

JULY 2026

Serpent River First Nation Newsletter



A CAF Story
Phillip & Lana
Page 1

National
Indigenous
Peoples Day
Page 10

Staff Updates
Page 18

Newsletter Highlights



Table of Contents

A CAF Story.....	1
Community Events Calendar.....	2
A message from Housing and Infrastructure.....	3
NISOONAG Site Search Drop-In.....	4
All Staff Meeting.....	5
How Am I Growing Clinic.....	5
Anishinaabe Aadziwin events.....	6
Indigenous Day Celebration at ELSS..	7
National Indigenous Peoples Day.....	8
Elders Picnic.....	10
Elders Olympics.....	12
End of School Year Party.....	14
2026 Summer Students.....	15
Staff Updates.....	18
Stay Connected.....	19



Being diagnosed with a complex illness was difficult for Brasher and his family, particularly his wife, Lana Brasher, who became his full-time caregiver. Phillip Brasher was living with a progressive illness while receiving care at home. As his condition changed and caregiving needs increased, his family began facing difficult decisions about how to best support him through the next stage of his care. St. Joe's hospice care program provided her and her husband with much-needed support during a very difficult time.

"I highly recommend hospice care for families because I was so burnt out. I was in a very weakened state, and it was such a relief to know that someone was taking care of Philip," Lana said.

Throughout his illness, the Brasher family received support from St. Joe's, starting with respite services offered by Margaret's Place and later transitioning to Stedman Community Hospice to access to high-quality and compassionate end of life care closer to home. I am so grateful for the help received from the community advancement fund. Being a caregiver and the ongoing loss and grief has taken a toll on my health but I am recuperating.

I would like to share is that I am grateful for community connection. Although I don't live in Cutler, it is my original and ancestral homeland, which is why I felt it important to spread my husband's ashes within his original home land.

We had a service and ceremony here in my home after his death and I kept his ashes until such time we could go to England. I just returned from England where we had a service with Phil's family and spread his ashes where his parents are. It was outside of a beautiful country church built in the 1300's. I went with my daughter, grand daughter, son in law and my sister Cheryl Hankard.

My culture and community provide me with support, comfort and a sense of belonging that lift me up during times of deep sadness, grief and loss.

Community Events Calendar

JULY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	1 OFFICE CLOSURE CANADA DA	2 GEKA BINGO 1PM	3	4
5	6 FRESH AIR WALK 9AM POWWOW GROUNDS	7 4D JUNIOR FIT PATRICIA TOULOUSE – LUNCH AND LEARN 12PM AT HEALTH CENTRE	8 TDWG SERIES 2 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT BEACH DAY STOCK WATER	9 GEKA BINGO 1PM	10 COMMUNITY FILM WORKSHOP ALL DAY BAND HALL	11 COMMUNITY FILM WORKSHOP ALL DAY BAND HALL
12 COMMUNITY FILM WORKSHOP ALL DAY BAND HALL	13 FRESH AIR WALK 9AM POWWOW GROUNDS SMOKING CESSATION 12-1 AT HEALTH CENTRE	14 4D JUNIOR FIT TIPÍ TALK WITH BRIAN NOOTCHATAI	15	16 GEKA BINGO 1PM	17	18
19	20 FRESH AIR WALK 9AM POWWOW GROUNDS	21 4D JUNIOR FIT	22	23 GEKA BINGO 1PM	24	25
26	27	28 4D JUNIOR FIT	29	30 GEKA BINGO 1PM	31	1

A Message from Housing and Infrastructure

Garbage Day is every Friday.

- Please have your garbage out by 8am at the end of the driveway to be picked up.
- All garbage must be in garbage bags; any loose garbage will not be collected.
- Please be mindful and do not place broken glass in your garbage as it poses a safety risk for our staff.

Waste Transfer Station Hours:

Monday–Friday 8:00AM – 5:00PM Excluding holidays

- Please be advised that the Serpent River First Nation Transfer Station is not a dump.
- Please place waste in the proper bins
- Please do not throw ANY garbage in the metal bin.

Annual Home Inspection Maintenance List

For the month of July it is recommended to:

- Clean vent hood filter
- Check all doors and locks & tighten screws
- Check for cracks in caulking & repair
- Clean & lubricate window tracks
- Check & clean outdoor fireplace or grills
- Test GFCI outlets

NISOONAG - Site Search

June 8th -12th a drop-in gathering space was hosted at the former Spanish IRS site while technicians conducted technical groundwork within the Mount Calvary cemetery. This ground truthing will assist in future commemoration pieces on the site. Approximately 90 people dropped in throughout the week including many survivors & elders, First Nation community members from neighbouring communities as well as local community members of Spanish ON. A huge shout out to the SRFN mental health team, the SRFN culture team alongside our local fire keepers who ensured folks were supported throughout the week.

The drop in space has given us a great start and opened our eyes to the importance of hosting an ongoing drop in space at the site. In the next couple of weeks the space will be opening on Wednesdays for drop in or cultural programming.

We want to thank all those who took time to come out and share their stories, visions and hopes towards building community surrounding the site.



All Staff Meeting

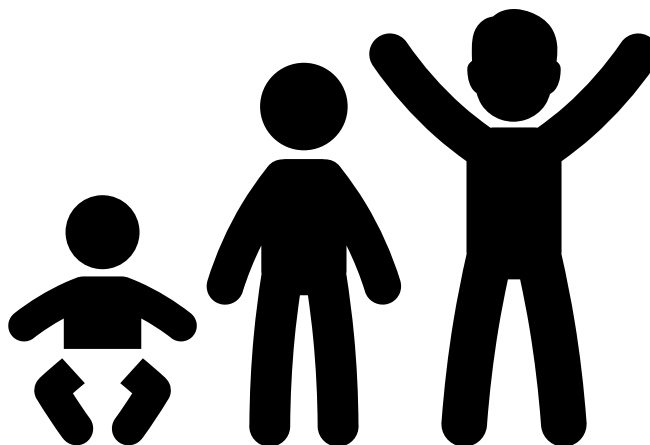
On June 17th all staff attended a meeting for development, along with messages from leadership, moral boosting activities, lunch and reviewing new policy and procedures and committees.

We appreciate your understanding for the need for these meetings for all staff to attend and participate. It is important for all departments to collaborate with each other to ensure Chief & Council, administration and other departments work closely together to best support our community and our members.

Lots of good ideas were shared during the staff surveys, and following the meeting there are already changes being set in motion to better align with the needs of operations to be successful for Serpent River First Nation community members on and off reserve.

How am I growing clinic

The event had a great turnout with over 18 children between the ages of 0-6yrs attend. We provided dental hygiene check up's, nutrition counselling, vaccination updates, height and weights, Ear Nose Throat checks, and completed the Ages and Stages questionnaire's for the participants. Miigwech to all who attended and made this clinic possible.



Anishinaabe Aadziwin department events

The Anishinaabe Aadziwin department hosted two Spring Sweat Lodge ceremonies this June, honouring the importance of separate spaces for our men/boys and women/girls to pray, heal, and connect to ceremony in accordance with their roles and responsibilities. Our Two-Spirit and non-binary community members were welcome to attend whichever lodge felt right for them.

On June 10, the men's and boys' lodge was conducted by Lee Simpson-Johnston. One young man entered the lodge for the first time, with a total of 9 participants.

On June 11, the women's and girls' lodge was conducted by Joanna Vautour. Two women entered the lodge for the first time, with a total of 8 participants.

We also extend our gratitude to Alex Day for sharing his time and teachings in helping to make community a new lodge for this year. Alex served as firekeeper for both ceremonies, and we recognize his dedication to this important role.



Chi miigwech.

On June 19 at the Lifestyle Centre the Anishinaabe Aadziwin department hosted a Father's Day social.

The social was well attended with over 82 community members joining us to celebrate and honour the father's, grandfathers, uncles and fatherly figures in our lives.

A delicious meal of barbecue chicken, baked potato bar, salads and desserts was catered by Aird Bay! Chi miigwech to Dawn and her crew for always doing an outstanding job.

A small token of appreciation was given to each fatherly-figure in recognition of the important role they play in our community.

Miigwech to everyone who attended, we are grateful.



Indigenous Day Celebration at ELSS

| 7

On May 28th Mental Health Workers Patricia and Tracey from the Mental Health department, along with Talon from the Lifestyle Centre joined the Indigenous Day Celebration at Elliot Lake Secondary School.

Over 160 students visited the Serpent River First Nation table for SWAG and staff were able to connect and to network with the school and it's students.

During the POWWOW there was dancing, games, vendors, a food truck, Elders Teatime and of course a scone dog giveaway.

Chi-Miigwetch to Jenn, Mr. Grant, MC Joe Owl, Drum Group Whistling Wind and to all those who came.



National Indigenous Peoples Day

| 8

The Anishinaabe Aadziwin Department, with support from our Mental Health and Family Preservation Workers, was proud to host our National Indigenous Peoples Day celebration on June 21st. We welcomed over 110 participants for a day filled with community, food, culture, music, laughter, and celebration.

We were especially grateful to have Gimaa James Owl join us. He shared remarks with attendees but is waiting for the Genaabaajing Traditional Jiintamok to bust out his dance moves!

We were treated to more delicious food of fried fish, potatoes, scone, salads and dessert from Aird Bay. Great job as always Aird Bay!

The event also featured 10 amazing vendors offering a variety of goods, including iced coffees, baked goods, beaded jewelry, leatherwork, and fresh produce. Their presence helped make the day vibrant and full of local talent and creativity.

Our live entertainment was provided by Mason Dixon Line, who had both young and old on their feet, joining in dance battles and enjoying the music together. We ended the day with a giveaway and the beautiful voices of our hand drummers: Joanna Vautour, Marlene Essex, Angel Crease, and Justin Urquhart. They were accompanied by Chase, Luna, Elijah, and Mavis on shakers, helping close the celebration in a good way.

Miigwech to everyone who attended to make this a wonderful celebration.



National Indigenous Peoples Day

| 9



Elders Picnic - Back to the 80's

| 10

The Lifestyle Centre was filled with laughs and smiles for a Back to the 80's theme Elders picnic on Tuesday, June 23rd

Aproximatley 60 guests were in attendance for snacks and music, and even a photoshoot.



Elders Picnic - Back to the 80's

| 11

To make sure you are not missing out on the Elders Recreation Programs please be sure to follow the Community Bulletin and the Serpent River First Nation Facebook and the SRFN App.



Elders Olympics

| 12

The Elders Olympics were a huge hit with 18 participants this year. There was bean bag toss, ring toss and axe throwing. Miigwetch to Glenda Massicotte, Ashley Sago, Susan Abitong, Dominyk Desrosiers, and everyone involved in putting together this fun event. Many laughs and smiles were shared in the gym, medals were earned, prizes were won and planning for next years event took place. Elders suggested Bowling as a game for next years event!



Elders Olympics

| 13



End of School Year Party

| 14

The annual End of School Year party was a great success this year. The Lifestyle Centre grounds were filled with 90+ guests enjoying the beautiful day on June 26th from 3:30-6:30.

The weather was perfect for the inflatable maze, bounce house and BBQ! Community members enjoyed to hogs and hamburgers along with popcorn, cotton candy and snow cones.

DJ Joseph Owl had the tunes going for the perfect party vibes. The organizers would like to add face painting to next year's party.

Miigwech to all who attended and to the education department for organizing and running the event.



Serpent River First Nation is proud to welcome one of its largest groups of summer students in many years. This July and August, 24 youth between the ages of 15 and 18 will be gaining valuable work experience across a variety of departments within our community.

Before beginning their placements, students participated in a week of training from June 29 to July 3. Facilitated by NATT, the training equipped students with important workplace skills and certifications, including Working at Heights, some participated in Skid Steer Operator Training, and CPR/First Aid.

Throughout the summer, students will be working in departments across SRFN, where they will have the opportunity to build new skills and gain hands-on experience in a supportive and welcoming environment. Staff across the organization are looking forward to mentoring our youth, sharing their knowledge, and helping each student make the most of this valuable opportunity.

A special Miigwech goes to Alicia Meawasige, Employment and Training Coordinator, for organizing two well-attended résumé and cover letter workshops this past spring. These sessions helped prepare our youth for the application process and gave them the tools and confidence to take the next step toward summer employment.

We wish all of our summer students a rewarding and successful season. We look forward to seeing all they accomplish over the coming months!



2026 Summer Students

| 16



2026 Summer Students

| 17



Staff Updates

Tasha Becker Director of Operations

As an Anishinaabe kwe from Garden River First Nation, I have made my home in Elliot Lake.

I am honoured to carry more than 25 years of experience in social assistance, leadership, governance, and administration within both First Nation and municipal organizations.

I also hold an Honours Degree in Public Administration and Governance, which has deepened my commitment to accountable, respectful, and community focused leadership.

As Director of Operations, I look forward to working alongside leadership, staff, and community members to support a strong and healthy organization that provides responsive services reflecting the needs, priorities, and aspirations of Serpent River First Nation.

Outside of work, I am grateful for time spent with my husband, family, and friends. I enjoy cooking, travelling, fishing, and hunting, and value these moments as ways of staying connected to the land and my culture.



John Wiitala Project Engagement Coordinator

My name is John Henry. I am Serpent River First Nation's Project Engagement Coordinator for the Waasmoowin Energy Project. I have a strong interest in the sciences and recently earned my Bachelor of Science degree (3 years) in Interdisciplinary Science from Laurentian University.

I have been lucky to have had past careers as a lab technologist and metal fabricator.

Now I am happy to connect people in the community with more opportunities through this exciting project, while ensuring stewardship of the land.



Stay Connected

JULY 2026

MEMBERS OF

SERPENT RIVER FIRST NATION

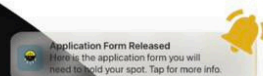


**NEVER MISS
AN UPDATE**

GET THE APP

The app uses state-of-the-art technology to notify SRFN members of breaking news, documents, videos, and events, instantly delivered via push notifications.

- **JOB OPENINGS**
- **SURVEYS**
- **EVENTS**
- **NEWS**



HOW TO GET THE APP

- 1 DOWNLOAD**
Scan the QR code or visit the App Store or Google Play Store and Search 'Serpent River First Nation'
- 2 REGISTER**
Fill out your info and check your email to verify your account.
- 3 LOGIN**
Get the latest news, events, jobs, & more right at your fingertips!



Stay connected
with the SRFN
App and
Facebook page.

Never miss an
update!!



Hit the FOLLOW button



**Serpent River First Nation
Administrative News and Events**

2.7K followers • 59 following

Send Email

Following

Message

To join the Communications E-Mailing list, inquiries, and
newsletter submissions contact:
communications@serpentrivernfn.com