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# OKIKENDAWT HYDRO REVENUE AND DOKIS COMMUNITY TRUST NEWSLETTER

FALL 2023 - VOL. 1

## TRUSTEES' MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Trust is to provide a long term benefit to the Member of Dokis First Nation - both the existing Members as well as future generations. The net income of the Trust is to be used to fund projects and services that promote Community infrastructure, economic development and health and welfare which in turn will sustain, enhance and improve the quality of life for Dokis First Nation. The Trustees are pleased to see the number of project funding requests increasing each year and will endeavor to fund those projects with the net income available from the Trust.

The Trust Fund began to receive proposals as of April 2022. Dokis Band Members submitted proposals that met one of the following criteria:

- Community Infrastructure
- Economic Development
- Health and Welfare, and,
- Emergency Contingencies

As part of our core values to be accountable and transparent to the Community, we are pleased to present a synopsis of projects/proposals received to date. We will present a newsletter each Fall to highlight these projects to the community of Dokis.

The Annual Trustee's Report, the Financial Statements plus the quarterly Statement of Accounts are maintained for the Trust can be viewed on the website as a Sub-menu under Land Claims.

NOTE: As these papers are confidential, we have secured the site as "private" and only available to registered Band Members. You have to register under the "LOGIN" section of the website.

# October 2022

## THE DOKIS MUSEUM - DISABILITY ACCESS

The Dokis Museum features various displays of Dokis history, local art work, cultural work and is a place where events are held such as the Remembrance Day Celebrations. The Coordinator applied to the Trust to renovate the Museum to allow for a safe entrance for elders and people with disabilities and a hazard-free basement exit. As a result of these renovations, the Museum is now being utilized for workshops and many other events in the future.



## THE HERITAGE BARN - GANAWENDAAGWAD - IT'S TAKEN CARE OF, PROTECTED AND KEPT PROJECT



The Heritage Barn Re-Roofing Project lead by the Ganawandaagwad Institute and financially supported by the Okikendawt Hydro & Community Trust Fund was completed on schedule.

The Heritage Barn was originally built in the early 1900's (abt 1925) and was formerly located on the property of Mary and Frank Dokis where it was used as a barn for many years and later for storage by their children.

Norm Dokis remembers his grandfather Frank always said it would last if you kept a good roof on it! It now represents one of the last heritage buildings in Dokis. Restoule Carpentry and Roofing was contracted by the Ganawandaagwad Institute to complete the re-roofing of the Heritage Barn and reinforce the barn structure.



Shawn Restoule and his son Kaleb put a lot of labour into preparing the poles to support the roof. Mother Nature used the available poles for other purposes, consequently a lot more time was put into the project than was anticipated. The project provided Shawn Restoule with the opportunity to teach his son about peeling logs for construction use.

Miigwetch Shawn and Kaleb for your generous contribution!

A detailed write-up on how this project progressed will be posted on the Dokis website.

# April 2023

## 2023 ANNUAL POW-WOW

The Dokis Cultural Committee would like to extend a “Chi-Miigwech” to the Okikendawt Hydro Revenue and Dokis Community Trust for funding of the 21st Annual Traditional Pow Wow. It was an excellent turn-out! There were over 110 dancers registered for Saturday. However, due to the heavy smoke within the area, the Pow Wow was cancelled Sunday. The pow-wow is a safe social environment for all to come together to learn and participate in learning Anishnaabe culture from our traditional knowledge keepers.

New this year, DFN Culture Committee partnered with Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA) and had a portable trailer so that everyone could refill their own water bottles; we want to ensure we limit the amount of waste for our landfill, especially bottled water.



Each year, the committee highlights their funders at the Emcee's stand on a large banner for all spectators to see.

Our community members dance proudly and showcase their beautiful regalia and our youth drum group (L'il Migisi Singers) sing their songs on their grandfather drum. We gather as a community to celebrate life and crown our Miss Kikendawt.

### MISS KIKENDAWT 2023





## MAANDONMING KINMAAZIIWIN (GOOD LIFE) HERITAGE Cultural preservation project

The projects' goal is to provide Dokis community Members with an opportunity to explore more traditional learning through health and educational avenues. We provide a safe spiritual space for healing and growth through culture and healing practices. We give our participants a sense of identity as an Indigenous kwe (woman) and nini (man) through our men's group, women's group, by attending sacred fires and a Community Sobriety Celebration. Our programs offer an opportunity to explore new healthy strategies to living a good life physically, mentally, and spiritually.



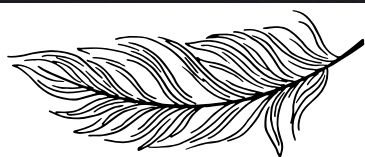
### JCARL - FRENCH RIVER BOATHOUSE, WARF & WORKSHOP Construction Project - equipment purchase

JCARL Construction is a four (4) generation family-owned business. JCARL stands for John C. Restoule, Albert Restoule, Roger Restoule and Lois Restoule-Lambert.

JCARL virtually offered Sema (Tobacco) to the Okikendawt Hydro Revenue and Dokis Community Trust at the onset of their application and again upon confirmation that they were chosen as a successful applicant. One of their visions for the future is to start a Hauling and Excavation Division and they were given the opportunity to achieve that goal with some financial assistance from the Trust to purchase a Dump Truck. This venture is just the beginning to being successful in their visions.



Restoule J.C.A.R.L Construction is in a joint venture with Dominion Construction, was awarded a federal infrastructure contract to do rehabilitation work on the French River dams complex – The French River Boathouse, Wharf and Workshop Project. They have helped and will continue to sustain and improve the community of Dokis by building homes, repairing roofs, and addressing the needs of band owned buildings.



## 2023 ANNUAL WINTER ROUND DANCE

Kikendaad Round Dance was held January 14, 2023 and it was a packed house.

The Round Dance is a beautiful ceremony; we get to feast our past loved ones, share their songs, their knowledge and dancing the night away. No matter how challenging it may be to prepare the feast, help your guests arrive safely, and provide hospitality, it always turns out just the way it was meant to be.

Chi-Miigwech for the kwewok who helped cook, clean, and host, along with all our invited guests and singers for making the trip all the way to our community.

Chi Miigwech to our Kikendaad gimaa minwa giigdooninwag for attending, dancing, and being a part of the ceremony.

Chi-Miigwech kina wiya for a beautiful gathering! Next year we will be hosting the Round Dance on January 13, 2024!



## ST. JOSEPH CEMETERY RESTORATION - PRESERVING OUR HISTORY

Denise Restoule & Marie Dokis took on the challenge of planning, organizing and researching the grounds of Dokis' 3 cemeteries. The community infrastructure for these cemeteries are in dire need of major repairs and updates.

The Okikendawt Hydro Revenue and Dokis Community Trust provided financial support so that the cemetery can now be updated to include additional crosses, monuments and a Columbarium. Councilor Denise Restoule acknowledged financial support at the past community Band Meeting and informed members to reach out to provide details of deceased members, pics, and if the markers are missing where their family member is resting contact the Band Office.

Members of Dokis First Nation have resided on Okikendawt Island on the Upper French River since the 1800's. As the only mode of transportation at that time was by water, the ancestors selected a burial site that was easily acceptable, sheltered and close to the shoreline. This graveyard is now named St. Joseph Cemetery. There is a total of 160 grave sites of which 56 have headstones with identifying information about the deceased person. These date back from the mid-1800's to the early 1900's.

## MAANDONMING KINMAAZIIWIN HERITAGE Cultural preservation project

Norm Dokis and Laura Dokis acknowledge Okikendawt Hydro Revenue and Dokis Community Trust in financial support for the next phase of their heritage project.

The Maandonming Kinmaaziiwin (Gathering Knowledge) Project will research, consolidate and share historical and cultural information unique to Dokis First Nation. A search of historical records will be undertaken and compiled, topographical sites of interest will be identified, photographed and descriptions provided. Drone footage will be taken of a number of culturally significant sites for educational purposes. An Ganawandaagwad Institute website will be developed to house the information gathered for the use of all community members.



## 2024 LITTLE NATIVE HOCKEY LEAGUE (NHL)

The Little NHL started in 1971. Teams from First Nations' all over Ontario travel to participate in this week-long tournament during the March Break. Cities such as Sudbury and Mississauga have been chosen as the host city in past years. It is a tournament that brings in economic growth for the chosen city.

There are approx. 200 teams who participate in this tournament. The tournament allows the participating First Nations to showcase their talents; make friends and allows families to visit the city as a means of vacation time.

Last year, the U13 Dokis team brought home B-Champs in the Competitive Division and the U9 team brought home E-Champ in the Recreation Division.



**DOKIS U13- B CHAMPS**



**DOKIS U9 DIVISION**

**CHI-MIIGWECH, THANK-YOU**

**THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ROUND OF SUBMISSIONS IS  
APRIL 30, 2024.**