 Elgin St, Wallaceburg  
ON N8A 3E1**

Participation is only confirmed upon full registration and waiver submission.

**For more information contact**

**Myles French via  
mfrench@cottfn.com**





Child, Youth & Family Well-Being Services Presents:  
Youth & Recreation Updates



# Walking Club

## Emasejig

EVERY  
WEDNESDAY  
BEGINNING  
MAY 6<sup>TH</sup>

5:00 PM -  
6:00 PM

AT THE  
ANTLER RIVER  
ELEMENTARY  
TRACK

*All ages and  
fitness levels are  
welcome*

Come walk your way to better health—  
physically, mentally, and emotionally.  
Let's take steps together toward a  
healthier, happier you!

Find **Becky** before you begin walking to  
sign-in. The more walks you attend, the  
more chances your name will enter a  
draw for prizes.



Anishinaabe'aadziwin Department Presents

ZIIGWAN  
SPRING

*Artists*

MARKET

**Saturday, May 2**

**10 am to 3 pm**

Community Center, COTTFN

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Chippewas of the Thames  
First Nation  
49th Annual  
Competition Pow Wow**

**August 15 & 16, 2026**

**640 Jubilee Road, Muncney**

**General Inquiries: [pday@cottfn.com](mailto:pday@cottfn.com)**

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



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

*Anishinaabe' aadziwin Dept.*



*miinwaa*



*Enji Maajtaawaad Early Years  
Presents:*

# Community Family Language Nights!

Located @ Enji Maajtaawaad  
330 Chippewa Rd.

## Every Monday Night!

*Excluding Holiday Mondays*

*Starting Monday April 20th*

*5:30pm - 7:30pm*

*Meal Provided*

*All Welcome!*

For more info email: [ejewell@cottfn.com](mailto:ejewell@cottfn.com) or [cheri.fisher@cottfn.com](mailto:cheri.fisher@cottfn.com)



# COMMUNITY INVITATION CLASS OF 2026 GRADUATION

MAY 8TH, 2026 6PM-10PM



**PASWE'AATIGOOK**

DESHKAN ZIIBIING  
CHIPPEWA COMMUNITY CENTER

AANIIN, AAMBE, COME OUT AND CELEBRATE OUR COMMUNITY'S LANGUAGE JOURNEY AND THE CLASS OF 2026 PASWE'AATIGOOK IMMERSION CLASS GRADUATION. CEREMONY BEGINS AT 6PM, KARAOKE & CELEBRATIONS 7PM-10PM

**\*\*Join us for Coffee Hour\*\***  
**at our**  
**Recovery Support Group**

**A safe and nurturing space for everyone in recovery and  
looking for support**

**We meet at the Employment & Training Portable every  
Friday at 5:30-7:00**

**Facilitated by**  
**Westover Treatment staff**  
**Mike Mcgilvery**

**Please call Cynthia Tribe**  
**519-878-0165**



# THUNDERBIRD TRUST

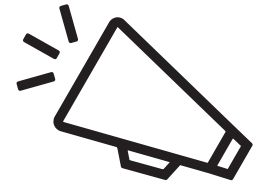
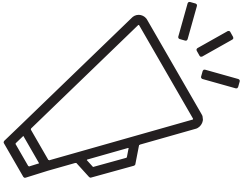
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Thunderbird Trustees are pleased to announce

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2026**

**NOW OPEN**

**DEADLINE: MAY 29, 2026**



---

The following applications are available by request.

- ❖ **Housing Repair Program**
- ❖ **Benevolent Program**
- ❖ **Economic Development**
- ❖ **Grave Memorial**

Applicants are **NOT** eligible if they received funding in 2025 (not including Christmas Gesture). Economic Development Program & Grave Memorial Fund are first come first serve until funds depleted. Details for each category can be found in the funding policies as part of the process for application.

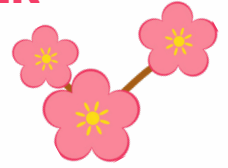
Questions can be directed to the General Manager,  
at 519-264-2626 or by email [info@thunderbirdtrust.ca](mailto:info@thunderbirdtrust.ca)



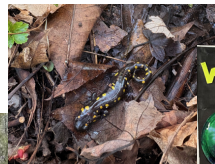
# Antler River Elementary School

## WAAWAASKRONE GIIZIS

MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER



Spring is always a busy time around the school! There is amazing learning happening inside classrooms and outside too! We want to take the time to recognize all of the volunteers, families and staff members that help out with event planning, reading with our students and supporting student learning. In this month's newsletter, we share exciting upcoming events, pictures from class trips and other visitors, and students of the month.



### IMPORTANT DATES

**Wednesday, May 13** - Track and Field Day Grades 3-8; Western Engineering visits Grades 4 and 7

**Thursday, May 14** - Community Engagement Evening @ARES 5:30 - 7:30

**Friday, May 15** - P.D. Day - no school for students. Staff are completing technology and assessment training.

**Monday, May 18** - Victoria Day - No School

**Tuesday, May 26** - Grade 7 Immunizations

**Friday, June 5** - Children's Powwow @ ARES Students in Grades JK-3 attend with their families.

**Wednesday, June 10** - Western Engineering visits SK/Grade 1

**Thursday, June 18** - Grade 8 Graduation

**Monday, June 22** - No School - Solidarity Day

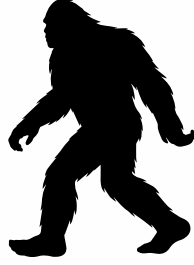
**Thursday, June 25** - Last day of school. Noon dismissal.



**STUDENTS OF THE MONTH**

This month we recognized students who went above and beyond in the school to demonstrate Honesty (Gwekwaadziwin). Congratulations to all! We are proud of you! Mr. Dan will be delivering a pizza lunch to you soon. The focus in May is **Cooperation**.

- JK - Joey Weekes
- SK - Elaina Chrisjohn
- 1 - Scarlett McDougall-Young
- 2/3- Cam Patterson
- 3 - Arya Daley
- 4 - Royce French-Kecheho
- 5/6 - Quinten Brown
- 6 - Katana Grosbeck
- 7 - Aaliyah Kecheho
- 8 - Kayleigh Grosbeck
- Anishinaabemowin - Dorian Schuyler and Christian Reigns
- Physical Education - Asher French
- STEM - Arthur Henry



Heroes' Circle meditation time

**Superhero Day!**



**Tech Truck Visit**

Students were able to explore a variety of Skilled Trades using the most up to date simulation technology. The students were able to learn and apply skills towards possible careers such as Welding, Heavy Machine Operator, Electrician amongst others. This opportunity allowed many children to interact with careers that they became inspired to work towards.



Syrupy sweet times in Grade 1 and 4



FOOD | CRAFTS | VENDORS | FUN

# ANTLER RIVER ELEMENTARY CHILDREN'S POWWOW 2026

MC: GORDAN SANDS

HOST DRUM: EAGLE  
FLIGHT

SECOND DRUM: GOOD  
FELLOWZ

FT. ANTLER RIVER  
BOYS DRUM GROUP



Head Dancers:

ROYA KECHEGO & TRAVIS SMITH

**06.05.2026**

ANTLER RIVER  
324 CHIPPEWA RD.  
MUNCEY, ON.

CONTACTS (519) 289-  
1000  
FOR MORE  
INFORMATION

**\$2 PER  
PERSON**

ELDERS (65+) &  
UNDER 3 = FREE

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

FREE  
DINNER

SAVE THE DATE: MAY 14, 2026



Taking the  
mystery out of  
reading!



### WHAT'S HAPPENING?

- ✓ Staff engaging with families to learn literacy strategies & games to promote reading skills at home and school
- ✓ Connects with school and community presenters
- ✓ Take home 5 brand new books for your child(ren) and a literacy game to play at home



MORE INFORMATION TO COME...

### VENDORS WANTED FOR POWWOW

Please call the school to register  
519-289-1000

## Celebrating Her FOOD SALE

HONOURING WOMEN IN THE  
COMMUNITY

PREPAID ORDERS ONLY  
DUE: Monday May 4, 2026 -  
contact Ms. Sanda (519) 851-6121

**MENU**  
Pulled Pork • Coleslaw • Baked Beans • Macaroni  
Salad • Pop – \$15  
Delicious, homemade, and made with care ♡  
Perfect for a great meal while supporting the  
grade 8 grad!

**THURSDAY MAY 7, 2026**  
**12:30PM**

Available for delivery within the  
parking lot \*

SAVE THE DATE

# ANTLER RIVER TRACK AND FIELD 2026

GRADES 3-8

WED. MAY 13<sup>TH</sup> (RAIN DATE MAY 14<sup>TH</sup>)

MORE INFORMATION TO COME



Graduation ceremony: Thursday, June 18



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

"WE'RE  
HERE TO  
HELP!"



# OPEN HOUSE

## *Community Invite*

Employment & Training kindly invites you to be a part of their upcoming Open House! This event focuses around employment and educational opportunities in the local and surrounding areas. You are invited to come out and enjoy a community BBQ while networking with local employers and educational institutions.

**May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026 from 1pm - 4pm**

**328B, Chippewa Rd.,  
Muncey, ON  
NOL 1Y0**



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



**2026**

# SUMMER STUDENT EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Employment & Training is gearing up for the 2026 Summer Student Employment Program. Chippewa Band Members aged 15-29 who are current students returning to school in the fall are encouraged to monitor the E&T Facebook page over the coming months for updates about job postings for the 2026 Summer Student Employment Program.

## ELIGIBILITY

- **MUST** be a Chippewa Band Member with a valid status card
- **MUST** have a valid SIN#
- **MUST** be 15 years of age at the start of the program
- **MUST** be a returning student for fall 2026
- **MUST** submit a resume to E&T once job postings go out



**SCAN QR CODE TO FOLLOW  
US ON FACEBOOK TO STAY  
UPDATED ON SUMMER JOBS**

**JULY 6<sup>TH</sup> – AUGUST 28<sup>TH</sup> 2026**



Email  
etadmin@cottfn.com



Phone#  
519-962-8688





Register Online Today!



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

# CUSTOMER SERVICE TRAINING



**\*Student Only\***

*This program focuses on a number of customer service skills that are applicable to all industries. Our program is concentrated on how to be a customer service professional who goes above & beyond in order to generate repeat business and drive customer loyalty.*

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

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

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

**May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

at Portable-2 beside the Chippewa community center from 9:00am-1:00pm

**Training includes:**

- The Goal of Customer Service
- Customer Service Basics
- Customer Satisfaction
- Working with Difficult Customer Situations
- Meeting Customer Expectations



Register Online Today!



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

# ELEVATING WORK PLATFORMS TRAINING

**\*Community Development\*  
ONLINE TRAINING**

*Worksite Safety's Aerial Lifts & Aerial Work Platforms Certification program has been developed in accordance with federal and provincial legislation as safety training for workplaces across Canada. This course consists of 10 chapters and a final exam.*

**Space is limited to 5 people.**  
*Register today!*

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

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

**May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

at Portable-2 beside the Chippewa community center from 2:00pm-5:00pm

**Training includes:**

- Laptop provided
- Average Duration: 1 Hour
- Digital & Printable Certificate
- Plastic Proof Of Training Card Included
- Unlimited Exam Attempts
- Accepted Across Canada
- Self-Paced



Register Online Today!



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

# LOCATING & MARKING TRAINING

*\*Community Development\*  
ONLINE TRAINING*

The course will cover the process of locating and marking utilities on the job site, including the pre-locate, locate, and post-locate operations.

**May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

at Portable-2 beside the Chippewa community center from 10:00am-2:00pm

**Training includes:**

- Laptop provided
- Average Duration: 4 Hours
- Digital & Printable Certificate
- Plastic Proof Of Training Card Included
- Unlimited Exam Attempts
- Accepted Across Canada
- Self-Paced

**Space is limited to 5 people. Register today!**

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

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



Register Online Today!



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

# TRAFFIC CONTROL TRAINING

*\*Community Development\*  
ONLINE TRAINING*

Worskite's Traffic Control Person course introduces trainees to the basics of traffic control and how to navigate a variety of situations a Traffic Control Person (TCP) finds themselves in.

**May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

at Portable-2 beside the Chippewa community center from 2:00pm-4:00pm

**Training includes:**

- Laptop provided
- Average Duration: 1 Hour
- Digital & Printable Certificate
- Plastic Proof Of Training Card Included
- Unlimited Exam Attempts
- Accepted Across Canada
- Self-Paced

**Space is limited to 5 people. Register today!**

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

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



Register Online Today!



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

# TRAFFIC CONTROL TRAINING

**\*Community Development\***  
**ONLINE TRAINING**

Worksite's Traffic Control Person course introduces trainees to the basics of traffic control and how to navigate a variety of situations a Traffic Control Person (TCP) finds themselves in.

**Space is limited to 5 people. Register today!**

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

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

**May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

at Portable-2 beside the Chippewa community center from 2:00pm-4:00pm

**Training includes:**

- Laptop provided
- Average Duration: 1 Hour
- Digital & Printable Certificate
- Plastic Proof Of Training Card Included
- Unlimited Exam Attempts
- Accepted Across Canada
- Self-Paced



Register Online Today!



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

# WHMIS TRAINING

**\*Community Development\***  
**ONLINE TRAINING**

The Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) is a Canadian system that provides information about hazardous materials in the workplace. The goal of WHMIS is to reduce injuries, illnesses, and deaths associated with working with hazardous materials.

**Space is limited to 5 people. Register today!**

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

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

**May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

at Portable-2 beside the Chippewa community center from 2:00pm-5:00pm

**Training includes:**

- Laptop provided
- Hazard classification
- Labeling
- Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)
- Worker education and training

Register Online Today!

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

# WORKERS HEALTH & SAFETY TRAINING

## WORKSITE safety

**\*COMMUNITY TRAINING\***  
This ONLINE Occupational Health and Safety Awareness (OHSA) course for Workers will help you gain a better understanding of the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

**Space is limited to 5 people. Register today!**

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

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

Register Online Today!

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First Nation Employment  
and Training

# CHAINSAW SAFETY TRAINING

**\*Community Development\* ONLINE TRAINING**  
This online Chainsaw Safety course teaches the basics of safety operating and maintaining a gas or electric chainsaw, in accordance with CSA Standard Z62.1-15 (R2020) and CSA No. 62841-4, which is the industry standard for chainsaw operators in Canada.

**Space is limited to 5 people. Register today!**

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

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



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First Nation Employment  
and Training

# RESUME WORKSHOP

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

**May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026**  
at Portable-2 beside the Chippewa community center from 1:30pm-2:30pm (30min presentation)

**Training includes:**

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

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

**QUESTIONS?:** ETADMIN@COTTFN.COM OR 519-962-8688

## SERVICE CANADA IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Service Canada provides Canadians with a single point of access to a wide range of government services and benefits.

Service Canada will be in your community to help you apply for the programs and services listed below.

**What to Bring:** Visit [Canada.ca](http://Canada.ca) for a complete list of required documents.

Programs and Services	How to Register	Date	Time
CDCP - Canadian Dental Care Plan – Application Old Age Security (OAS) Canada Pension Plan (CPP) My Service Canada Account (MSCA) Social Insurance Number (SIN)	To register for this clinic, please visit or contact:  COTTFN Employment & Training etadmin@cottfn.com 519-962-8688	May 25th, 2026	1:00PM - 3:30PM

Information on Service Canada's programs, services and benefits can be found online at [Canada.ca](http://Canada.ca) or by calling 1 800 O-Canada.

## EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

# Senior Lawn care Program



Employment & Training would like to introduce the community to our seasonal Senior Lawn care Maintenance Worker, Donald French. Donald will be in responsible for taking care of seniors lawns for the grass cutting season of 2026.

Please give Donald a warm welcome and miigwech for joining the Employment & Training Team for the season!



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

# Senior Lawn care Services Update

## REGISTRATIONS CLOSED

Employment & Training would like to thank everyone who registered for the Senior Lawn care Program for the 2026 season! Due to the higher level of registrations for 2026, we will be capping the list at 30 registrants. Once a complete work schedule has been created, Employment & Training will reassess to see if more properties can be added at a later date. We appreciate your understanding.

# Senior Lawn care Services Outline

## SERVICES:

The Senior Lawn care Crew are tasked **ONLY** with grass cutting/weed whacking for registered properties within COTTEN.  
The Senior Lawn care Crew are **NOT** responsible for the removal any objects/debris from homeowners property or any tree or brush removal.

## RULES:

The Registrant **MUST** reside on the property being registered.  
The homeowner **MUST** be registered with E&T prior to any work starting.  
The homeowner **MUST** be 60+ in order to qualify for services.  
The **HOMEOWNER** is responsible for ensuring the yard is clear of any objects/debris.  
**ALL** pets **MUST** be tied up or brought into the home before any work can start.

For further information please contact the Employment & Training Office

✉ [ETAdmin@COTTEN.com](mailto:ETAdmin@COTTEN.com) ☎ 519-962-8688



**ACADEMIC UPGRADING CHIPPEWA SITE**  
 In partnership with  
**Chippewas of the Thames First Nation**  
**Employment & Training**



**What do we offer:**

- Literacy Basics Skills
- Essential Skills
- Canadian Education Credential  
*(formerly G.E.D)*
- Academic & Career Entrance Program (ACE)
- Ontario Secondary School Diploma Support

**Create your path to:**

- Independence
- Post-Secondary
- Skilled Trades
- Entrepreneurship
- Employment

**How to Register:**

- Fill out registration form.  
*(can be picked up at E&T office)*
- Complete Assessments.
- Create your training plan.
- Start your individual program.
  - Learning options
  - Scheduling options
  - Program length
- Re-evaluate training plan.
- The academic upgrading instructor will assist with each step of registration and support you with your customized plan.

**Program Length:**

- It varies based on the amount of time you commit as a student.
- The programs of study are geared to the individual student learning needs to prepare for your next step of employment, further training, or education.

*For an adult learner, often the hardest aspect of returning to school is taking the first step. At the Chippewa site in partnership with COTTFN E&T, we welcome the opportunity to assist individuals to work towards their goals.*

**Schedule Update:**

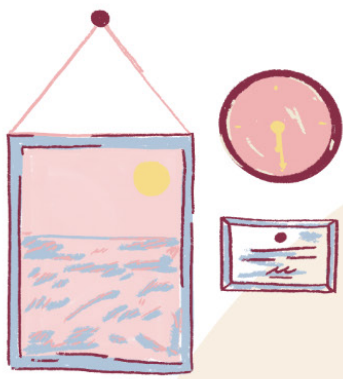
The COTTFN Adult Upgrading classroom will be open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday each week from 9:30am – 2:30pm. If you are interested in returning to school, stop by the Fanshawe College Hub Portable-1, located just beside the Chippewa Community Center.

**Contact:**

Jonn Leonard  
 LBS/ACE Teacher  
 Fanshawe College – Chippewa Site  
[jleonard@FanshaweC.ca](mailto:jleonard@FanshaweC.ca)

**Hours of Operation:**

Tuesday	9:30am – 2:30pm
Wednesday	9:30am – 2:30pm
Thursday	9:30am – 2:30pm



# YARD & FOOD SALE



**SATURDAY, MAY 30**  
**9:00 AM – 2:00 PM**  
**800 ANISHINAABEG RD.**  
**MUNCEY, ON**

Household items  
clothing & more  
come find your  
treasures!



**GOLF CHIPPING CONTEST**  
**CLOSEST TO THE PIN WINS!**

**BREAKFAST SALE**  
**9:00 AM – 10:30 AM**



*Wedding fundraiser*  
*Courtney & Sean*  
*2027*



**BBQ**  
DELICIOUS



**LUNCH FOOD SALE**  
**BBQ**  
**HAMBURGERS &**  
**HOT DOGS**  
**11:00 AM – 2:00 PM**

SEAN & COURTNEY'S  
WEDDING PARTY  
PRESENTS:

Join us for a day of outdoor fun on the green  
in raising funds for Sean & Courtney's  
Wedding in 2027

# GOLF TOURNAMENT



**SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 2026**

**WARDSVILLE GOLF COURSE**

1948 Longwoods Rd. Wardsville, ON

**27 HOLES**

**9 HOLES - ALTERNATE SHOT**

**9 HOLES - BEST BALL**

**9 HOLES - SCRAMBLE**

**Limited SPOTS  
AVAILABLE so  
register today!**



## REGISTRATION



- Spots are limited so register today!
- \$150 per golfer. Fee due upon registration.
- Format: 2 person teams
- Includes: cart, 27 holes, & dinner

To register or for more  
information, email:  
[sncwedding073127@yahoo.com](mailto:sncwedding073127@yahoo.com)



## WIN PRIZES!

**Closest to the pin** / **Skins** / **50/50 Draw** / **Putting contest**

## EVENT SCHEDULE

- 9:00am - 9:50am** Registration/golf check in.  
The start of your epic day
- 10:00am** Shot gun start.  
Let the good times roll
- 4:30PM** Dinner - eat in or take out  
available & contest prize  
announcements.



# CHIPPEWA GOLF LEAGUE

**WEDNESDAY NIGHTS**

**START TIME: 5PM**

**BEGINNING MAY 6, 2026**

**TILL SEPTEMBER 9, 2026**

**WARDSVILLE GOLF CLUB**

1948 Longwoods Rd. Wardsville, ON



## “AWESOME AUSTIN”



Tee off with us for a fun, friendly competition every Wednesday. Chippewas of the Thames has Golf league every Wednesday night at Wardsville Golf Club.

- Get in on skins every Wednesday
- League players get a discount for golf and cart. Let the cashier know your with Chippewas golf league.
- No pre-registration needed. Show up, play with another league member and submit your score card for 9 holes.
- League year-end Golf Tournament September 12, 2026



CHIPPEWA SENIORS PROGRAM

# May 2026

TUE	WED	THU
<b>5</b>  	<b>6</b> <b>ACTIVITY: Euchre 5-7PM</b>	<b>7</b> <b>LUNCH: Beef Stew with Bun</b> <b>ACTIIVITY: flower craft</b>
<b>12</b> <b>LUNCH: Chicken souvlaki with salad</b> <b>ACTIVITY: bird feeders</b>	<b>13</b> <b>ACTIVITY: Quarter Bingo 5-7pm</b>	<b>14</b> <b>LUNCH: Beef Tacos with Rice</b> <b>ACTIVITY: flower starter</b>
<b>19</b> <b>NO LUNCH</b>	<b>20</b> <b>ACTIVITY: Euchre 5-7pm</b>	<b>21</b> <b>CONGREGATE DINING</b> <b>DINNER: cabbage rolls with garlic bread</b>
<b>26</b> <b>LUNCH: garlic noodles with sausage</b> <b>ACTIVITY: coloring</b>	<b>27</b> <b>ACTIVITY: Quarter Bingo 5-7pm</b>	<b>28</b> <b>LUNCH: corn soup with fried bread</b> <b>ACTIVITY: Activity pages</b>

Lunch Program is scheduled every Tuesday & Thursday 12-1pm, unless stated.

Activities take place after lunch from 1-3pm.  
No sign up is required unless stated

Evening programming happens every Wednesday evening 5-7pm, no sign up is required unless stated.  
Both programs (Euchre & Quarter Bingo) are potluck.

Congregate Dining: is scheduled for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month.

THIS MENU IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.



May, 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;

- May 14<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-4:30pm
- May 28<sup>th</sup> from 8:30am -12:00pm

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 expectations.

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

- Office Closed May 18<sup>th</sup> for Victoria Day
- Jana Kehego – Vacation May 1 – 8
- Kristen Hendrick – Vacation May 7 & 8 all day, 20 & 27 from 3:00-4:30pm
- Liz Grosbeck – Vacation May 15<sup>th</sup>

# ANISHINAABEK FOOD RIGHTS APPLICATION (COTTFN)

### PART 1: Eligibility Criteria

1. **\$5.00 re-stocking fee** payment is **required to pick up a food box**.
2. Last day of pick up posted will be the last day to pick up any food hampers.
3. Only **ONE food basket per household**, per month due to limited funding available.
4. This program **OPEN TO ALL CHIPPEWA MEMBERS** on & off the reserve, regardless of income.

### PART 2: General Information

Date	Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> On-Reserve <input type="checkbox"/> Off-Reserve
First Name	Last Name			
Address				
Phone #	Email			
Band #				

### PART 3: Household Members & Income

List all Dependent adults and/or child(ren) living in your household.

#	Name	Age
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		

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

- Ontario Works       Disability-WSIB  
 ODSP                     Old Age Security  
 Employment Income  
 Employment Insurance  
 Student  
 Other (Please Specify): \_\_\_\_\_

*Reminder: This program is open to all Chippewa Members living on or off the reserve, regardless of income.*

### PART 4: Needs & Preferences (optional but helps us pack your box)

#### Hygiene & Personal Care Needs

- Feminine Products  
 Toothbrush  
 Toothpaste  
 Deodorant

#### Adult Incontinence/Medical Needs

- Adult Diapers /  Depends (Size: \_\_\_\_\_)

#### Dietary Restrictions/Allergies

List any allergies or restrictions:

#### Baby/Child Items (if applicable)

- Diaper Size: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Pull-ups Size: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Please check up to 3 items (as available):**  
 Wipes       Baby Wash       Baby Lotion  
 Baby Cereal       Baby Snacks  
 Formula: \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit applications to Brittany

Chrisjohn - afr@cottfn.com



I would like to thank the Dreamcatcher Fund for your support for another amazing year of Hockey. Your contribution means so much helping our son achieve his goals and makes a positive impact. Thank you once again for continued support.

Liz Grosbeck & Josh Hill

**Office use only:**  \$5.00 PAID (received by: \_\_\_\_\_)      Date of Pick Up: \_\_\_\_\_ (Confirmed by: \_\_\_\_\_)



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

## Prayer

Flower Moon, I offer my tobacco and come to you with humility and humbleness. My heart is full of energy that my body has taken in, this has given me new life. Nookomis, the teachings you show me are powerful and overwhelming. No words can express the feeling of this union with Creation that I feel in this time of the Flower Moon. Nookomis, I humble myself to say, I will do all that I can to carry within me the spiritual diversity and identity shown to me in a good way as Anishinaabe.

I know the Creator would expect this of me. Flower Moon, there is so much I do not understand. With humility, I ask forgiveness for what 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 you can come again, Flower Moon, miigwech.

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.