



Chiefs March 2024 Report

Kwe, Dear Lennox Island Families,

Spring is in the air. I hope everyone had a wonderful Easter Holiday!

Thankfully our winter turned out to be a mild one, which was great as it gives us a breather and more time to address downed trees etc. from our last hurricanes.

As I mentioned earlier, we will be working to clean up downed trees on the sides of our roadways and if any members need help to remove dead or falling trees let us know. We will do what we can to remove and dispose of them.

As the end of the fiscal year is here, our annual HST accommodation will be landing in the bank accounts for our on-reserve members. As I have stated and explained many times about how the HST payment works, I want to again reiterate that the HST is an accommodation for when the province introduced the blending of the GST and the PST back in 2013. The agreement was due to the lobbying efforts of the Band to ensure that the implementation of the HST would not cause undue harm to our Band members. The provincial tax exemption was only for on reserve who had the ability to use their status cards for tax exception at the point of sale. The off-reserve members did not have the ability to do this, so the Provincial Government refused to provide an accommodation to the off-reserve as they felt that the off reserve never had the tax exemption benefit and were not impacted by the blending of the two taxes in THEIR opinion. We were always of the mind that the benefit should go to all island Mi'kmaq, and it would be an opportunity to erase those hurtful colonial lines that only serve to divide us as a people.

We have argued many times for this to be changed however we have not been successful.

At the Band meeting this past February, I stated that the only way that we will be able to equalize that benefit is when our own source revenues grow to a point where the benefit could be supported. I believe that once we finalize and get our energy projects on the go, we will then be in a position to implement the equalization of this benefit for the Lennox Island Members who live off reserve on PEI. I know that our off-reserve members are not happy that this benefit is not for all Island Mi'kmaq. I am not happy either, this is not my choice, this is the position of the Provincial Government who hold the purse strings for this money, and they are adamant on their position. So, my answer to that is to get our own source revenues increased by continuing to seek out and build new businesses and harnessing the opportunities in the energy sector to help us reach our goals of self-sustainability and wellbeing for all our members in our jurisdiction, Epekwitk.

We have been trying to find the best way to utilize our old fishery plant. We have had a number of inquiries for the space but after doing our due diligence none of those offers worked out for our best interest. We have been renting the offices on the second floor to help cover the costs of the building and I am happy to report that we are doing a bit of renovations to the lower level to accommodate our culture and tourism program which is expanding exponentially. This will go a long way in the upkeep of this important asset, and it is nice that the building will be used to help support our communities' goals in this sector!!!

We have been very fortunate to be able to access funding for much needed equipment for our many programs and projects, to name a few; we now have a new vehicle for the garden, a new vehicle for the Guardians and we will be adding an office space for the Guardian program, which will be morphing into our new Natural Resources Department. It is important for us to take our rightful place as stewards of the land and sea, so our young staff are working to increase their capacity to take on this role.

I am extremely pleased to see our school, programs and groups embracing land-based learning. I see many pictures of the kids outdoors, having fun and learning!!!

The smelt shacks were a big hit!!

As well, you will be seeing work being done down around our ball field! We were approved for the Blue Jay fund, so I am excited to see that recreational space get much needed upgrades!

The fencing and sign for our cemetery is complete and is so beautiful. It is important to protect this special space, the burial place of our ancestors!!!

As we move into the spring, I want to take this opportunity to wish all our fishers across Epekwitk a safe, happy and prosperous season!

In Unity,

Chief Darlene, xo





LENNOX ISLAND FIRST NATION

LENNOX ISLAND TRADITIONAL TUESDAY

- Wear traditional clothing (ribbon skirts, ribbon shirts, beaded items, moccasins etc.)
- Speak the Mi'kmaq language
- Prepare and/or eat traditional foods
- Create some traditional artwork

EVERY TUESDAY!!!

ART BY LORETTA BOULD

Welta'si Sapa'sinek

Congratulations

Heritage Fair 2024

First Place ~ Canyon & Ethan (Residential Schools)
 Second Place ~ Blaiz (Sacred Teachings)
 Honourable Mentions ~ Shanaya & Audrina (Ribbon Skirts)
 ~ Jezebel & Mika (Hand Drums)

Westisle Students Highlight

We have 3 students attending post-secondary in the fall.

Aryn Lewis- Attending UNB
 Sierra Clory- Attending College of North Atlantic Nfld
 Peyton Kilbride- Attending UNB

Congrats to you all!

LENNOX ISLAND YOUTH PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

Are you a youth/young adult between the ages of 13 and 30? Are you interested in learning photography skills with a DSLR camera? Come join CBC's Shane Hennessey for a two-day workshop... and a drone demonstration!

We can accept the first 10 eligible applicants. For more information and to register, email katie.rowe@cbc.ca or click on the link provided.

April 6 & 7
 Lennox Island Community Centre
 24 Eagle Feather Trail
 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 Lunch will be provided.

Photos by Shane Hennessey

Memorial Muins Clothing

Adult Hoodies	\$45
Adult Crewneck	\$40
Youth Hoodies	\$35
Youth Crewneck	\$30

Contact Janna Dymont to get clothing or come see us at JISM!
 Payments can be made by e-transfer to memorialmuins@gmail.com or cash.

**** Post-Secondary ****

Applications for funding assistant is due by May 1st 2024.

Pick up at band office or email Kim
Kim.colwill@lennoxisland.com

April Activities/Groups
Monday, April 1st - Easter Monday - NO SCHOOL
Tuesday, April 2nd - Eagles Group - Drop-in Ball Hockey Gr 6 and up 5:30-7:30
Wednesday, April 3rd - JISM Students @ Movies
Thursday, April 4th - Solar Eclipse Safety Gathering @JISM 2:00-3:00 for students 4:30-5:30 for public
Monday, April 8th - Judo 6:00-8:30 pm - Pokémon club 3:15-5:00pm - Spring Pictures @JISM - Solar Eclipse
Tuesday, April 9th - Jay's group 3:15-4:00 - Eagles Group - Drop-in ball hockey Gr 6 and up 5:30-7:30
Wednesday, April 10th - Judo 6:00-8:30 - Pokémon club 3:15-5:00
Thursday, April 11th - Badminton Gr 5 and up 6:00-8:30
Monday, April 15th - Judo @JISM 6:00-8:30pm - Pokémon Club 3:15-5:00 - Mindful Medicine with Gr 7-9
Tuesday, April 16th - Eagles Group - Jays Group - Drop-in ball hockey Gr 6 and up 5:30-7:30 pm
Wednesday, April 17th - Judo @JISM 6:00-8:30pm - Pokémon Club 3:15-5:00
Thursday, April 18th - Badminton Gr 5 and up 6:00-8:30 pm
Friday, April 19th - No School PD Day - Marine Explorer's PD Camp
Monday, April 22nd - Judo @JISM 6:00-8:30pm - Pokémon Club 3:15-5:00
Tuesday, April 23rd - Jays Group - Drop-in ball hockey Gr 6 and up 5:30-7:30 pm
Wednesday, April 24th - Judo @JISM 6:00-8:30pm - Pokémon Club 3:15-5:00 - Eagles Group
Thursday, April 25th - Badminton Gr 5 and up 6:00-8:30 pm
Monday, April 29th - Judo @JISM 6:00-8:30pm - Pokémon Club 3:15-5:00
Tuesday, April 30th - Jays Group - Eagles Group - Drop-in ball hockey Gr 6 and up 5:30-7:30

****Photo is Adriannah and Phyllis Webstad**



Adriannah was chosen to represent PEI at a Youth 2 Youth conference in Mission BC. This conference was for Youth from all corners of Canada for a one-week life-changing experience. This initiative is designed to empower future leaders by fostering unity between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous youth, inspiring them to drive positive change for peace and sustainable environmental practices.

In the week spent at the conference, Adriannah got the opportunity to listen to many teachings from Elders and knowledge keepers such as Phyllis Webstad author and creator of Orange Shirt Day. Adriannah also got to join in on song and dance and make some cultural crafts, she got to see many things including a pit house. Adriannah was very blessed to have this opportunity.

Hernewood Boys goes to Halifax for a Lacrosse game!

Maple Tapping



Check out Clawing into a Deal on Facebook for weekly draws! You could be the next winner!!



John J Sark Goes to the Movies!



Join us @ the...
Eagles Nest



Tuesdays and Fridays
9-10:30AM

Richard, Robin & Drake

International Women's Day

