

Report on the May 28th Community Meeting & BBQ

The May 28th meeting and bbq, I am happy to report were a resounding success. The meeting began with an opening prayer by Yvan St-Jean. He blessed and smudged the participants as well as the venue.

Mr. St –Jean informed the group that the media had gotten wind of the ever impending land claim and had shown a great deal of interest. We were also told that in this region (Prescott /Russell) there are a large number of Algonquins who are unaware of the land claim negotiations. He suggested that a media blitz might shed some light on the ongoing process. Mr. St- Jean left shortly thereafter to attend another engagement. On behalf of the Ottawa Algonquin community I thank him for his prayer and the awareness he provided.

First and foremost let me announce that the Ottawa community, as of Friday the 26th of May, is now a fully incorporated non-profit organization. In addition to our corporate structure, an official ‘Chief and Council’ is now in place. This structure allows us to proceed to secure funding for community initiatives.

A progress report was provided on the latest developments of the land claim. The participants were informed that a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to help identify land and its potential has been retained.

The members present agreed that we should convert to photo identification cards for the Ottawa community members; as well it was agreed that spousal cards were also a must. No arguments there.

We had a very long discussion regarding the moose hunting issue. Until a moose management program is developed we only say that as a group we were all on the same page. We are open to any ideas or suggestions that will help formulate what we hope to be a program that we can implement for years to come.

We are seeking volunteers to help with the work load, as well as any fundraising ideas. Please contact me with any ideas or if you are willing to assist our community development.

The meeting ended with a closing prayer from Chris Craig, followed by a feast of moose burgers, maple baked beans, wild rice salad, wild rice pudding and rhubarb cake.

Watch the website for up-and-coming meetings and to stay informed. In addition, please remember that the community/ANR meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn on Cooper Street on Thursday June 8th, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. – ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions, comments or feedback.