

## Lands & Resources NEWSLETTER

# Fall 2014

BRINGING YOU INFORMATION YOU NEED TO KNOW

## WHO ARE WE?

The Lands Department continues to grow with the addition of new employees and returning employees. Kristin Leonard has returned from her maternity/parental leave as the A/Lands Manager. Welcome back! Jane Copegog-Marsden is the Lands Finance Clerk. She handles all billing related inquiries. Crystal Roote is our Lands Administrative Clerk. Crystal handles all clerical and insurance related matters. Mike Smith, Environmental Specialist's main responsibility and focus is Species-At-Risk. David Sylvester and Dana

Monague form part of our Compliance Sector. *More on that later.* The Lands Department regretfully announces that Amber King-Robitaille, Land Code Development Co-ordinator has left her position due to a number of personal issues. We wish her all the best. For information concerning FNLM and the Land Code, read below.

## FNLM UPDATE TO MEMBERS

The Lands Department would like to provide an update on the status of First

Nation Lands Management and the September 30, 2014 vote. Back in July, the Lands Department met with Denise Graham (First Nation Administrator), the Lands Staff, Julie Pellerin (Lands Advisory Board) and Christine Laino (AANDC) to discuss a potential rescheduling of the September 30, 2014 vote date and the ramifications of doing so. There were a few items that we believed would prevent a successful vote at this point.

Julie Pellerin, Land Advisory Board advised the group that we are in really good shape going forward. The CRP

(Community Ratification Process) document has been approved and fully complies with the Framework Agreement. The draft Land Code has been supplied to the First Nation, and has received committee review and approval. The document also received legal review by the Lands Advisory Board legal rep. Minor changes were recommended and are expected to be completed soon. We are very close to getting the approved document to the Verifier and Council for review and approval.

The Individual Agreement is complete and ready to go once the vote has been concluded. The Ratification Officer and Deputy Ratification Officer have also been appointed.

But despite all of the above, one technical component remains outstanding, and this is beyond our control: The Land Description Report. This document is yet to be completed. Our vote date was scheduled for September 30, 2014. Realistically, this would not

have allowed us sufficient time to conclude the process prior to the predetermined vote date. As a result of this and some administrative difficulties we had experienced, a recommendation was brought forth at a duly convened Council meeting on July 7, 2014 to seek approval to reschedule the vote date. Council supported the request to reschedule the vote date.

It was the recommendation of the Lands Team to **reschedule the FNLM vote to May 16, 2015** whereby the voting process will incorporate an e-voting process which will ensure a wider coverage of voter participation.

Our community and membership as a whole will require this additional time in order to make an informed decision. It is absolutely vital that we have our membership well informed with regards to FNLM and the Individual Agreement. An extension will allow us a greater effort at locating, informing and engaging all of our members to ensure an increased

participation. We thank everyone for your patience and please keep an eye out for further information concerning this very important initiative. All requests for information concerning the Land Code and May 16, 2014 vote can be directed to Kristin Leonard, A/Lands Manager, Jane Copegog-Marsden, Lands Finance Clerk, Mike Smith, Environmental Specialist, Crystal Roote, Lands Admin. Clerk.

A complete update regarding FNLM and the Land Code Ratification will be provided to the community at the next scheduled General Band Meeting – October 18, 2014. Please join us for the presentation.

## NEW LOOK TO THE OFFICE

As noted, the Lands Department has been steadily growing. With the addition of two new staff members within the year and the return of our A/Lands Manager, Kristin Leonard, it was deemed

necessary to request additional office space. The Compliance sector (made up of Dave Sylvester and Dana Monague) has been moved to the old radio station office and existing lands staff remain in the same office. Renovations and upgrades were completed. Both offices received a fresh new look. Thanks to Dana and Dave for the wonderful paint job.

The Lands Department purchased new office furniture from Dunlop Office Furniture. The new look allows easier flow and accommodations for all staff. If you haven't seen the office renovations, drop by. The Lands Staff would love the visit!

## **LANDS SUCCESSFUL IN APPLYING FOR FUNDING**

The Lands Department is pleased to announce that a four year funding application under the New Relationship Fund was approved. Based on this successful application, two positions were made possible. David Sylvester, was originally hired under an OTTER

program as a Lands Compliance Officer Trainee. He has successfully completed his training aspect of the position and will be employed under the NRF as a full-time Compliance Officer.

The New Relationship Fund allowed the Lands Department to post, interview and hire for a secondary position. Mrs. Dana Monague has been hired as the Lands Compliance Officer Trainee. Upon successful completion of her training period, she will also become a full-time Compliance Officer for the Lands Department.

Dave and Dana will both be attending the Ontario Building Association training session in October to take part in Building Code Training – Houses 2012.

## **INTRODUCING...**

...DANA MONAGUE, LANDS COMPLIANCE OFFICER TRAINEE

Good day,

My name is Dana Monague and I have been employed with the Beausoleil First Nation Lands Department as

the Lands Compliance Officer Trainee.

My main activities include becoming familiar with First Nation Land Management and Leasing rules and regulations/By-laws/ Compliance Policies, and promoting public safety in all areas including fire prevention, vehicle safety, ATV and snowmobile safety, bicycle safety, etc.

I will also be assisting with cottage lot inspections to ensure compliance with leasing regulations. This includes assisting with regular patrols and performing day to day enforcement. Once trained, I will be able to conduct investigations, maintain public relations and liaise with members and third-parties concerning compliance awareness and enforcement.

Since the commencement of my employment I have been in the office and educating myself on Beausoleil First Nation Leasing rules and regulations and also becoming more aware of all policies and procedures of the leasing structure.

I'm very excited to start working on many new projects and I look forward to the future working with this great bunch in the Lands Department.

Miigwetch,

*Dana Monague*

## **NEW BY-LAWS IN DEVELOPMENT**

The Compliance sector of the Lands Department has been busy working on developing two by-laws for enactment in the near future. A beach use bylaw will enable us to enforce laws and to institute fines for offenders. An ATV use by-law is also in the works.

## **BIG SAND BAY**

The beach rules as established last year for Big Sand Bay will remain in effect. As you know, Christian Island is known for having the most beautiful beaches in our area. We want to keep it that way for the enjoyment of everyone. For this reason, umbrellas, chairs, loungers, etc must be removed nightly from the beach area. It is also prohibited to build fences or any other obstructions on

the beach. It is further prohibited for any person to place and leave any equipment on the beach overnight. No exceptions will be made.

We have received mix reviews from both the cottage and resident population about the rules that have been put in place. It is absolutely necessary to develop these rules and regulations. No other First Nation has the same kind of pristine beaches that we have or the laws in place to protect it. We are forerunners in this regard and what we do here may shape laws and regulations for others First Nations. We ask all residents to do their part to protect and maintain our beautiful beaches.

## **RESOURCES AND TRESPASSING ISSUES**

The Lands Office periodically receives reports concerning visitors and lessees knowingly or unknowingly entering private held lands. No one should enter private held lands without the expressed consent of the land owner. Please respect

all private held lands. If "No Trespassing" signs are not posted, it is very hard for Lands or APS to address concerns. That's why land owners are continually being encouraged to erect or reinforce "No Trespassing" signs and to report evidence of trespassing to the police.

In the next little while, the Lands Office will be purchasing "No Trespassing" Signs. Community Members can purchase the signs from Lands for a nominal fee.

Further, harvesting and removal off-island of resources by non-members is strictly prohibited. This includes wood, berries, fruit, mushrooms and all other plants. Likewise, we encourage all residents to not bring foreign plants to the island. Mike Smith can provide information on invasive species, should you require further information.

## **ESTATES WORKSHOP**

The Lands Department hosted a very informative workshop on September 4, 2014. The workshop was well attended and

participants received Will Packages to take home.

Congratulations to Yvonne Assance who was the winner of the safe that we donated as a door prize.

Estates of members living on reserve have always fallen under the jurisdiction of the Department. Historically though, the Lands Department has always been relied upon by the community to assist with estate matters, including the drafting of wills. Please note that the Lands Department has taken a step back with regards to assisting with wills. We have always encouraged our membership to work with their own families and to seek legal assistance when drafting a will. The same with estate matters. We are now encouraging anyone having to deal with estates to contact Indian Affairs directly.

Dana Piilo, Estates and Governance Officer helped with the Estates Workshop and presented information on Wills and Estates. The following is Dana's contact information. If you or your

family require any assistance with an estate issue, you are strongly encouraged as a starting point to contact Dana first. Dana will guide you through the process and will ensure that the estate is dealt with.

#### For General Information:

Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Canada,  
Headquarters Main Contact Information:  
→Phone: 1-800-567-9604  
→www.aandc-aadnc.gc.ca

#### To Contact Dana Piilo:

A/Estates and Governance Officer  
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern  
Development Canada  
Anemki Business Centre  
101-100 Anemki Place  
Fort William First Nation, ON P7J 1A5  
Phone: 807-624-1594  
[Dana.Piilo@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca](mailto:Dana.Piilo@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca)

## APPRAISAL METHOD UNDERWAY FOR BFN LESSEES

In April 2014, thirty-eight lessees who did not sign the new lease that was offered back in 2010 came up for a five year rental review, as per their lease agreements. The Lands Department requested for an appraisal through Aboriginal Affairs. The appraisal was conducted by Duncan Bell of Charles Bell Real Estate Appraisals Ltd.

Of the thirty-eight lessees, thirty-four opted to sign a new lease agreement: six have chosen not to sign and are subject to these new appraised rates.

The appraisal for the majority of our lessees (all due June 1) will come due April 2015. All affected lessees will be provided with written notice of the annual rent to apply during the subsequent rental period. An appraisal report will once again be commissioned through Aboriginal Affairs. Affected lessees will be provided with confirmation of the new rental amounts and Notice of Rent Payables will be amended for June 2015.

## RENTAL OF COTTAGES

The rental of cottages continues to be a source of concern for not only the First Nation, but a majority of lessees as well. The Beausoleil First Nation does not permit its' lessees to rent or sublet their cottages. Renters are knowingly or unknowingly adding to a very big problem.

It has been brought to our attention numerous times through letters, social media, direct reports to the Lands Office that a number of lessees have been renting their cottages for profit. This is unacceptable. As you know, the lease agreement between the Beausoleil First Nation and the individuals(s) named in the lease agreement is for summer recreational purposes only and cannot be subletted without the consent of the Beausoleil First Nation. The Beausoleil First Nation has never consented to subletting or the rental of cottages by the lessee.

As in the case of all reports received, the Lands Office will contact the lessee. We advise that if the activity continues, we will recommend cancellation of the lease agreement. This measure will continue to be actively enforced. We continue to ask the community for assistance in identifying or notifying the Lands Office of such activity.



## COOPERATION REQUIRED FOR SMALL BUSINESS MICROLOAN

As you all may know, a new fund has been made available by the Nookmis account. It is intended to be a "revolving" loan fund for community members as an incentive for new business start-up or to support the expansion of existing businesses.

We ask for community member's cooperation and due diligence in complying with all lands, forestry, and environmental guidelines and rules. For further information on how you can work with the Lands Department on your project, please contact us today.

## POTENTIAL SIGHTING OF BROWN RECLUSE SPIDER

In August, Mike Smith collected a spider at the Band Office. Based on observations and pictures found on the internet, the spider was potentially identified as a Brown Recluse Spider. Mike has

sent the sample to Environment Canada for confirmation.

We caution all residents to keep an eye out for the spider. If you see or suspect that you've seen a brown recluse, please call Mike Smith as soon as possible, so that he can preserve the specimen.

Information found at [www.brown-recluse-spider.com](http://www.brown-recluse-spider.com)

If you live within the home range of the **Brown Recluse Spider** (see '[Distribution and Habitat](#)'), it is extremely important that you be able to identify them. From reading this site, you will have learned how dangerous a bite from the infamous Brown [Recluse Spider](#) can be.

The [Brown Recluse Spider](#) is considered a small arachnid species. They range in size from 1/4 inch to 1/2 inch. The first item on the **Brown Recluse Spider** identify checklist is their markings. [Brown Recluse Spiders](#) have peculiar dark brown markings along their backside, and is usually referred to as being 'violin shaped'. This is how they get their nickname of Violin Spider. Unfortunately, this can not be the only sign you tell these spiders by, as other spiders of a similar type have markings that resemble these as well.



The feature of the Brown Recluse Spider that really sets them apart is their eyes. If you look closely at their head (if you are looking at a real one, do not get too close, and be careful!), you will notice an unusual set of eyes. Most spiders have 4 pairs of eyes, for 8 in total.

The **Brown Recluse Spider** only has 3 sets of eyes, or 6 in total. This apparent "missing" set of eyes is what really sets the Brown Recluse Spider apart from the rest, and will allow you to identify the Brown Recluse Spider much easier.

**GREAT CANADIAN**  
**Shoreline**  
**Cleanup™**  
 VANCOUVER AQUARIUM & WWF

**Help keep our waters  
 healthy for everyone.  
 Including me.**

A CONSERVATION INITIATIVE OF

vancouver  
**aquarium**

**WWF**

**Join this cleanup at [ShorelineCleanup.ca](http://ShorelineCleanup.ca)**

**Site: Christian Island / Beausoleil First Nation**

**Date/Time: Saturday September 27, 2014**

**Meeting Location: Meet at the Pavilion for 8:30 am to greet our helpers and head to the clean up site.**

**Contact: Any member of the Lands Department or Sylvia**

PRESENTING SPONSOR



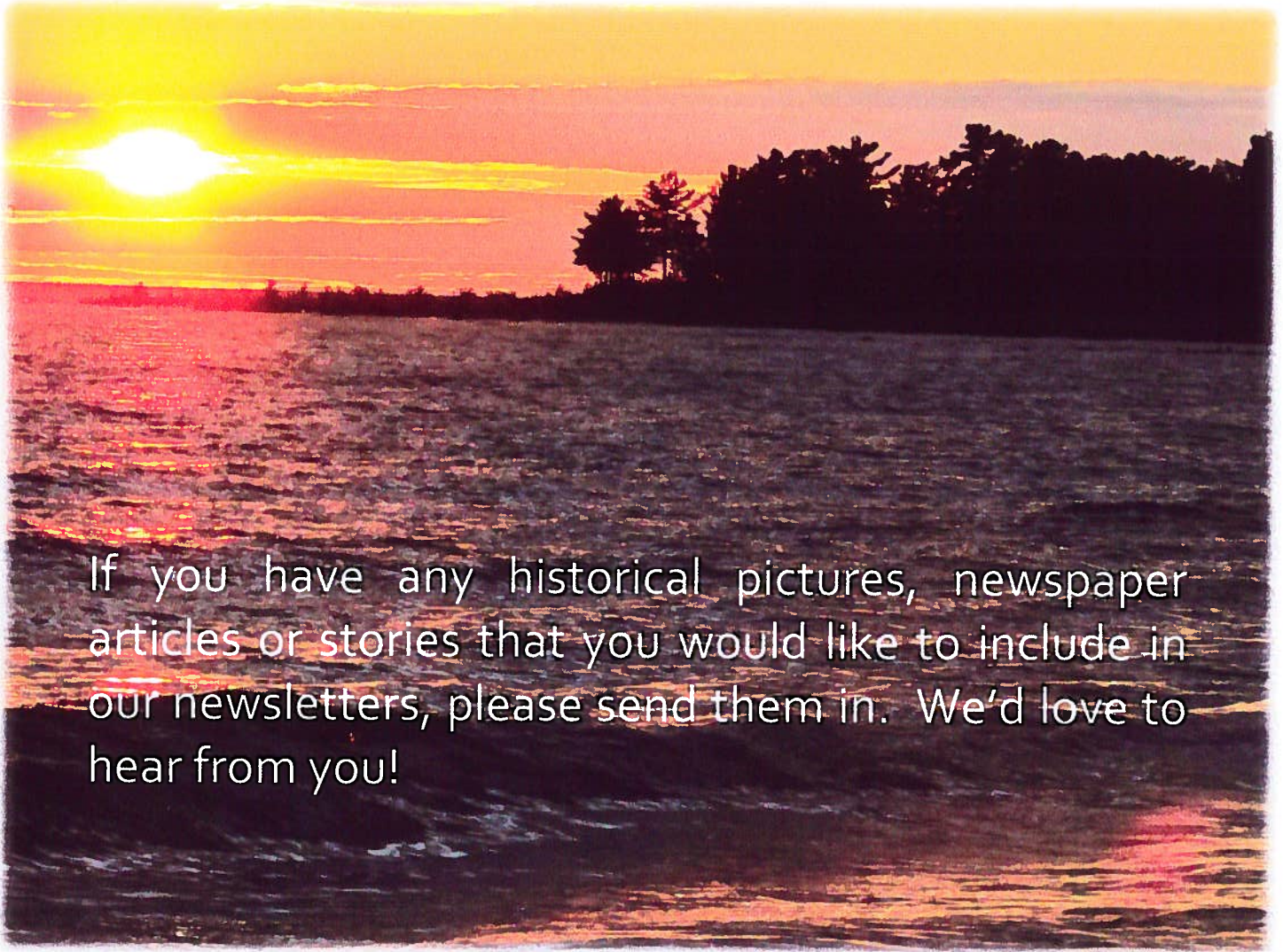
PROVINCIAL SPONSORS



CONSERVATION SUPPORTERS



# Seeking Pictures, Stories, Input from the Community



If you have any historical pictures, newspaper articles or stories that you would like to include in our newsletters, please send them in. We'd love to hear from you!

-----Detach and Return-----

## **INPUT NEEDED**

.....Do you, the members of Beausoleil First Nation have any questions, comments, feedback etc. with regards to the newly implemented beach rules? As always your input is greatly appreciated. Detach and return your comments to the Lands Office.

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