



Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit Community Leadership Update October 23, 2023



The Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit Chief and Council is providing an update to the membership on the activities and initiatives that have been undertaken since being elected as the new leadership on June 1st, 2023.

The Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit Chief and Council had their first Council meeting on June 2, 2023 at the Pow-Wow Grounds to discuss our Oath Signing/BBQ event and the upcoming Association of Iroquois and Allied Indian's Annual General Assembly being hosted by Wahta Mohawks June 6 – 8, 2023.

The Annual Les Timothy Memorial Golf Tournament was held on Friday, June 9th, 2023, at the Wardsville Golf Course. This annual event is always a success, and this year was no different, as the staff and committee members worked hard behind the scenes to make this event enjoyable for all participants. This year's tournament 50/50 draw was the highest it has been, with the winner taking home \$1,768.50.

The Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit Administration has been experiencing internet and server issues tied to frequent power outages this summer. A generator was ordered in June and installed in August by JRB Electrical.

Chief and Council B.B.Q and Signing of Oath

The Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit Chief and Council hosted a BBQ and Oath of Office Signing Ceremony on Sunday, June 11, 2023 at the Community Centre. We cooked hamburgers, sausages, hot dogs and made different salads for community members.

After the meal, we started the swearing-in ceremony and signing of the Oath of Office for the newly elected Chief and Council members. We had more than 75 community members come out to the event and we encouraged everyone to take home the leftover food. It was a great way to start our term and Anúshiik to all those who came out.

Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians Annual General Assembly

On June 6-8, Chief and Council members attended the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians Annual General Assembly in Wahta Mohawks Territory. This year was an election year and we participated in the traditional stand-up election process alongside our youth representatives Phoenix Logan-Whiteye and Andrew Snake. Joel Abram was acclaimed as Grand Chief and Brandon Doxtator was elected Deputy Grand Chief. We received many updates and passed resolutions in all priority areas ranging from Health, to Education, Social Services, Justice, Youth and Child Welfare, Tobacco, and everything in between. Council members continue to engage with AIAI on all priority areas, participating in various committees and working groups to ensure the issues and positions of our community are affirmed in their processes.



AIAI Chiefs, Elders and Youth Delegates attending this year's Annual General Assembly hosted by Wahta Mohawks, June 6 - 8, 2023. Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit youth included Andrew Snake, Garrett Whiteye, Phoenix Logan-Whiteye and Eli Hopkins.

The Chiefs of Ontario Annual General Assembly

The Chiefs of Ontario Annual General Assembly was held on June 13 – 15, 2023 at the Valhalla Inn and Conference Centre – this was a hybrid event. Highlights over the three days covered the following:

- Update from Ontario Regional Chief (ORC) Glen Hare and the Leadership Council
- Child Welfare Final Settlement Update from OKT Law
- Chiefs of Ontario Audit
- Rights Assertion Update
- Education: Post Secondary and Adult Education
- Distinction Based Indigenous Health Legislation
- Virtual Presentations by Lori Idlout, Nunavut MP and NDP Critic for Crown-Indigenous Relations and Indigenous Services and Minister Marc Miller, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada.

Metis Assertions Gathering

At the Chiefs of Ontario Annual General Assembly held on June 13 – 15, 2023, there was discussion on the agreement the Government of Canada and the Metis Nation of Ontario (MNO) entered into that recognizes large areas of territories as “Historically Metis Nation Homeland” – ranging from British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and parts of Ontario.

This legislation will affirm that all Metis communities represented by the MNO have the right to self-determination, including the right to self-government under s. 35. This legislation will recognize MNO as a Metis Government and an Indigenous Governing Body.

A rally was being planned for Monday, June 19, 2023 on Parliament Hill in response to the legislation. However due to prior commitments, Chief Logan could not attend the rally. It was important that our community was represented there, so former Councillor Gord Peters was asked to attend on our community's behalf.

Bill C-53 Rally

On September 20, 2023, a charter bus was arranged to bring community members to rally on Parliament Hill against the passing of bill C-53; which if passed would grant Section 35 Indigenous rights to illegitimate Metis groups including the corporation, the Metis Nation of Ontario (MNO). The MNO has continued to assert broad entitlements

to First Nations' lands and resources, asserting access or ownership to First Nation lands, entitlement to treaty benefits, impact benefit agreements, etc. Canada's recognition creates a platform for the MNO to continue to advance these illegitimate claims.



Indigenous Solidarity Day

The initial planning for Indigenous Solidarity Day activities had already been completed including going to see a First Nation film called *Bones for Crows*. The film told the story of Aline Spears, a Cree woman who survives the Indian Residential School system to become a code talker for the Canadian Air Force in World War II. Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit Chief and Council partnered with Child and Family Services to rent out Chatham Cineplex to screen the film for community members, followed by lunch at Boston Pizza.

We came back to the community to get ready for the start of a hilarious play, *Bear Grease*, an Indigenous twist on the classic "Grease". There was great music from the 50's to sing along too. Everyone enjoyed the performance. At dusk, we had our annual Fireworks display, which is always was an excellent show! Such a great way to end Solidarity Day.

Anúshiik to all staff for planning the activities for community members that day!

Secured Certificate of Indian Status (SCIS)

In initial discussions with Cathy Stonefish, Indian Registry Administrator for Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit, it was stressed that there is such a huge demand for status cards from our membership, as well as other First Nation communities.

Administration reached out to Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) about partnering to help clear the back log of status card requests from the membership and resulted in a Microsoft Teams meeting where we requested a Secure Status Card Mobile Unit be brought to our community, as we never had this service available to us.

Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit held two sessions for the community on Wednesday, August 16th and Thursday, August 17, 2023 in partnership with ISC for the Secure Certificate of Indian Status. We had an overwhelming response that shocked the representatives from ISC, with more than 100 applications for the SCIS over the two days. Great work!

Infrastructure Update

The Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit Chief and Council has approved some much-needed repairs to our current infrastructure in the community; mainly our community roads and parking lots of our band buildings. Brian Snake, Public Work Manager, has done an outstanding job recommending to the leadership the need to repair our existing infrastructure for the betterment of the community members.

The following road repairs have been completed:

- Centre Road (From School House to River Line)
- Centre Road (From River Line to Water Treatment)
- School House Line (From Centre to Knoll Road)
- School House Line (From Centre to Little John Road)
- Corn Plan Road (Repairs to whole road)
- Lunapeew Road (Repairs to the cul-de-sac)

The following parking lots have been paved:

- Administration
- Education/ Water Tower/ Training Centre
- Health Centre
- Housing and Lands
- Senior's Centre
- Youth Centre
- Water Treatment Plant

There will be on-going repairs that will be happening in the community; the bridge by the cenotaph has just been rebuilt and we will keep the community updated with updates on repairs and/or renovations.

ISC – First Nations Infrastructure Investment Plan

Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit has submitted The First Nations Infrastructure Investment Plan (FNIIP) to Indigenous Services Canada, the plan aims to help First Nations to strategically plan investments in the short and medium term to support upgrades and increase infrastructure to improve the quality of life for its membership.

In the community's FNIIP submission we indicated a priority ranking for increased water infrastructure, lot servicing for new housing construction, housing renovations, high speed fibre throughout entire community, comprehensive community roads assessment, new community buildings and overall community comprehensive planning to better meet the needs of the First Nation. This submission is required annually by September 30, 2023 to Indigenous Services Canada.

Fibre Optic

We are once again working with Southwestern Integrated Fibre Technologies Inc. (SWIFT) and TekSavvy to expand our fibre optic internet infrastructure throughout the community. TekSavvy has reported that it has completed its design of the second phase and SWIFT is currently working to secure government funding support.

Portfolio Holders: Councillors Sherry Huff and Chief Justin Logan

Council Meeting with Bank of Montreal

The newly elected Chief and Council met with representatives from Bank of Montreal to go over the following:

- Provide overview of the First Nation's bank accounts
- Update signing authorities on all bank accounts
- Discussion on additional investment options with Nesbitt Burns
- Discussion on needs and future plans for Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit.
- Provide an overview of the programs BMO has to offer that might interest our community.

Tecumseh Community Development Corporation

Phyllis George, General Manager of Tecumseh Community Development Corporation (TCDC) reached out to set up a meeting to see if the organization can be of any assistance to the new Chief and Council.

Administration had recently hired Michele Hopkins as the Economic Development Coordinator so we arranged a meet and greet with Phyllis George and discussed our community needs and see how she could address them within her organization.

Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit submitted an application to the TCDC Regional Relief and Recovery Fund in the amount of \$50,000.00 for Naahii Gas Station; 50% being a grant and 50% being a repayable loan. We also discussed Governance training for our new Chief and Council and are looking at setting up those training dates in the near future.

Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit Housing Update

The Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit Housing Task Force met in late May 2023 for policy review of the Delaware Nation Housing Policy On-Reserve to make recommendations or revisions to better meet the needs of the community.

The Task Force has made recommendations to the Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit Chief and Council that have been approved; such as increasing the amount for a Bank of Montreal Housing Loan from \$160,000.00 to \$300,000.00, the need for our community to research different financial institutions to see how their On-Reserve Housing Loan Programs work compared to BMO and the need for an Emergency Repair Program to assist band members with housing repairs and renovations; we just need to finalize a plan and budget for consideration by the community.

The Task Force also travelled to factory tour of NRB Modular Solutions in Cambridge, Ontario on August 17, 2023, to look at how the company's modular homes are built in factory and shipped out to customers. This is an on-going commitment to continue looking at alternative housing models for our memberships.

The Senior's Complex will soon be getting a generator installed compliments of the Delaware Nation Health Centre, so when we have power outages in our

community our elderly tenants who live in the Senior's Complex will have backup power.

Naahii Gas Station

The Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit Chief and Council held a Special General Council meeting on July 19, 2023 to provide an update on the Naahii Gas Station.

Handouts were provided to community members in attendance who went over the work plan completed by the Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit Chief and Council that completed the following:

- Infrastructure Assessment and Completed Repairs
- Administrative Policies and Procedures
- Board of Director and Employee Onboarding & Training Plan
- Re-engage Vendors and Suppliers
- Secure funding resources for Re-opening Naahii Gas Station
- Naahii Gas Station Re-Opening Financial Projections

Feedback from those at the meeting suggested the following to have in place for the next community meeting:

- New/Update Business Plan for Naahii Gas Station
- Talk to other gas station owners from First Nation's that are successful
- Want to see a re-opening Work Plan and Budget
- Advertise the meeting as a Vote - deciding the future of the gas station

Progress to date: we have talked to a few gas station owners in other First Nations, however it's difficult to find the exact scenario we have, with an oversaturated gas market in our community. We are currently looking for consultants to create a new or update our current business plan. We are actively recruiting board members and looking for a consultant who can assist our community in reopening the gas station in an effective way to streamline positive results and profit for our community.

Tim Horton's

Our Tim Horton's location is continuing to seek efficiencies to move the store into more profitable territory. There have been a number of different training sessions for staff, including the completion of a Safe Food Handling course held in September for all staff. Way to go Team!



There are several new staff members on board, and we continue to seek more. **If you or someone you know is interested in joining the team, contact the store manager, Dana Van Goethem. You can drop in or email her at: moraviantown.timmies@outlook.com.**

Education

Portfolio Councillors have met with our Education Manager and are looking at opportunities for growth within the department. Together we plan to have a functioning education committee and strengthen our relationship with the Lambton Kent District School Board.

Portfolio Holders: Councillors Aliyah Whiteye, Kyla Stonefish and Jody Noah.

Health/Health Task Force

The Health Task Force has reconvened to discuss a path forward regarding a review of the health centre programs and services. The Task Force has reaffirmed their support for council motion mandating Health Centre Accreditation.

The following motion was passed at the Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit Council meeting held on August 17th, 2023:

MOTION NO. 09 SUBJECT: Health Centre Accreditation

“That the Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit Council hereby agrees to move forward towards Health Centre Accreditation. Follow-up on which accreditation process we go under to be discussed at a later date.”

The process of becoming an accredited health centre will be approximately two years long and will require policies and procedures to be put in place that will provide quality assurance standards for the delivery of integrated programs and services to our community members. Our next steps in this process will be meeting with Chippewas of the Thames First Nation to hear their perspectives of their accreditation process that they just went through. We will begin research on the various health accreditation organizations to find the best suited organization to assist us in reaching our goals. We will then begin engaging with the community to hear concerns and aspirations for the future of our health and wellness, and to keep everyone up to date on the accreditation process and allow you to ask questions directly with these accreditation organizations.

The Health Task Force has identified the need for the creation of a COVID-19 Vaccine Strategy as we move into respiratory season. We are looking at setting

up some clinics for community members to attend and we will be sure to get information out as soon as possible.

Task Force Members: Councillors Megan Logan, Sherry Huff and Lesley Snake, staff support Joanna Noah, community members Jaime Ann Whiteye, Greg Peters Sr., Janet Hopkins, Pat Noah, Johnny Stonefish, Michele Hopkins

Good Food Program (Formerly Food Bank)

The Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit Chief and Council had been discussing how to make the food bank more accessible to community members because we know food security is an issue in our community and we wanted to streamline the process to make this program more effective for the betterment of the Nation.

The Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit Chief and Council decided the following at the August 17, 2023 meeting:

- Move the Food bank Program from the Health Centre to the Child and Family Services building effective August 18, 2023.
- Change the name from the Food Bank Program to the Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit Good Food Program.

Progress to date on the Good Food Program has been overwhelmingly positive; we have been getting compliments from band members on the changes to the program, the accessibility and we are seeing our members that need support with food security benefit from this program.

Child Welfare Update

Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit Chief and Council have decided to regroup and refine the mandate of the Child Welfare Working Group. The overall goal of the Child Welfare Working Group is to work with staff and community to develop a child wellbeing department that is guided by our Lunaapeewak values to provide preventative and protective services to our children and families.

The Nation's consultant, Sheila Jaggard, is currently drafting an outline of a child well-being department. Once that is completed, the working group will work with staff and community to develop what that department could look like, ensuring every child and family, both on and off reserve, has access to culturally based services to be safe, healthy and spiritually strong. We will provide an update at a later date, including when we plan to hold another community engagement session.

You may have noticed two new Toyota vehicles being used by our Child and Family Services staff. Members of the working group recommended the Chief and Council approve the new vehicles for CFS staff last fall, which will help them deliver prevention services and supplies to children and families throughout the region. A Toyota truck and an SUV were purchased using the Child Welfare funding allocated to our community from the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal monies.

Working Group Members: Diana Snake, Katharine Hopkins, Suzanne Jacobs, Bob Daley

Portfolio Holders: Councillors Sherry Huff and Lesley Snake

Staff/Resource: Sheila Jaggard

Youth

We hope our youth enjoyed their summer programming, sports and activities and have settled into the new school year. Work will begin soon to establish an Eelūnaapéewi Lahkeewiit Youth Council; we will begin sharing information and dates for meetings soon. We are excited to get started and create opportunities for leadership and skills development, culture and language revitalization, land-based learning, empowerment, and more! We would like to extend our best wishes to our youth participating in AIAI's Youth Hide Tanning Camp. Your leadership is admired and we hope you bring back the tools to help lead more of these events in our community!

Portfolio Holders: Councillors: Megan Logan, Kyle Hopkins and Aliyah Whiteye

Celebrating our Graduates

The Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit Chief and Council take pride in celebrating our future leaders' accomplishments. The first graduation ceremony was held on June 23, 2023, by the Early Learning Centre and Kindergarten. It was an excellent ceremony highlighting the students' accomplishments over the year.

Ridgetown District High School's Grade 8 Graduation Ceremony took place on June 28, 2023, at the Rudy H. Brown Rural Development Centre. Chief Logan was asked to provide opening remarks on behalf of Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit congratulating the graduating class.

Congratulations to our students Joseph Hopkins, Owen Stonefish-Noah, Karson Whiteye and Devon Reaume: our community is proud of your academic and extracurricular accomplishments!

Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit had four students graduate Grade 12 with the Ontario Secondary School Diploma from Chatham Kent Secondary School, John McGregor Secondary School and Ridgetown District High School. Chief Loan provided opening remarks on behalf of Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit and presented two graduation awards at the Ridgetown District High School ceremony on June 2, 2023 at Rudy H. Brown Rural Development Centre.

Congratulations to our students Siikwan Noah-Jacobs, Aleisha Stonefish, Kalib Stonefish and Phoenix Logan-Whiteye: our community is proud of your achievements on completing this milestone in your lifelong learning career!



North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) 2023

The Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit sent nine (9) young community athletes to compete for Team Ontario in the 2023 North American Indigenous Games in July 2023 in Kijipuktuk (Halifax, NS). The young athletes that competed were:

- Evan Deleary – U16 Softball - Bronze
- Eli Hopkins – Archery – 4th
- Brody Noah – U19 Baseball -4th
- Colton Noah – U19 Box Lacrosse - Gold
- Mason Myers – U19 Box Lacrosse - Gold
- Kalib Stonefish -U19 Softball – 4th
- Makaiyah Stonefish – U19 Soccer - Silver
- Paytyn Logan-Whiteye – U16 Softball – Gold
- Draedyn Wrightman -U16 Softball – Gold

The Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit Chief and Council hosted a Recognition Dinner and Celebration on July 31, 2023 to congratulate them on representing our

community proudly. We had great participation from community members, athletes, and their families.

It was a great honour to be together as a community to celebrate their outstanding achievements and the huge impression they made on the other athletes, other First Nation communities, coaches, and the NAIG Executive.

This is a true testament to the legacy of our community as we have always been represented by the very best athletes and despite our small population, we show up and we show out and rival the bigger communities.

Language

Language portfolio holders have met with the language department (Weelihtáakwahk) twice in to identify a path forward. This allowed portfolio holders to review inventory, assess the needs of the department and share challenges and successes in previous years. A job description was created and distributed to the language students and instructor outlining responsibilities of the Lunapeew Language Immersion Educators. Moving forward, the hope is to have a monthly schedule created that will support language acquisition and fluency through programming in the Early Learning Centre, Kindergarten, and community sessions. This would entail language resourcing, lessons, translations, and assistance in cultural activities. In preparation, educators are working towards or have obtained First Aid/CPR training.

Portfolio Holders: Councillors Lesley Snake, Jody Noah and Kyla Stonefish

Band Reparations Class Action:

“The Band Reparations Class Action is a lawsuit against the Government of Canada. The lawsuit is about collective harm suffered by Indigenous communities because of Indian Residential Schools. The lawsuit states that the Government of Canada is responsible for damages to Indigenous communities caused by the Indian Residential School system, and in particular, the collective harm suffered by Indigenous Communities due to the loss of language and culture.”

On March 9, 2023, the Federal Court approved the “Settlement Agreement” and it is now final and binding.

Detailed Terms of the “Settlement Agreement”

The agreement is based on the FOUR PILLARS PRINCIPLES:

- Revival and protection of **Indigenous languages**;
- Revival and protection of **Indigenous cultures**;
- **Wellness** for Indigenous communities and their members;
- Promotion and protection of **heritage**.

A Band Reparations Task Force was created with the goal of developing a plan to carry out one or more of the objectives and purposes of the Four Pillars. The task force has had meetings with our Early Years, Education Department, and one Language student. Two community engagement sessions also took place where participants in attendance had the opportunity to complete a survey and answer questions regarding the four pillars.

We look forward to developing this plan for submission and receiving our annual entitlement.

Band Reparations Task Force: Community Engagement Sessions:

The Band Reparations Task Force held two community engagement sessions on the topic of language and culture (August 9th, 2023) and Heritage and Well-being (August 16, 2023). A combined total of 135 community members participated in the sessions, offering their ideas on the type of language and cultural programming they would like to see in the community, what heritage programming they would like to see and how they define well-being. Community members also outlined areas that need to be addressed regarding heritage and well-being.

We have received the feedback from the breakout sessions and survey results and are going to be sharing that data with the community once we get it formatted. We provided supper, refreshments, door prizes and a \$50.00 grocery gift card for all survey participants.

Task Force Members: Shawnee Noah, Shannon Snake, Johnny Stonefish, Suzanne Jacobs, and Susan Dion

Staff Resource: Velma Noah – Nicholas

Leadership Representation: Councillor Lesley Snake and Councillor Jody Noah and Chief Justin Logan.

Truth and Reconciliation Day – Sept 30, 2023

The Truth and Reconciliation Task Force had Cultural Week, which held workshops all week long that focused on cultural teachings or traditions – it was a great success and overwhelming participation by community members.

Anushiik to Velma Noah, Cultural Coordinator and the Truth and Reconciliation Task Force members: Kaster Huff, Lana Parenteau, Ken Hopkins, Shawnee Noah and the Council Representatives Kyle Hopkins, Megan Logan and Justin Logan for planning such an excellent event for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30, 2023.

Community participation was overwhelming as we had over 200 community members sign in over the day.



Truth and Reconciliation Task Force

It has been a busy couple months for the Task Force in preparation for our first ever 'Cultural Week' leading up to September 30, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. "Wulaameeweewakaan waak Kiikeeheew" was the translation for "Truth and Healing", which the Task Force decided to use as a theme for the week. Anúshiik to Cultural Coordinator, Velma Noah for providing the translation. Culture Week had a great turnout, offering hands-on workshops making sweetgrass medallions, leather gloves, quillwork, corn bread wheels, ribbon skirts, black ash basket making and wampum belts. On Saturday September 30, we have a full day of events planned to celebrate our resiliency as Lunaapeew. We began with a sunrise ceremony, followed by a healing walk, hands-on art workshops, honoured our Survivors, drum and hoop dance demonstrations, a healing lacrosse game, and a light show. Following the September 30th events, the next task will be creating and resurrecting a monument in the community to honour all those who were forced to attend Residential School.

Task Force Members: Chief Justin Logan, Councillors Kyle Hopkins and Megan Logan, staff support Velma Noah-Nicholas, Survivor Kenneth Hopkins, Youth Kaster Huff and community members Shawnee Noah and Lana Parenteau

Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit Land Claims

Since 2016, the Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit Chief and Council have retained BR Law and Jennifer Hill, a band member to act on its behalf to ensure that the Nation's land claims submission meet the standards of the Federal government's Specific Claims process.

Some research has been completed in the past, the drafting of the submission requires an expanded and updated historical report and supporting documentation. Since our former Land Claims Researcher had retired and BR Law will require a research group to prepare a historical record for potentially four claims.

BR Law submitted a funding request to Canada on behalf of our community in January 2023, we received notice in late July 2023 that the funding request was approved in the amount of \$160,000.00. The Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit Chief and Council met with Jen Hill from BR Law to get an overview of the Land Claims submissions, history of the land claims and in agreement to continue moving forward on the work with respect to the land claims.

Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit has executed a contract with Joan Holmes and Associates to complete the required historical report for the Nation's specific claims submission, to get a draft report by the end of fiscal - March 31, 2024.

Deer Harm Reduction – Traditional Harvest

Every year, our community takes the lead on the Deer Harm Reduction – Traditional Harvest at both Rondeau Provincial Park and Clear Creek Forest. Our community has met with Brad Connor, Park Superintendent and Jason Ecker, Assistant Superintendent about the traditional harvest. All information about the DHR/TH will be released soon to the community.

The Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit representatives included Volunteer Coordinator Darren Jacobs, Velma Noah, Cultural Coordinator and Chief Justin Logan

Delaware Water Gap

The concept of planning a community trip to the Delaware Water Gap has been discussed a few times over the year, so the leadership dedicated to move forward with the planning and set up a working group. Members of the working group included Chief & Council, Angela Noah (language representative), Darryl Stonefish (historical representative) and Brent Stonefish (Lunaapeew Heritage Circle representative).

The Delaware Water Gap Task force left on July 24, 2023, and returned on July 27, 2023. Highlights of the trip included a visit to the New Jersey Boardwalk, New Jersey Island State Park, New Jersey State Museum, Delaware Water Gap, and Minisink Island.

After we returned, we did a presentation to the community on August 8, 2023, at the community centre on our trip and asked those in attendance if they were interested in planning a community trip in the future to the Delaware Water Gap. It was decided to take two community trips; one in the summer and the other in the fall of 2024. Gaming Revenue allocation of \$50,000.00 was to assist in the planning of the community trips.



The view above of Minisink Island, Delaware Water Gap

Fairfield Museum

There has been progress on Fairfield Museum that started with the addition of Velma Noah as the Cultural Coordinator in July, and Myles Lynch as the Culture and Heritage Communications Developer in August.

The building was left in disarray and very unsanitary. A previous building inspection had been completed about eight (8) months ago, but the Chief and Council decided to order another inspection report. The Cultural Coordinator ensured the furniture, furnishings, carpet, and shelving from the residence side of Fairfield Museum were thrown out. Next steps were to clean and disinfect the building and begin the task of getting quotes for repairs and/or renovations for the museum. The HVAC system needed to be replaced and we had Fern Gully install a new system at the end of July 2023.

The Cultural and Heritage Communications Developer is in the process of researching cultural and historical content at the library. The information will be used for a regular museum feature in the Delaware News, online content as well as inform programming and activities. Myles has also been learning how to address mold and mildew found on some of the cultural belongings due to dampness inside the museum.

The Fairfield Museum has received weekly inquiries from band members, other First Nation communities and outside visitors who are curious when we will reopen. The first event was held on Thursday, September 14, 2023 – Silent No More: A Virtual Tour of the Former Mohawk Institute Indian Residential School that was attended by interested band members who talked, visited, and toured Fairfield Museum.

Next steps are to secure funding for repairs, renovations and equipment for Fairfield Museum and staff, as well as fundraise for programming dollars.

Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit Library

We are making progress in our goal to reopen the Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit Library. We hired Pat Noah in June, and she's been busy cleaning, organizing, and coordinating renovations on the building.

Randy Doxtator, Housing Advisor/Inspector from Southern First Nation Secretariat inspected the library and provided a list of repairs needed on the building. All renovations and repairs have been completed as of September 1st, 2023.

Pat Noah is currently filing, organizing, and cataloguing historical documents and library books with an aim to re-open the library as soon as possible.

51st Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit Pow-Wow

The 51st Annual Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit Pow-Wow was held on September 2nd and 3rd, 2023 organized by Herb Snake, Coordinator and Hannah Stonefish, Assistant Coordinator and assisted by the Pow-Wow Task Force members; Kendra Hopkins, Kaster Huff, Theresa Johnson. Kealy Noah and Shawnee Noah and Councillor's Sherry Huff and Aliyah Whiteye.

The event was very well organized, and we saw great dancer registration – we had over 200 dancers participate in our annual event, and we saw record number of visitors come through the admission gate.

We had numerous volunteers come out and assist with everything from dancer registration to selling merchandise; it was great to see the whole community come and work together to ensure our annual community event was a huge success. The 50/50 Draw was a huge success and the winner received over \$2,200.00 – excellent teamwork!

Chatham OPP Detachment – P.E.A.C.E Program

Chief Logan was invited by Constable Shawn Eagen of the Ontario Provincial Police, Provincial Liaison Team to tour the Chatham OPP Detachment on June 29th, 2023, for meet and greet with Police Ethnic and Cultural Exchange (PEACE) Program student Miah Parenteau. Miah is a band member who was about to begin an eight-week placement.

We toured the Chatham OPP Detachment and met members of the team. We discussed and got an overview of the PEACE Program and its history.

Animal Control Concerns

The Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit Chief and Council have received on-going animal control concerns from band members. Chief Logan reached out to Pet and Wildlife Rescue (P.A.W) Chatham in early July 2023 to explore a potential partnership to provide services to our community.

However, after a few discussions, they were unable to assist our community in animal control issues because they are near capacity for animals. This has been a lengthy discussion at Council, as community safety is a top priority for the leadership. Currently, our priority is to secure funding to reinstate the position of Animal Controller for the community.

Legacy Wells Project - Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit

The Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit Chief and Council met with Shawn Williams, Environment Analyst for Indigenous Services Canada in December 2020 to talk about the Legacy Wells Project, as our community has 14 legacy sites according to the Ontario Oil Gas and Salt Resources Library. These sites were drilled from 1930 to 1971 with wells showing marginal resource potential but at this time a few anomalies that will require further review of the historical records as well as community input and consultation.

The Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit Chief and Council approved to move forward with the project at this time, however it was suggested to move this project to 2021/2022 fiscal year. When it became time to start up this project our

community lacked the staff resources to move forward with the Legacy Wells Project.

Current progress, we have been meeting with Jilczy Nelson, Environmental Analyst – Indian Oil and Gas Canada at Indigenous Services Canada to review the Legacy Wells Project, all historical documentation and what are our next steps to move forward to ensure the orphan wells in our community are properly decommissioned. The meetings have been going very well & are informative and the anticipated start date for the project is April 15, 2024.

SARIT Vehicles Collaboration

An opportunity was presented to Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit about a pilot project – Safe Affordable Reliable Innovative Transportation (SARIT) Vehicles Collaboration, the pilot project is looking for collaboration with communities to test out the SARIT micro mobility electrical vehicle.

Chief Logan attended a zoom meeting with Andrew L. Maxwell, Bergeron Chair in Technology Entrepreneurship Lassonde School of Engineering at York University to go over the pilot program and indicate that Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit was interested in collaborating. More information will be released to the community at a later date, as the pilot project is just in the beginning stages.

Radio Station

The Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit Chief and Council have discussed the radio station and are committed to restarting CKBK “The Buck” 104.3. We are committed to filling the two vacancies on the Board of Directors for the Lenape Community Radio Society and get *The Buck* back on the air!

There has been great interest from community members in the past to learn how to operate the radio station and take some radio programming training. The Radio Bingo Pilot project was a huge success, and we would like to get back on track and start to reschedule these opportunities for those interested band members.

Chief Justin Logan, Councillor Jody Noah and Councillor Sherry Huff have taken the lead on restarting the radio station.

Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit Fall Fair

The Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit Fall Fair was held on Friday, September 1st, 2023 at the ball diamonds as part of a homecoming celebration with the 51st Annual Competition Pow-Wow being held Labour Day weekend. All Eelūnaapéewi

Lahkéewiit band buildings were closed at 12:00pm so all staff could enjoy the fair with their families.

Anushiik to the outgoing Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit Chief and Council who set aside funding to have the Fall Fair this year, as the last one was held in 2019. The Fall Fair had seven (7) midway ride attractions and five (5) other attractions and everyone looked like they enjoyed themselves.

To support improved communications, we are pleased to share our official council email addresses for community members who wish to reach us.

Chief Justin Logan justin.logan@delawarenation.on.ca

Kyle Hopkins kyle.hopkins@delawarenation.on.ca

Lesley Snake lesley.snake@delawarenation.on.ca

Aliyah Whiteye aliyah.whiteye@delawarenation.on.ca

Kyla Stonefish kyla.stonefish@delawarenation.on.ca

Jody Noah jody.noah@delawarenation.on.ca

Megan Logan megan.logan@delawarenation.on.ca

Sherry Huff sherry.huff@delawarenation.on.ca



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DELAWARE NATION COUNCIL

Moravian of the Thames Band

Phone: (519) 692-3936
Fax: (519) 692-5522

R.R. #3
THAMESVILLE, ON
N0P 2K0

October 23, 2023

Member Nations of the London District Chiefs Council

**Re: NOTIFICATION 2023 Deer Herd Reduction at Rondeau Provincial Park
2023 Traditional Deer Harvest at Clear Creek Conservation**

As the designated host community, the Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit (*Delaware Nation*) and Ontario Parks are notifying the following:

- the 2023 Deer Herd Reduction (DHR) will be held at Rondeau Provincial Park; and,
- the 2023 Traditional Deer Hunt at Clear Creek Forest Provincial Park.

Members from the following First Nations are invited to participate:

Caldwell First Nation

Chippewa of the Thames First Nation

Munsee Delaware First Nation

Oneida Nation of the Thames

Bkejwanong (Walpole Island)

Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit (Delaware Nation)

Six Nations of the River Grand (Delawares)

ELIGIBILITY: In order to be eligible to participate, hunters must be:

- registered status members of the First Nations listed above;
- participated at qualifying, and
- registered through the email address listed below.

RIFLES: The only allowable firearms are scoped hi powered rifles: .243 caliber up to and including .270 caliber. These calibers are also used for the qualifying shoots. It is best to qualify with the rifle you will be using in the park. There will be no Bows used in Rondeau Park.

SHOT GUNS or BOWS: At Clear Creek, the only allowable firearms are either Shot Guns or Bows (*recurve, compound, and crossbow*)

QUALIFYING: In order to qualify with your chosen firearms, for qualifying with hi powered= 50-yard target, 2of 3 shots inside 3inch bullseye. For Shotguns, SLUGS ONLY, NO BUCKSHOT.

Qualifying dates are scheduled as follows:

- November 5, 2023 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- November 12, 2023 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- November 19, 2023 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The location for Qualifying will be held at Taylor Whiteye's property at 14701 Selton Line in Moraviantown.

Rondeau

As with previous DHR’s at Rondeau, the Park Staff will be responsible for picking up and dropping off participants, cleaning and processing of the harvested deer and the collection of biological data relative to each harvested deer. Additionally, the Park Staff will be responsible for baiting the designated blind locations. There will be 25 – 27 potential sites available.

Clear Creek

As with previous, Traditional Harvests at Clear Creek Forest, participants will be responsible for retrieving and processing any harvested deer. There will be 25 – 30 potential sites available.

Blind sites will be done a draw basis and hunters will be notified after qualifying your firearm. There will be no negotiations to changes these site locations.

Baiting: Corn only.

To REGISTER, please send an email to chr@delawarenation.on.ca and include the following information:

Name of Hunter	Date of Birth
Name of First Nation	Registered Status Number
Cell Phone Number	Email address
Identify Shotgun or Bow	Identify preferred dates for participation

All personal information will only be utilized in identifying any firearms restrictions and will remain confidential.

Registration will close on November 17, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

Any late registrations after 1:00 p.m. will not be considered.

On behalf of Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit, Ontario Parks and the London District Chiefs Council, we thank everyone in advance for their cooperation and have a successful hunting experience.

Sincerely,



Chief Justun Logan,
Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit (Delaware Nation)

- c. *London District Chiefs Council*
- Jennifer Whiteye, Executive Director – Southern First Nations Secretariat*
- Brad Connor, Rondeau Park Superintendent*
- Darren Jacobs, Volunteer Deer Herd Reduction Coordinator*



Turkey & Gift Card Distribution

December 08, 2023

Pick-up is between 12noon – 4pm

Community Centre

You must pre-register to be eligible.

One turkey/gift card per household

APPLICATION FORM

Applicant's name:

Status card #:

Phone Number:

Address:

Email address:

Registration Eligibility

Eligibility for the Christmas Turkey and Gift Card Community Distribution:

- Must be a registered band member (on or off-reserve).
- Must be able to pick up in person on distribution date.

Please submit completed form, in person to:

Administration office Reception – 14760 School House Line

DEADLINE DATE TO SUBMIT:

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 24, 2023, 4:00 P.M.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

