



On July 12-17, 2012 over 500 First Nations, Metis and Aboriginal people gathered at the Pink Mountain Ranch for Nenan's 4th annual celebration of Northeast culture. Many workshops included teachings about local culture, traditions and customs. There were also fun workshops on drum making, hunting, meat and hide processing, dancing, bush survival, pugeesee, archery and much more!

NEW SCHOOL WANTED

Chief and Council know we need a plan for delivering education on the Reserve.

Chief and Council want a new school built for students from kindergarten to grade 12—and an arena—as soon as possible.

These new buildings will be expensive. BRFN is lobbying industry (including BC Hydro) and governments for funding.

BRFN will start the planning in consultation with its members, this winter. We will need your ideas and input for the sake of our children.

NEW LOGO!

BRFN has a new logo!

The logo at the top of this newsletter was recently approved by Chief and Council.

The new logo represents important things about our lands, animals and culture. It includes Pink Mountain, a buffalo and sheep. It also has a stylized river at the bottom. We hope you like it!

Chief & Council Message

The colours are changing and things are busy!

BRFN has been involved in a lot of negotiations with different companies (oil and gas, BC Hydro, forestry, pipeline, mining) who are working in our territory.

We want to make sure these companies:

- recognize BRFN rights,
- protect the environment,
- provide opportunities for our members and contractors, and
- provide BRFN with revenue that will help us support our services and pensions.

Providing services to Elders is a priority for our Council.

Providing jobs and training for our members is also a strong focus.

For example, we are planning a job fair this fall with many large companies such as TransCanada Pipelines, Progress Energy, Shell, BC Hydro, Ironhand Drilling, and Spectra Energy.

Our Council is here to serve our community. Please talk to us if you have any questions or suggestions (*see contact information on page 7*).

CONGRATULATIONS!

3 NEW PIECES OF LAND

BIRTHS



Jax John James Apsassin (above)

Born: August 30th, 2012

Mother: Enouk Turgeon

Father: Jr. Apsassin



Iley Cameron (above)

Born: March 31st, 2012

Mother: Chantell Davis

Father: Brandon Cameron

WEDDINGS

Shawn Davis & Stacey Lindstrom

September 29th, 2012

Fort St. John.

Our First Nation is growing and we need to plan for our future.

This is why BRFN recently bought three new pieces of land.

We bought:

- 5 quarter sections of land from Inez Chambers next to our reserve,
- one quarter section in Rose Prairie,
- Over 400 acres of land on the Alaska Highway south of Fort St. John (see photo below)

These three pieces of land will be valuable for future economic

development, housing and agriculture.

As land is at a premium we were fortunate to purchase it.

The land near the highway is far from our community but it will provide excellent economic opportunities for us. During the TLE consultations, the community was consulted about the idea of buying this specific parcel of land.

BRFN paid the appraised value of the land.

For more information contact Chief Joe Apsassin.



BRFN's new land near Fort St. John. It will be valuable for economic development.



Dr. Mark Totten
Senior Mental Health and Addictions Worker

"I'm a laid back kind of guy and like to laugh."

Need someone to talk to?

Mark is in the community every two weeks to provide counselling and support.

If you are dealing with things like conflict in your family, addictions, depression, grief, parenting challenges, trauma, stress or other issues, Mark is the guy to talk to! He is a great listener and can help you deal with personal issues.

Everything you talk about will be kept confidential.

Everyone is welcome - children, youth, adults, couples, families.

Mark is available to see you in your home, in town, or at the health department. You can drop by Health when he is in town or call to make an appointment. You can also talk to him when he is away from the community. Call the Health Department at 630-2181 or leave a message on Mark's voice mail at 630-2846.

This fall Mark will be at BRFN: September 10 - 21; October 15 - 26; November 12 - 23; December 2 - 14.

ENVIRO TRAINING

A number of BRFN members took part in a new Environmental Monitor Training program from September 17-21. This program was designed specifically for BRFN.

Students learned how to assess the types of impacts a new development project might have on our lands, waters and cultural heritage.

They spent the mornings in the classroom and then went out on the land in the afternoon. They worked in teams during the week.

The training in September was the first part of a two-part program. The second part will happen next spring. It will cover how to monitor environmental and cultural impacts once a project starts and after it is finished.

WATER WORKS

BRFN has been negotiating with Aboriginal Affairs & Northern Development Canada (AANDC, the new name for DIAND) to provide funding to improve our community water system.

Our water system is almost 25 years and it no longer meets our needs.

The system needs to produce more clean water. We need to replace the filters in the treatment plant. We also need to be able to store more water.

Public Works is working closely with Aboriginal Affairs to make these changes.

At the same time, we are doing engineering work to prepare plans for a new system. The new system will serve our community for the next 20 years.



Watch out! Karen Apsassin and Charlene Pouce Coupe take a turn on the hose during a fire fighting training last June. The fire line and pumps and water delivery training was done by O'Neill Consulting.

PINK MOUNTAIN

As members are aware, the guide outfitter certificate for the Pink Mountain area is now back in Blueberry River First Nation's name.

This summer about 12 community members were hired to help put in new fence posts and fix up the old cabins at Pink Mountain. We also purchased five new cabins.

During the summer, Elders and other community members also used the cabins.

In July, over 500 people participated in the Nenan gathering at Pink Mountain. Many children had the opportunity to learn about dancing, hunting and other cultural teachings.

The 3rd annual Unity Gathering for Treaty 8 First Nations was held in August. People gathered berries, hunted and prepared their meat.

This fall, we will also be doing some of our own hunts. Tom Vince will help train BRFN guides on these hunts.

Tom will hold the guiding license for two years until BRFN guides are trained and can take over the license. Patrick Chipesia now holds the guide outfitter certificate for the area, on behalf of BRFN.

For more information contact Patrick Chipesia.

NEW TRADITIONAL TERRITORY MAP

BRFN has a new Traditional Territory map.

This new map is more accurate than an older map that showed a much smaller area.

The old map was done up without consultation. It was mostly based on the location of our traplines. It didn't show all the different ways we use our lands.

The new map shows our past and current use of our traditional lands.

The boundaries of our new Traditional Territory map are based on interviews that Dorothy Kennedy and Randy Bouchard did last year with BRFN members.

We have sent this new map to Government, BC Hydro and other companies.

They will need to consult with us when they are doing things in our traditional territory. So they need a map that shows the full size of our traditional territory.



NEW LEARNING CENTRE

BRFN has opened a new Adult Learning Centre. The new centre will be staffed full-time by Shelley Drover, a certified teacher.

Adults who want to further their education can enrol in a new "Transitional Training Program". It runs from September to May. Students are accepted on a 'first come, first served' basis.

The Centre will be open four days a week for students in the Transitional Training Program.

It will also be open Fridays for other youth and adult students who may be struggling with reading and math or are looking for support with other training or education efforts.

Drop by and visit the new centre. It is in the community outreach centre.

SCHOOL NEWS

School is back in session and everyone is very excited about the new school year.

We welcome our new grade 5,6 & 7 teacher, Carli Boers (*see p. 6*).

As a reminder to parents, we begin classes at 8:30 and end at 2:30. In order to learn, your child must be at school every day!

We are planning an overnight trip to Pink Mountain on Thursday, September 26th for all our students. Parents are encouraged to join us...your children would love to see you!!

COMMUNITY PLANNING

BRFN is will be creating a *Comprehensive Community Plan (CCP)*.

A Comprehensive Community Plan is a planning tool that involves the whole community in planning process.

The whole community will help form a vision for our future.

The final community plan will have a set of goals and objectives for different parts of our community such as our governance, culture, health, education, social, infrastructure, lands, environment and economy.

GET INVOLVED!

We need strong community involvement to complete a successful plan!

We will be contacting all members of our community to get input. We'll use social media, our new BRFN website (*coming soon*), meetings and questionnaires.

We will deliver a questionnaire to each home on-reserve. We will mail it out to members living off-reserve.

We will also hold community meetings over the next year to allow for active participation at all stages of the planning.

If you have any questions please contact David Laird or Arthur Chipesia at 630-2584 or bandadmin@blueberryfn.ca (David) or achipesia@blueberryfn.ca (Arthur).



Photo by: Mary Jack

A group of Elders and youth went on a trip to Edmonton in late August. The trip was a chance them to have some fun and spend some time together.

NEGOTIATIONS

BRFN has completed consultation and cooperation agreements with most of the companies operating in our Traditional Territory. This includes BC Hydro and companies working in oil & gas, pipeline and mining. .

The goal of all these agreements is to enforce consultation and recognition of Treaty and aboriginal rights.

We have also completed Joint Venture Agreements with companies such as Aramark Camps and Catering, M&M Mulching and D.Fehr Logging.

We are currently negotiating with BC Hydro and Shell Energy.

We have told BC Hydro of our concerns with their proposed Site C dam. If Hydro addresses our environmental concerns, we want to receive a substantial amount of land, especially to expand our Reserve, protect Pink Mountain and establish a heritage site, such as the Dancing Grounds.

We also want money upfront to build a new school and an arena. And we want ongoing payments to support services to our elders and youth.

We also must receive guarantees on training and employment, and guarantees for contracts for BRFN companies and joint ventures. We hope to get some responses soon.

WELCOME NEW STAFF!



Debra Potter
General Manager/CEO
Blueberry River Enterprises (BRE)

Debra started her new job with BRE in early September.

Debra was raised in Fort St. John and lived there for over 40 years. She moved away for a while, but has just moved home.

Debra has a strong finance background. She is a Certified General Accountant and has worked for business, local government and an accounting firm.

In her job at BRE, she is responsible for providing leadership. She will be managing the organization and will report to the Board of Directors, who have been appointed by Chief and Council.



Rob Monahan
Operations Manager
Blueberry River Enterprises (BRE)

Rob started with BRE in late August.

Rob has worked for West Moberly First Nations band-owned company, Dunne-za Ventures, as their Operations Manager. More recently, he worked for Arcis Corporation as a field supervisor and safety consultant.

At BRE he deals with the day-to-day management of BRE. He works with sub-contractors and Industry, and explores new business opportunities for BRE.



Shelley Drover
Adult Employment & Training
Centre, BRFN

Shelley is from Corner Brook, Newfoundland. She has been a teacher, coach and instructor for over 20 years.

She has two degrees (in Physical Education and Secondary Education) and is working on a second masters in Inclusive Education.



Carli Boers
Teacher (Grades 5, 6 & 7)
Blueberry River School

Carlie attended Acadia University in Nova Scotia. This is Carli's first year of teaching.

A great time was had by everyone at the Blueberry River Rodeo August 4-5th. Thanks to our sponsors, volunteers and participants!



Photo by: Karen Apsassin

PROTECTING OUR RIGHTS

Last June, the Government of Canada passed Bill C-38, the Omnibus Budget Bill.

This new piece of legislation made many changes to environmental laws and other laws that could affect our way of life. BRFN was not consulted about this Bill.

Chief Apsassin wrote to the Minister of Natural Resources, Joe Oliver, in late July. The Chief told the Minister that BRFN should be consulted about this new legislation and how it will be implemented.

We also said that any parts of the new law that might impact our treaty rights should not be implemented until BRFN has been consulted.

We are still waiting for a response. We may consider legal action if we don't hear back soon.

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!

Chief and Council would like to recognize the hard work of our past and current students! We are proud of you!

GRADUATES FROM LAST YEAR

Randa Adekat: Applied Business Technology
Cloud Apsassin: Welding Level B
Jerri Lynn Apsassin: Fashion Marketing
Angela Charuk: Community Support Worker

STUDENTS ENROLLED THIS YEAR:

Randa Adekat: College and Career Prep
Cheyenne Apsassin: Aboriginal Education Program
Stephanie Apsassin: Adult Basic Education
Andrew Maas Crowell: Professional Writing
Michelle Elliott: Social Service Workers Diploma
Kristi Hotte: Criminal & Social Justice
Ashley Maas: Business Administration
Taylar Mayo: Bachelor of Arts
Gordon Maas: Aboriginal Adult Basic Education
Leroy Mickle: Welding Level C
Neal Apsassin: College of Arts

BRFN Contacts

Chief & Council

For BRFN Chief and Council please contact:

Danielle Talbot
Executive Assistant to
Chief & Council

630-2800

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Key BRFN Contacts

Band Administrator
Chief Finance Officer
Health
Lands
Public Works
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Outreach
Pink Mountain
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Ron Paracuelles
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Lenora Blue
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Blueberry River Enterprises

Reception

Karen Apsassin

630-2614

reception@blueberryent.ca



BRE's new air burners are used instead of big burn piles. The new burners greatly reduce air pollution.

In the last year, Blueberry River Enterprises (BRE) has been busy on many projects.

BRE has been hired to build roads, clear right of ways (from logging to mulching to burning).

Last March, BRE received its *Certificate of Recognition*. This certification is a safety requirement needed to work with the oil companies. It is very important to keep everyone safe and produce top quality work.

And Spectra Energy nominated BRE for Aboriginal Business of the year!

We were also involved in different training programs for BRFN members such as safety training and driver training. People who have taken the training courses will be in a good position to get jobs.

This fall we are expecting to be working on many large projects that will provide some full-time jobs to our members. We are involved in lease construction, seismic programs and rental of our equipment.

For more information, contact BRE at (250) 630-2614 or reception@blueberryent.ca.

Community Meeting:

Financial Audits of BRFN & BRE

**Tuesday, September 25th
Community Hall
Starts at 12:00**

Lunch will be served followed by a presentation by the auditor

Everyone is welcome!

This meeting is to present the 2011/12 financial audit of our First Nation and Blueberry River Enterprises.

An audit is an independent and close inspection of financial records to ensure they are correct. BRFN has an audit done every year.

The auditor, Gordon Ferguson, will present the audit and answer questions.

For more information about the meeting contact Ron Paracuelles at (250) 630-2800 or ron@blueberryfn.ca.



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