



SAGAMOK ANISHNAWBEK

NEWS

Waab'aagaa Giizis

Changing Colour Leaves Moon | September 2026

SAGAMOK ANISHNAWBEK NEWS

Waab'aagaa Giizis | Changing Colour Leaves Moon | September 2026

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SCAM WARNING

A con artist claiming to be from **First Nation Distributors** has been contacting Sagamok departments offering free Blue Jays tickets and/or jackets.

DO NOT accept this offer or provide any information to the caller, and **DO NOT** process any unexpected deliveries.

YOU CAN REPORT SCAMS AT [ANISHINABEKPOLICE.CA](https://www.anishinabekpolice.ca)

Community Safety Plan



Share your thoughts, ideas, and priorities for a safer community.

Scan the QR code to participate.

— 2026 ANNUAL SAGAMOK — FALL HARVEST

Dgwaagik Zgaknigeng — Save the Date!

OCTOBER 5-9, 2026

More Details Coming Soon!

Daycare Enrollment

Still space available for toddlers and preschoolers — contact us today to register!

TODDLER ROOM | 18-30 MONTHS
PRESCHOOL ROOM | 31-48 MONTHS

705-865-1180 | daycare@sagamok.ca



FOOD BANK SERVICES

FOOD BANK	Mon • Wed • Fri	10:00AM – 3:00PM
SOUP KITCHEN	Mon • Wed • Fri	11:30AM – 1:00PM
MILK PROGRAM	Mon • Wed • Fri	10:00AM – 3:00PM

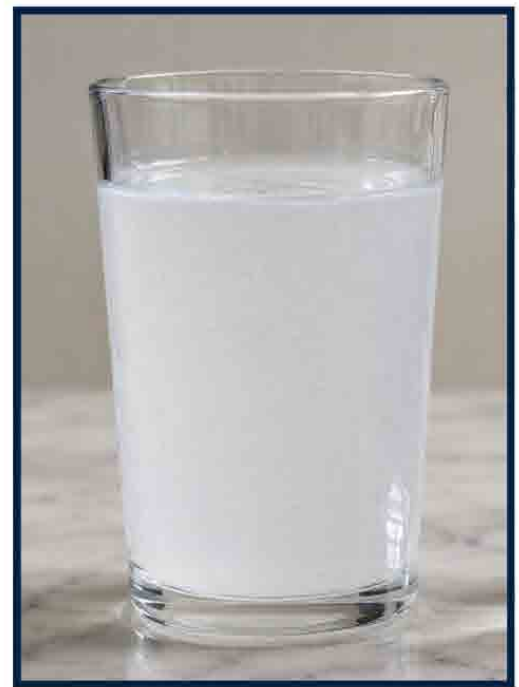
Sagamok Food Bank | 705-865-2421 X 230



AIR IN THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM



MILKY OR CLOUDY WATER? IT'S MOST LIKELY AIR.



Air in the water is **NOT a health concern** and does not make the water unsafe to consume. Tiny air bubbles can make water look white, cloudy, or milky.



WHY DOES AIR GET INTO THE SYSTEM?

- Watermain repairs or maintenance
- Watermain breaks or interruptions
- Changes in water pressure or demand
- Hydrant flushing & system flushing
- Opening & closing valves
- Work on watermain, services or other infrastructure

Please Contact Us If...

- Water does not clear up after sitting
- The water has a colour other than white/cloudy
- The water has an unusual odour or taste
- If you have any other concerns



WHAT IS THE WATER DEPARTMENT DOING?

Our operators are continuing to flush the distribution system. As water moves through the system, the trapped air will be released. Continued flushing and normal water use will help remove the air.

You do **NOT** need to boil your water or take any special precautions because of this air.



WHAT SHOULD I DO?

1. Turn on a cold water tap.
2. Let the water run for several minutes.
3. Fill a clear glass of water and let it sit.
4. The water should gradually clear as the air escapes.



**SAGAMOK
ANISHNAWBEK**

Water & Sanitation Department
Kayla Abitong 705-863-2874
Devin Austin 705-923-4271



COACHES WANTED

U9 TO U19 | NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

Volunteer Registration Open at
www.SagamokRecreation.com

NIIGAANIIN



FREE TAX CLINIC

Meet with **tax professionals** for assistance with getting up-to-date on your taxes!

www.Niigaaniin.com

Additional information below.



SAGAMOK
ANISHNAWBEK

NEW on the Members Portal

SPECIAL EDITION Chief & Council Priorities
Newsletter

SEP 14, 2026

www.SagamokAnishnawbek.com/log-in

School Bus Safety

● Stop for school buses when lights are flashing.

👁 Keep an eye out for children waiting and crossing the road.

⌚ Be patient and attentive while driving.

Happy Back to School!

2027 Community Calendar



Would you like a chance for your photos to be featured in the **Sagamok 2027 Community Calendar**?! Submit your photos of our beautiful community for a chance for your photo to be featured in **Sagamok's 2027 Community Calendar**!!

Deadline: October 30th

Send submissions to: newsletter@sagamok.ca

Community Service Hours Opportunity

MEMORIAL ROUND DANCE



We're looking for community members and students to help with this year's **Memorial Round Dance**. Contact us!

southwind_andrew@sagamok.ca





September 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			
16 Instructional Days						

October 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	
20 Instructional Days						

November 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					
20 Instructional Days						

December 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		
14 Instructional Days						

January 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						
20 Instructional Days						

February 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						
18 Instructional Days						

March 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	29	30	31			
16 Instructional Days						

April 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	
21 Instructional Days						

May 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					
20 Instructional Days						

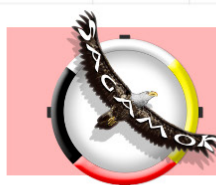
June 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			
21 Instructional Days						

July 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
SUMMER HOLIDAYS NO SCHOOL						
186 Total Instructional Days						
8 Professional Development Days (Teachers Only)						
194 Pensionable Days						

August 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
SUMMER HOLIDAYS NO SCHOOL						

PD Days (8)	Holidays
September 1 st	September 7 th (Labour Day)
September 2 nd	September 30 th (TRC)
September 3 rd	October 12 th (Thanksgiving)
October 26 th	December 21 st -January 1 st (Christmas Break)
November 20 th	February 15 th (Family Day)
February 1 st	March 15 th -19 th (March Break)
April 23 rd	March 26 th (Good Friday)
June 11 th	March 29 th (Easter Monday)
	May 24 th (Victoria Day)
September 8 th First Day	June 30 th Last Day
APPD C&C (May 19 th , 2026)	*PD days are considered working days for staff

Biidaaban's Daily Schedule						
Block	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Daily Total
	8:35-8:50 AM Arrival & Breakfast					
1	8:50-10:50 AM					120 Minutes
	Break 10:50-11:30 AM					
2	11:30-1:30 PM					120 Minutes
	Break 1:30-2:10 PM					
3	2:10-3:10 PM					60 Minutes
						300 Instructional Minutes



SAGAMOK ANISHNAWBEK
EDUCATION





Chiefs of Ontario Director of Education Visits Sagamok

Chiefs of Ontario (COO), Director of Education, Mick Staruck, visited Sagamok to meet with Director of Education, Vance McPherson, in late June. To provide you with some background information regarding what the COO is/ does, here is an explanation from the COO website:

“Chiefs of Ontario is a political forum and secretariat that supports all 133 First Nations communities in Ontario, and advocates for the self-determination of these nations.”

Where education is concerned, Chiefs of Ontario actively engages in initiatives that focus on Early Learning to Grade 12, Special Education needs, post-secondary, and language revitalization efforts.

Across all sectors, *“The primary objective is to*

identify and enact initiatives that will result in delivering sustainable, equitable First Nation education systems recognizing First Nations jurisdiction.”



Mick toured Sagamok Education's facilities, including Shki Waase-Aaban Binoojinh Gamik (Daycare), Biidaaban Kinoomaagegamik (Elementary), and the Lifelong Learning Centre, which included Waawaasnoode (Adult Education) and the newly re-established Waaseyaankaan Teg (the Place of Enlightenment) – our home for all things language and culture related under the education umbrella.

Following a meeting together, Vance led Mick on a personal tour to showcase Sagamok's innovative instructional platforms; including, Daycare's Anishinaabemowin immersion efforts, Biidaaban's Land-based Learning and Language curriculum, the newly renovated offices, Maker Spaces, and access to higher education at the Lifelong Learning Centre, including training and career development opportunities available in collaboration with Sagamok Departments as well as regional stakeholders. These all reflect the diversity of programs being made available to meet the needs expressed by community members, utilizing community resources.

Mick appreciated the tour and found the modern, Anishinaabe Aadziwin-





inspired spaces (Biidaaban and Waaseyaankaan Teg) particularly interesting! These spaces are designed to support Sagamonians

in reaching their full potential; resources located conveniently on-site to fulfill self-actualization, from womb to ancestry.

Miigwech to Mick for taking the time to visit Sagamok Education and personally greeting staff throughout his tour to learn first-hand about our innovative and culturally observant Education Department.

The team appreciated the meet-and-greet, and the exchange of information by all parties was meaningful and insightful.



Announcement from Chief Angus Toulouse:

I would like to share some exciting changes at the organization’s senior level, following recruitment efforts for a Senior Administrative Officer for Sagamok Anishnawbek. The following changes are being shared:

Senior Administrative Officer

Effective July 27, 2026
Michelle Toulouse is a member of Sagamok and has been employed with Sagamok as the Director of Claims and Negotiations for the past 2 years. Michelle has extensive background in supporting First Nations operations, community and government relations, engagement, and consultation. Her knowledge of Sagamok and experience with operations support in First Nations government, administration, and service organizations will provide an excellent foundation and she is a most welcomed addition to the role.

Acting Director of Claims & Negotiations

Effective August 10, 2026
Stephanie Allen is a member of Six Nations of the Grand River. She has family ties to Sagamok and has been employed with Sagamok in various capacities for many years. Stephanie will be filling the role of Acting Director of Claims and Negotiations. She has extensive experience in lands, environmental, and government relations, including a solid understanding of First Nations’ Aboriginal and Treaty rights and federal and provincial legislation and responsibilities with respect to First Nations.

Please join me in welcoming Michelle and Stephanie into their new capacities.





Sagamok Anishnawbek Koognaasewin Initiative

With Mamaweswen, The North Shore Tribal Council's (NSTC) Koognaasewin project ending on June 30, 2026, individual North Shore First Nations have moved forward to independently map out their respective Koognaasewin Law and System Design. For Sagamok, our Koognaasewin initiative has continued to ramp up over the last year, with a Draft Koognaasewin Law currently in review as well as Child and Family program expansion, policies, procedures, and work plan development, and negotiations (with Canada and Ontario) all underway.

In upcoming blog posts, we'll be delving deeper into the details of Sagamok's Koognaasewin System Design, Service Delivery Model, and Work Plan. We'll also explore the Draft Koognaasewin Law so everyone can better understand how the Koognaasewin Law and accompanying System Design will shape future Child Wellbeing programming. While no date has been set, ratification of Sagamok's Koognaasewin Law will likely occur in mid-2027.

Koognaasewin – Child Wellbeing, began under the NSTC in 1987 through a resolution to re-establish community care for children and families. Other key milestones include:

- 2009: the NSTC authorized Nogdawindamin to pursue designation as a full-service child welfare agency under Ontario's Child and Family Services Act as an interim measure until full jurisdiction under Anishinaabe Child Welfare Law could be exercised.
- 2017: Nogdawindamin became a fully mandated child welfare agency operating under Ontario law.
- 2018: the NSTC passed a resolution to proceed with the next phase of development, focusing on community engagement, consultation, and planning to ensure informed decision-making.
- 2019: the Federal Government enacted Bill C-92 (formerly called An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families) affirmed Indigenous jurisdiction over child welfare with the primary aim of reducing the over-representation of Indigenous children in care and prioritizes cultural continuity.
- 2024: The Supreme Court of Canada ruled that Bill C-92 is constitutional.



Key Aspects of Bill C-92 include:

1. **Jurisdiction:** Recognizes the inherent right of Indigenous communities to create their own child and family service laws, which can take precedence over provincial/federal laws.
2. **National Standards:** Establishes minimum standards, including the “best interests of the child,” cultural continuity, and substantive equality.
3. **Preventative Focus:** Shifts focus from apprehension to prevention, keeping children with their families and communities.
4. **Constitutional Validation:** In February 2024, the Supreme Court of Canada unanimously upheld the constitutionality of the Act, confirming it falls within federal jurisdiction.
5. **Implementation:** Indigenous groups can now exercise jurisdiction through two options: (1) creating their own laws; or (2) coordinating with existing provincial/federal systems.

Now that the regional project has come to an end, the work sits with each First Nation independently. As an introduction to Sagamok's Koognaasewin initiative, let's start with a brief overview of important highlights over the last five years:

- **October 2018:** NSTC passed a resolution to proceed with a new phase of Child Wellbeing that focused on community engagement, consultation, and planning to ensure informed decision-making regarding Law development.
- **October 29-30, 2019:** Leadership and senior managers from NSTC, Nogdawindamin, and the Elders Council convened to discuss the development of the child well-being law. Key discussions emphasized the importance of grounding the law in Anishinaabe teachings, spirituality, and traditional practices.
- **2021:** Koognaasewin Initiative begins in earnest with the core team hired to begin the comprehensive capacity development process, including a broad-based introduction of the Koognaasewin initiative to North Shore communities, and begin the process of supporting community-led Child Wellbeing Law development processes and visioning.
- **2021-2022:** Anishinaabe Customs and Traditions Research on Child Wellbeing is completed, capturing stories and teachings from North Shore First Nations' Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and Grannies and Aunties groups on raising children, as well as gathering historical information sourced from local and regional archived material on Anishinaabe practices in child rearing.
- **2023:** Koognaasewin began focusing on data governance and sovereignty to support the development of a Child Wellbeing Law. A contractor was hired to conduct ethnographic research to gather stories from North Shore First Nations' members with Lived Experience with the child welfare system. Separate ethnographic research was conducted to gather input from child welfare staff along the North Shore on their experiences in the local child welfare system.
- **June 2024:** Phase 2 of the Koognaasewin Data Governance Project was initiated, focusing on data assessment, community engagement, and the development of a conceptual framework for measuring child and family well-being.

Hear this story come to life
on Biimaadiziwin Radio!

**Tune into CKNR 94.1 on
September 20** or listen to
the show archive at

[www.SagamokAnishnawbek.com/
The-Sagamok-Hour](http://www.SagamokAnishnawbek.com/The-Sagamok-Hour)



- **March 31, 2025** – The Koognaasewin Team, together with a Legislative Drafter, released the Draft Generic Koognaasewin Child Wellbeing Law and accompanying System Design & Service Delivery Model. With this generic version in hand, a robust generic Law was made available to North Shore First Nations for individual community' adoption/adaptation for their own Child Wellbeing Law. Sagamok's Koognaasewin law builds upon this generic version.
- **January 2026:** NSTC's Koognaasewin's Team focuses their activity aimed at producing the essential tools required to support North Shore First Nations to negotiate their coordination agreement requirements for assertion of jurisdiction over child wellbeing.

The NSTC's Koognaasewin initiative was guided by a set of Project Components that guided the work and ensured key deliverables were met:



Anishinaabe Customs and Practices on raising children provided a pathway forward that, regardless of component or project deliverable, was always reflective of Anishinaabe ways of raising children. As of March 31, 2025, a final generic Koognaasewin Child Wellbeing Law was completed and shared with North Shore First Nations to adapt for their own law development processes.

As Sagamok continues to work towards realizing their vision for Koognaasewin, future blog posts will explore Sagamok's Koognaasewin planning process and ongoing work towards a reimagined community-based child wellbeing system.





Gweyaksijigewin Teg
Sagamok Community Justice Program
P.O. Box 610, 610 Sagamok Road, Unit 2
Sagamok Anishnawbek
Telephone: 705-865-1884

ANISHNAABE AADZIWIN DBAAKNIGE OGIMAAWIN

Victim Services

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Anishinaabe Aadziwin Dbaaknige Ogimaawin Victim Services program offers support and assistance to Sagamok Anishnawbek community members who have been victimized. The program provides referrals and connections within Sagamok and outside the community. It assists victims through the Miwdoodaa Mino Maadziwin Diversion program and the justice system. The program creates a healing and wellness plan with victims to restore sense of safety and well-being. Additionally, will provide assistance with forms and victim impact statements.

The program also provides services to address lateral violence and intergenerational trauma within Sagamok Anishnawbek community.

PROGRAM SERVICES

- Understanding of Diversion process
- Understanding of Criminal Justice System
- Emotional Support
- Court Accompaniment
- Assist with Victim Impact Statements
- Assist with Victim Quick Response Program+
- Referrals to internal and external Services

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

- Member and/or resident of Sagamok Anishnawbek
- Person who has been a victim of crime

JOSLYN PAIBOMSAI

Anishinaabe Aadziwin Dbaaknige Ogimaawin

Victim Service Coordinator

paibomsai_joslyn@sagamok.ca

610 Sagamok Rd, Unit 2

Tel: 705-865-1884 ext. 504

Cell: 705-863-5074



CYBER smarts⁶



Up until about 4 years ago, a strong password was enough to protect your valuable information on the internet.

This has changed because Cyber-Criminals are becoming more advanced with their tactics. And recently, Artificial Intelligence (AI) has enabled new and more advanced password cracking tools. This means a strong password is no longer enough to keep criminals out of your personal information.

On today's Sagamok Cyber Smarts, we're talking about why a strong password isn't enough and how to protect yourself using Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA).

So what is Multi-Factor Authentication?

The easiest way to think of multi-factor authentication is through a real-life example.



Imagine you have a safe at home with lots of valuable possessions inside. The safe is protected with a code, which provides one layer of security. But let's say someone gets a hold of that code. They can use it to open the safe.

Imagine, in addition to a code, you also needed another element to open the safe – for example, a device that scanned your face or a text message that was sent to your phone. The fact that you need those additional steps to open the safe makes it more difficult for anyone else to open it.

It's the same with multi-factor authentication. Say, for example, that you've turned on multi-factor authentication for your online banking. If someone guesses your password, they still can't log in to your account. To log in, they also need to provide another piece of information, like a one-time code that gets sent to your email address or cell phone number.

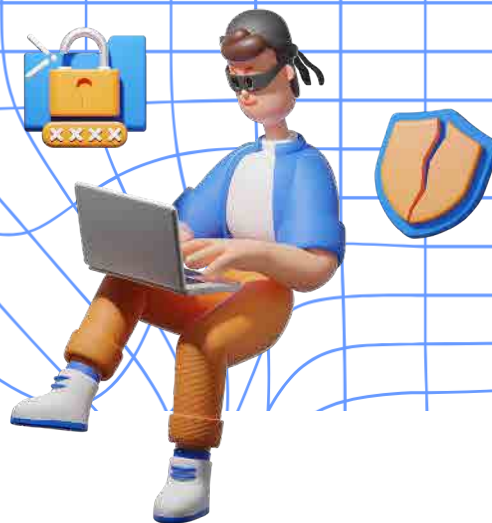
In summary, multi-factor authentication is a security method that requires users to provide two or more verification factors to gain access to an online account or system.



There are a few different types of multi-factor authentication.

While using *any* form of multi-factor authentication is better than not using it at all, here is a ranking of the **most common** types of multi factor authentication solutions from strongest to weakest:

- Biometric authentication such as using your fingerprint or facial recognition.
- Software token- Microsoft or Google Authenticator are good examples of this.
- Email one-time passcode- After entering your password an email is sent to you with a code that usually expires if not used to log in within a few minutes.
- SMS one-time passcode- This is similar to an email code, but it is sent as a text message to your cell phone instead. Again, these codes are for one-time use, and usually expire.



Multi-factor authentication is a key component of keeping yourself cyber secure. So don't wait! Use multi-factor authentication on your accounts now and, whenever possible, select the strongest authentication option available to you.

Miigwech to Sagamok's IT Department for providing us with this valuable information for this month's Sagamok Cyber Smarts!





APAKWAANAJIINH (BAT) NETTING UPDATE

Chevaun Toulouse, Environment and Climate Change Coordinator, invites this month's readers to learn about some bat-netting news. She joins this September community newsletter to share that the month of August was the last month for netting/tracking bats until next year!

Photographed by Derek Morningstar, the bats shown here were caught on Monday, August 8, 2026. At the time, Chevaun and her team had only 4 nights remaining before the netting program finished, so there was lots of pressure to finish on a win. The bats displayed were caught at the Fort LaCloche Sand Pit -- each bat is classified and fitted with a tracker for the Motus tower system.

For new readers, the Motus tower system is a radio telemetry station used to track wildlife movement. Along with large insects and birds, these towers can also be used—like in this case—to track bats. Knowing these bats' movement patterns provides migration information that can help Chevaun find

and then support the conservation of protected wildlife habitats.

Chevaun noted that at the end of the week (8/11/2026), around 17 bats and 14 flying squirrels were caught. She also noted that she will be tracking 13 of these bats over the next 3 weeks to locate their roosts—one could call them “hangouts”?

Some of the classifications of bats caught in Sagamok include:

1. Eastern Red Bat; female
2. Small-footed Bat
3. Silver-haired Bat; male
4. Silver-haired Bat; female
5. Big Brown Bat; female

Shown here are some photos of the first red bat caught by Chevaun and her team. This is the first time they have ever caught this bat species during their netting! “She is super cute!” remarked Chevaun.

Miigwech to Chevaun and her team for their continued work in supporting the conservation of wildlife here in Sagamok over the past year.



The community would be unable to catch, observe, and learn effectively about these beautiful creatures without their efforts and introduction of these monitoring systems. Also, Miigwech to all the community members who participated in the bat-netting, monitoring, and classification process. With everyone's collective participation, Sagamok continues its rising history in animal preservation!

Here are some of Allen Toulouse's photos of the red bats that were caught with the transmitter attached.

The transmitter was glued to the bat and will fall off in about 2-3 weeks.



THANK YOU, KGHM!

Submitted by: Nikki Toulouse, Implementation Coordinator, CNU

On behalf of the **Elders Eagle Lodge**, the **Claims and Negotiation Unit (CNU)** would like to extend our sincere appreciation to **KGHM** for their generous **\$2,000 donation** toward the purchase of a new riding lawn tractor.

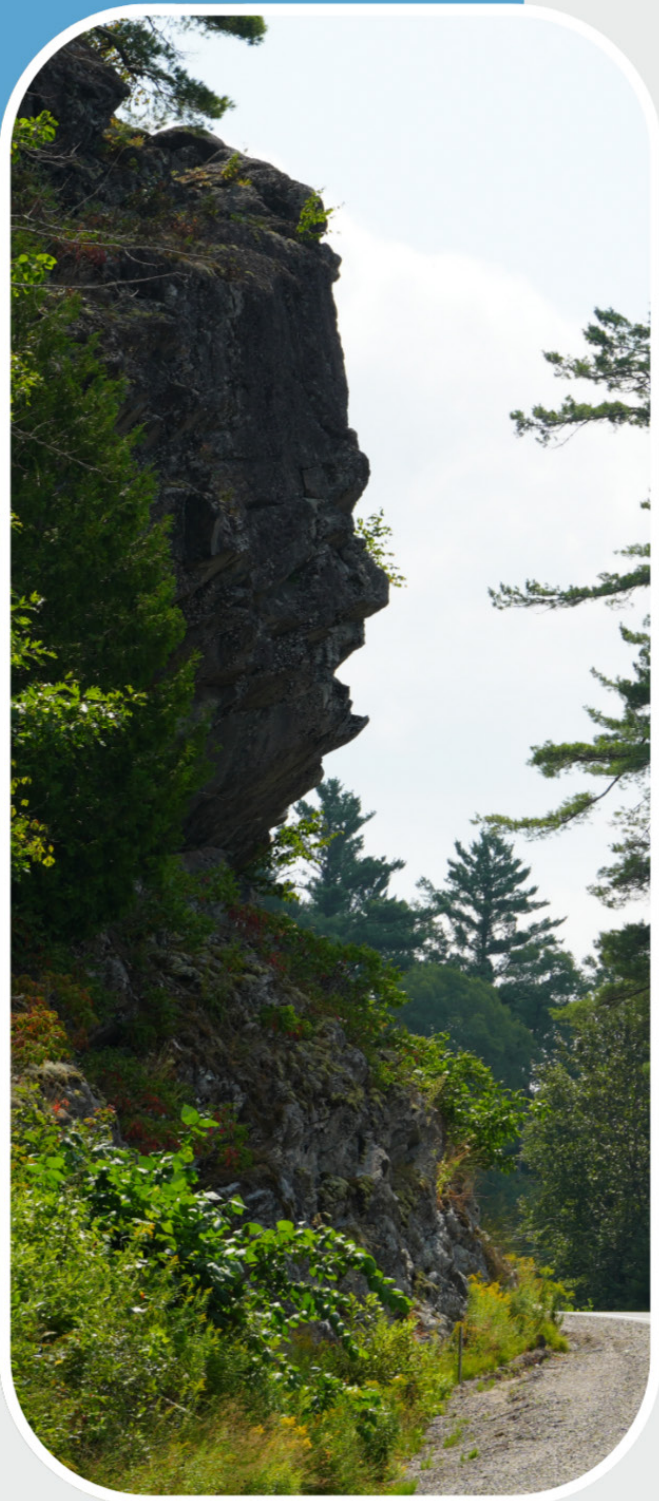
This generous contribution has helped provide essential equipment that will enhance seasonal property maintenance at the Lodge and support lawn care services for Elders throughout our community. The new riding lawn tractor will improve the efficiency of our Home and Community Care team, helping to ensure safe, accessible, and well-

maintained outdoor spaces while allowing Elders to continue living independently with dignity.

Community partnerships such as this have a meaningful and lasting impact. KGHM's generosity demonstrates a commitment to supporting the well-being of the Elders of Sagamok Anishnawbek, and we are grateful for their investment in our community.

Miigwech, KGHM, for your generosity and continued support. Your contribution will benefit our Elders and community for years to come.





FAMILY & COMMUNITY
Support Services

Systems Navigator Services

Available for On-Reserve
and Off-Reserve Members

Our Services:

Free ID Services



Jordan's Principle Funding
Applications



First Nation Child & Family Support
Services Assistance



CPP Children's Benefits



Service Support & Connections



C. Marie Toulouse | Systems Navigator
705-863-0470
toulouse_marie@sagamok.ca

MONDAY-FRIDAY
9:00AM-4:30PM



ANDREW DAGG'S RETIREMENT PARTY

On July 24, Band Representative for the Child and Family Advocacy Unit, Andrew Dagg, had a retirement party held in his honour. This event marked the end of Andrew's nearly 8-year career with Sagamok, which began in October of 2018 and concluded on July 17, 2026. Friends gathered to share treats and good conversations in his name.

Reflecting on his time in the role, Andrew spoke about helping children in need, especially when he served as Acting Manager. He remembered two groups of siblings who were separated for reasons he felt were not valid and successfully reunited them. One group was from Blind River and the other was located in Garden River.

When asked about the most important lesson from his job, Andrew emphasized the value of listening. "When you work with someone, you have to *work* with someone," he shared, pointing out that it is important not to tell people what they can or cannot do. Andrew added that, whether you are dealing with addictions, family services, or any other support, you cannot boss people around. He looks forward to carrying out this philosophy in his retirement.

As he approaches this new life of retirement, he enters it prepared with a creative hobby. Since retiring, Andrew has started making wooden bowls. He joked that his bowls are rarely round, but he enjoys making them. Each one takes about one to two hours to finish, and he can make several in a day if he chooses. He was invited to show some of his work at the annual LaCloche Art Show in Whitefish Falls. For now, he does not plan to sell his hand-made bowls and wants to keep working on personal projects.

Miigwech to Andrew! Thank you from everyone at Sagamok for your eight years of service!



SAGAMOKS 2026 JAYS CARE PROGRAM

Founded in 1992, The Jays Care Foundation is the official branch of the Toronto Blue Jays Major League Baseball team dedicated to charitable acts. Using baseball as a framework to build skills, create safe communities, and support marginalized youth, the foundation is a leading example of charitable programming here in Sagamok.

Carson Abitong, a Physical Wellness Worker in the Community Engagement and Prevention Unit, coaches the Senior baseball team, while Joshua Bob, a General Maintenance Worker with the Housing Department here at Sagamok, coaches the Junior team. These two dedicated volunteers shared kind words about their time as coaches under the Jays Care program:

Carson Abitong

"I enjoyed coordinating the JaysCare Program this summer. We had plenty of applicants for the program, and we hope we get just as many next year. We can start our own local Little League next summer if we continue to get this level of interest from the community. I had the pleasure of coaching the Senior Jays team this summer, which was exciting in itself, as I enjoy coaching, and I'm very thankful that it's a part of my job. The youth showed excellent sportsmanship and dedication during the summer. This season, we achieved a 6-0 record, which is the only time a JaysCare team has maintained a flawless record! I'm most impressed by their [players] determination, resilience, and supportive attitudes toward their teammates. Still, overall, I'm very proud of what the youth achieved and hope they continue playing and taking part in baseball and sports in the community."

Joshua Bob

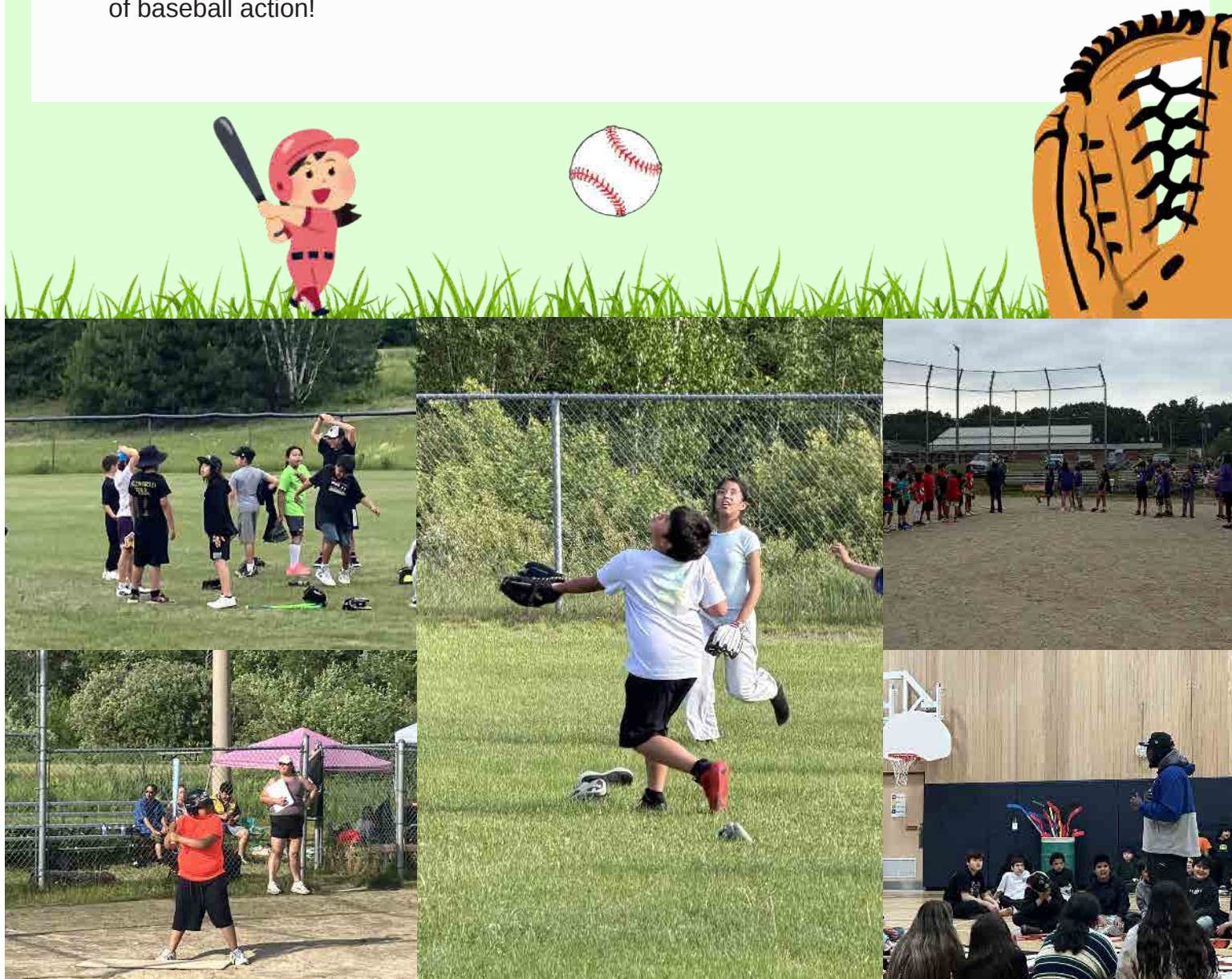
"It has been a great season coaching the Junior Jays; our team has improved greatly this year. These guys have great chemistry together and have been good at keeping each other motivated. The Juniors have a great foundation for the future if they continue to play together. They are very supportive of each other when it comes to playing the game; most kids were eager to sharpen their skill set and help their teammates with things like how to hold their glove properly and body positioning. Coaching 25 kids for baseball this season has been quite an experience. Thank you to all of our volunteers and parents who assisted with practices and games; we couldn't have done this without you guys. Thank you to the community for coming out to support our Junior and Senior teams. It means a lot to our players to see the community out in full force supporting them."



Carson and Joshua also wished to express appreciation to the following:

- Maamwesying for having them in the league and accommodating their large roster.
- JaysCare for creating a pathway for interaction with other communities.
- Parents and families for their endless support to the children and youth.
- Volunteers & Coaches—without their help and dedication to leading, the program wouldn't be as successful as it has been.
- DayStar for coming out, showing their support for our community, and providing a BBQ Dinner.
- The Sagamok Fire Department for coming to a home game and showing support to the kids.
- Athletes for their dedication to playing and learning baseball.

Miigwech to Joshua, Carson and the Junior and Senior JaysCare teams for a great summer of baseball action!



— 2026 ANNUAL SAGAMOK —
FALL HARVEST

The Anishinaabe Aadziwin team is looking for corn husks to use in making corn husk dolls for Biidaaban Fall Harvest October 6–9.



Please drop off corn husks at Waaseyaankaan Teg — Lifelong Learning Centre (717 Sagamok Rd).



Remember to use **free curbside collection** on **Thursdays!**

Allowance of up to 45lb per bag.

Please have bags to the curb by 7:00am.



The Landfill is only intended for bulk waste such as metals, furniture, electronics wood waste, and tires.

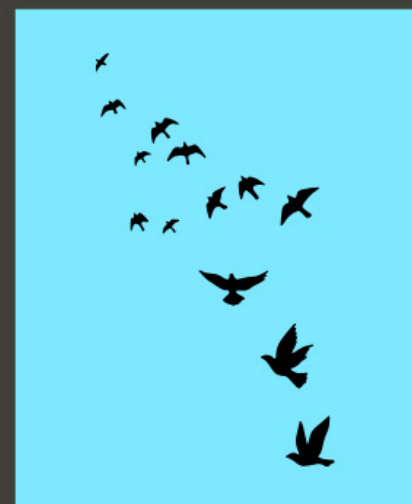
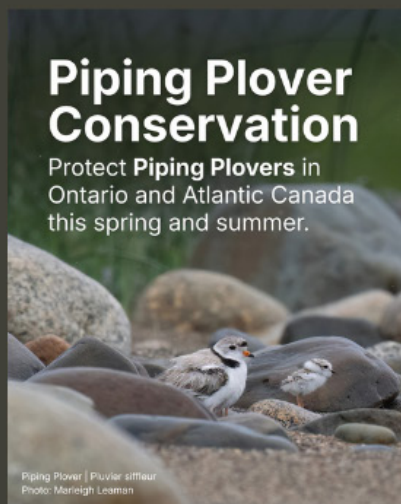




Bineshiinyag Monitoring Opportunities

If you're interested in ***bineshiinyag*** (birds) and their conservation, Birds Canada currently has many **volunteer opportunities** available across the country!

Learn more at
www.SagamokAnishnawbek.com



CELEBRATING THIS SEASON'S SUMMER STUDENTS!

Summer brought with it new job opportunities and lots of work experience for ambitious students looking to improve their skills, their resume, and their bank account! Throughout Sagamok, youth took on new roles across many departments and have begun their journey toward stronger professional development. Giving up any piece of your summer, especially as a teen, is no joke! Miigwech to all the summer students this year who took the leap forward into adulthood and began or continued their occupational exploration journeys on a successful note. We acknowledge and appreciate their positive contributions towards the betterment of the community, as well as bringing a fresh perspective to the staff and departments they worked with. Congratulations to everyone, and on behalf of all Sagamok Departments, we wish you 'Good Luck' with your education and employment going forward:

Payton S. - Children's Wellness Assistant

Amani B. - Daycare Assistant

Aminah T. - Cultural Helper

Emmie L. - Children's Wellness

Justice T. - Grounds Maintenance

Jaxon O. - Water & Sanitation Labourer

Leighton N. - Children's Wellness

Joey O. - Dietary Aid

Adam L. - Grounds Maintenance

Drainden A. - Grounds Maintenance

Alara O. - Document Scanning Clerk

Gregory W. - General Maintenance

Niibin N. - Anishnaabemowin Aadziwin

Tyler P. T. - IT Assistant

Anderson B. - Grounds Maintenance

Kaylee S. - Youth Mentorship Coach

Kiah T. - Photographer/Journalist

Blaze P. - Housing Maintenance

Ameerah E. - Poster Designer

Brianna T. - Case Aide

Lennox T. - General Maintenance

Silas J. - General Maintenance

Nimkiims N. - General Maintenance

Donnell L. - Housing Maintenance

Willow S. - Physical Wellness Assistant

Xander S. - Fitness Center

Zoe Nahwin B. - Food Bank Assistant

Drake S. - Grounds Maintenance

Cheyenne U. - Case Aide

Hannah L. - Grounds Maintenance

Emmett S. - Z'Gamok Construction

Hannah T. - B&D Auto

Journey S. - Z'Gamok Construction

Jaycee N. - Mamaweswen NSTC

If you are between the ages of 15 and 30 and the Summer Student work experience program intrigues you, consider reaching out to Tracey Stoneypoint at the Lifelong Learning Centre:

705-501-8950 X 925 | Stoneypoint_tracey@sagamok.ca.



Tracey is a Guidance & Career Coach specializing in the ISET (Indigenous Skills & Employment Training) program and can provide additional details.

Watch for advertisements again next spring across all Communication channels regarding Summer Student application deadlines and job listings through the partnership between Sagamok Education and Sagamok Human Resources Department. The job options are diverse, and you can gain valuable work experience, develop new skills, and build relationships for future professional careers right here at home! The ISET program is not just about Summer Student positions; there are many other unique opportunities to explore to help you on your career path.

Miigwech to all of the departments and staff for their collaboration and contributions towards this valuable program, to the staff members who supported the students during their placements, and for the students themselves for the fresh perspective and learning opportunity provided to the departments as well. The learning opportunities keep growing and is reciprocal by its very nature, thanks to this wonderful program.

Words from this years summer students about their jobs and time working here in Sagamok:

Leighton Nashkawa

Children's Wellness Worker

Dear Christopher Weatherley,
I am writing to thank you for the wonderful opportunity to work with the Sagamok Children and Family Support Services department this summer. I truly enjoyed my time here and appreciated the chance to support the community. The experience taught me a lot, and I am grateful for the guidance and kindness of everyone on the team. Thank you again for such a positive and meaningful summer. I wish the department all the best and hope our paths cross again in the future.

Collin Riebel

Water and Sanitation Department

1. My most memorable moment while working here was learning new experiences.
2. Something new I have learned was how to raise a fire hydrant.
3. What I enjoyed most was how kind and welcoming everybody was.
4. An experience that will help me in my future is working full time job hours.

Willow Solomon

Physical Wellness

Dear Child and Family Support Services,
As my time here this Summer comes to a close, I wanted to say and express my gratitude for the opportunity to work with such a talented group. I have truly enjoyed my time here and have learned so much from everyone. The collaborative environment and the meaningful projects I was able to contribute to have been an incredibly rewarding experience. I am especially grateful for the mentorship and guidance provided by my Supervisor, Deanna. Her support, patience, and willingness to share her expertise made a significant impact on my growth. I feel much more confident in my skills thanks to her leadership and encouragement. Thank you once again for such a positive and productive summer. I hope to stay in touch and wish the entire team the very best.



Emmie Linklater
Children's Wellness

Thank you for giving me such a wonderful summer and the opportunity to work in this job. I felt truly welcomed by everyone in the department, especially my supervisors, who taught me valuable new skills that will help me in the future. Every program we helped in was well organized, with clear directions that made it easy to understand our roles. The summer day camp was nice seeing the kids enjoy a variety of fun activities each day was heartwarming. It was a privilege to be part of their summer memories and to contribute to a positive experience for them. Thank you for this amazing opportunity I will always remember this job it definitely made me think about what I want to do for work in the future.

Peyton Southwind
Children's Wellness

This summer I got the opportunity to have a summer job, and I learned a lot, not only working and being responsible. But how I shouldn't be afraid to show my true self around others, and getting closer to people who I never knew I'd be close with. My summer job also helped me become more confident and comfortable around others. I learned how important communication, teamwork, and having a positive attitude can be. The people I worked with made the experience fun and memorable, and I am grateful for all the conversations, laughs, and memories we shared. With this summer job I was able to make some great memories with my friends. And I'm really thankful that I chose this job to work with this summer. And the supervisors were very supportive and helpful throughout this summer, Deanna has been such a supportive supervisor. Overall I had the most memorable summer.



Top Row: Deanna Southwind (Children's Wellness Worker) and Alyssa Bennett-Peltier (Community Wellness Assistant)
Bottom Row: Students Willow, Leighton, Emmie, and Peyton.



Students Kiah, Ameerah, and Alara on their first day!

Aanii Sagamok Members

Stay at Ritchie Falls!

Relax • Reconnect • Enjoy
BOOK YOUR CABIN TODAY — OPEN YEAR-ROUND

To Make a Reservation, Contact:
249-500-2897 | ritchiefalls@sagamok.ca

Attendance Matters *Every Day Counts!*

Each day you show up, you're moving closer to your goals, building confidence, and creating opportunities for success.

Be present and stay committed — your future starts today!



ELDERS EAGLE LODGE PICNIC - AUG 19



SAGE SORTING (WAASEYAANKAAN TEG) - AUG 24





THE YOUTH MENTORSHIP PROGRAM: SUMMER 2026

For a summer packed with challenge, activity, and growth, Cheryl Toulouse, the Youth Mentorship Lead, ran an eventful Youth Mentorship program this year with 37 students. As part of their application, students were expected to write a 250-word essay, kicking off the program with a challenge. From crafting to fun events, the program offered many ways for students to learn and grow. If you missed it this year, don't miss the next! The Youth Mentorship program gives students the chance to navigate a variety of experiences with peer guidance—through different engagements, students are brought to fun environments to learn and have fun in a safe space, with mentorship and counsel. By looking at some of the events, one can see the many ways students got to experience the program and learn this year:

On July 27, students received information from Guidance & Career Coach Tracey Stonepoint of the Lifelong Learning Centre on cover letter and resume writing. This helped youth discover their talents and strengths, consider skills they already possessed but perhaps weren't aware of, and successfully encapsulate their skills, work history, and unique personalities in a condensed format—the resume. Since the youth were entering an age when they might begin considering part-time jobs or volunteer

positions, offering this mentorship on behalf of Sagamok Education seemed fitting.

Similarly, the first cohort was also introduced to the idea of Entrepreneurship. Youth Mentorship Coaches Kaylee Southwind and Ainsley Abitong introduced Larissa Toulouse, Owner/Operator of Nginaajiw Salon & Spa, and Tasha Toulouse, Owner/Operator of Gizaagi'in Home Services. During this session, the presenters asked youth to develop their own business through a mock plan where youth, working in groups, had to identify a community issue/concern/gap, determine a solution to close the gap, develop a business name and service/product that would be offered, determine the customer base/profile, launch a business on a meager budget (\$200) including a marketing strategy—followed by presenting a sales “pitch script” to the group. Youth then voted on which business seemed most lucrative and interesting. “Nish Bucks” were a type of reward system offered during the program, and youth could earn the Nish Bucks based on being positive role models, being respectful to all members and presenters and themselves, and avid participation or contribution throughout the sessions, which were put towards draw prizes, gift cards, or incentives.



However, the program wasn't all business; activities such as swimming and learning about phragmites gave students a full range of exercises for both mind and spirit. From outdoor excursions and exercise to learning about local ecosystems here in Sagamok, learning about Phragmites (Canada's most invasive plant species) allowed students to experience mechanically removing aggressive flora and learn about the systems of Sagamok's different plant species. This environmental literacy promotes critical thinking about one's surroundings, giving students a foundation for long-term local management of Sagamok's ecological health. The swim that followed reinforced this lesson. It let students engage directly with the land they had just been taught to protect, demonstrating the importance of maintaining it.



Similarly, the students attended events on greenhouse sustainability and food sovereignty, as well as bushcrafting and drum making, taking part in a variety of practical and cultural lessons. The Youth Mentorship Program also included sessions on colonialism and history, powwow prep, the creation story, and pre-contact, offering historical context for the activities they participated in.

The lessons concluded on July 31, when the students celebrated their time in the program at Mukwa Adventures with a graduation ceremony. Art Trudeau hosted the graduation, which celebrated the students' completion of the program. Chief Angus Toulouse opened the ceremony with remarks about Art himself. Noting how hard a worker Art is and said that he (Art) built everything at the campground where the

graduation took place. Emphasizing that, "If you can dream it, you can build," pointing to him as a specific example. Reminiscing about a cook-off they had earlier, everyone noted not only the quality of the food but also the students' attitude—pointing out that there was no conflict, and the whole event proceeded without delay or complication.

The graduation closed with a final activity where students spent "Nish bucks," an invented currency used in place of real money for the youth to earn, save, and spend on products provided and procured by the program. Items ranged from Amazon cards to baskets full of hygiene products; the program offered everything a student might need.

Student Mental Wellness Specialist, Raven Hammond, from the Education Department, presented a workshop to the second cohort of Youth Mentors and discussed Bullying and Coping Strategies. Organizer Cheryl Toulouse introduced Raven to the group. She added relevance to the day's presentation by mentioning that "you are responsible as a group and to each other" when it comes to bullying and preventing it. Raven went on to define bullying as "unwanted, repetitive, aggressive behaviour that involved a real or perceived power imbalance."



Raven provided a canvas bag and paint pens for the youth to decorate the tote bag as they wished, which then served as a way to bring home the informational handouts, stickers, and fidgets she provided. She presented various coping strategies to help manage the



stress and impacts of bullying, as well as mental wellness resources and agencies to contact to help overcome the issue if youth were being bullied or witnessed bullying.

Bryan Assinewe offered Anishinaabemowin during the second round of mentorship programming and identified himself to the group as a knowledge keeper and fluent speaker. A retired schoolteacher, he regaled the group with fond, proud stories about teaching Grade 8 at Biidaaban for 20 years! Bryan presented slides with photos and vocabulary of some unique 'old-fashioned' terms, along with proper pronunciation techniques. He has been involved with the mentorship program since its inception in 2000 and likes to "keep academics and learning fun at the same time." He encouraged the youth to use the language as much as possible in the program (mentorship). "I love this age; they listen and respond, and I miss working with them." Some of the older language, such as wanii'gewinini (trapper), siboojgaan nini (saw filer) or zaaga'amoowigamigke nini (outhouse maker) required some explanation of an otherwise unfamiliar term or, let's say, less utilized in current times/in today's youth circles.

Along with the explanation, Bryan shared funny stories from his own experiences, such as having to 'soften by crumpling' the glossy, heavily inked Simpsons-Sears catalogue pages commonly used as toilet paper back in the day. A useful tip Bryan shared about the language, especially words as long as zaaga'amoowigamigke nini, was to break them into chunks, use your hands to help you sound out the syllables, and remember that some letters are silent. His presentation was engaging and insightful, and it captured his participants' attention.

From essay submissions to cover letter writing and business planning, the youth experienced learning far beyond the scope of a typical summer. With knowledge from community members, students learned career guidance, local ecosystems, and how to collaborate as a team! The skills learned in the program will be carried with them long past this summer, as students bring them forward into their lives and careers. Miigwech to Kaylee Southwind, Ainsley Abitong and Cheryl Toulouse for managing and supporting the students all summer!

PHRAGMITE REMOVAL & SWIMMING



GRADUATION



ENTREPRENEURSHIP



RIBBON SKIRT & SHIRT MAKING



ANISHINAABEMOWIN

BENJAMIN ISLANDS



Sagamok Reads! Summer Reading Program

Article and photos by: **Kiah Trudeau**,
*Summer Student - Communications Assistant:
Photographer and Journalist*

July 20, 2026, held week 3 of a 5-week reading program, focusing on families coming together to encourage reading with their kids. I sat in during today's session. Today's session included reading a story called, "The Unicorn Who Lost Her Sparkle", which is about finding one's self-confidence and learning to shine when you don't feel like you are.

After listening to the story the group gathered to make a craft. Today's craft was decorating bookmarks; I made musical character-themed and meme-themed bookmarks, while other younger participants drew flowers, hearts, or whatever they associated with the book. Some participants added inspirational phrases. We also got to decorate tote bags for the free books that participating families are given each week to take home with them. I didn't have time to decorate/complete mine during the one-hour session, but the little girl who joined us today coloured hers in nicely!

Raven Hammond, Student Mental Wellness Specialist and Lead of the *Sagamok Reads* summer program, offered inspiration to those attending. While the program is geared toward families participating, everyone was welcome to register, participate, and receive the weekly giveaways. A very nice program to inspire reading, crafting and family time together!



Northern College Partners with Sagamok Education's Lifelong Learning Centre

Northern College has partnered with the Lifelong Learning Centre to deliver diploma programs right here on the Sagamok campus. Beginning this fall, a full complement of students enrolled in the Social Service Worker program will be filling the hallways and classrooms of the Lifelong Learning Centre eager to learn and earn a diploma in their chosen profession. Vance McPherson, Director of Education, had this to say about the new offering as it relates to the community's oncoming need to support Koognaasewin in Sagamok with additional staff and expertise:

"Sagamok has declared their intention to exercise jurisdiction over Child Welfare in accordance with their Inherent Right affirmed in Bill C-92, the Federal Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families. We expect implementation of Koognaasewin Child Well Being Law to begin within the next two years, and we're very excited."

Provision of Koognaasewin's many services will require numerous trained professionals in the fields of counselling, administration, wellness and mental health, health/medical practitioners, and child/family advocacy supports, to name a few. Sagamok Education and Northern College recently solidified a partnership to offer the full-time Diploma program.

Vance went on to say, "Sagamok's Lifelong Learning Centre and Northern College are partnering to offer a community-based Social Service Worker program. The program is specially designed to facilitate maximum participation of Sagamok citizens, with the intention of building human resource capacity in advance of Koognaasewin implementation."

Northern College has multiple part-time faculty positions open for teaching course curriculum

on the Sagamok campus, with a callout for community applicants advertised across all communication channels in Sagamok. While a Bachelor of Social Work degree is required, Registered Social Worker designation was given preference during the application process. "This is an exciting opportunity for a social worker who wants to be a part of a monumental movement rooted in the wisdom of the people of Sagamok Anishnawbek," added Vance. If you missed the preliminary application round for part-time faculty to fulfill the first term, perhaps you can still reach out to the Northern College Dean of Business and Community Services, Christine Raycraft, by emailing raycraftc@northern.on.ca or contacting the Manager of Lifelong Learning, Claudette Jones, jones_claudette@sagamok.ca to express your interest in becoming a Northern College Faculty Instructor for future courses.

The inaugural Social Service Worker diploma program is set to begin at the Lifelong Learning Centre on September 9, 2026, and staff are excited to see the LLC buzzing with busy learners! Chi miigwech to the supporting personnel from Northern College and Sagamok Education, for developing this partnership, thereby bringing this unique learning opportunity and accredited program to our community. And to our members/students for expressing interest during the call-out sessions advertised in late spring, and for requesting that college level programs be brought on-site to provide students and employees an opportunity to fulfill their education and employment pursuits right here at home. Best wishes to all those who will be completing this 'first-of-its-kind' Social Service Worker diploma program right here in Sagamok!



Upcoming Events & Programs



**SUBS
2 GO**

Open Wednesday to Saturday

Sagamok Rd • Old Sweet Sips Location

**Sagamok Memorial
ROUND DANCE**

HAND DRUM MAKING — REGISTER NOW!

Sign up before September 18th.

REGISTRATION & MORE INFO:
southwind_andrew@sagamok.ca



Bimaadiziwin Radio:

**THE
SAGAMOK
HOUR**

with Host Bradley Trudeau

**SUNDAY, SEP 20
11AM – 12PM**

94.1 CKNR ELLIOT LAKE



**Fall Harvest
Safety Plan Presentation**

Learn important safety tips for a safe and successful fall harvest

September 23 | 6-8pm

Lifelong Learning Centre

www.SagamokAnishnawbek.com



FALL Fun Day RACE

ADULT RACE **YOUTH RACE** **KIDS RACE**

10:00AM START 5KM RACE **10:30AM START 3KM RACE** **11:00AM START 1KM RACE**

OCT 24 | MULTI-EDUCATIONAL CENTRE

To register, contact Ricki-Lee
toulouse_ricki-lee@sagamok.ca

REGISTRATION REQUIRED



**Quill Work
UPDATE**

for participants in the
Start-to-Finish Quill work
program.

For more information, Contact Deanna
705-863-2657 | southwind_deanna@sagamok.ca



**Woodland
Wealth**

Welcoming Wealth

Free Zoom Workshop
Saturday, September 19 | 11:00AM

www.SagamokAnishnawbek.com



Biidaaban Kinoomaagegamik

OPEN HOUSE

Learn about community services available for families — all are welcome!

SEPTEMBER 24 | 3:30–5:30PM

Biidaaban Kinoomaagegamik
Raven Hammond | 705-863-0883





Mental Health Resources

We all experience struggles that we need help with, and may not receive the support we need within our families and social circles.
If you are in crisis or need help, reach out.

CRISIS LINES

Suicide Crisis Hotline

Call or Text: 9-8-8
24/7 Support

HSN Crisis Intervention: Crisis Line

Call: 1-877-841-1101
Mon-Fri | 10AM - 10PM

Sudbury Warm Line (Pre-crisis Peer Assistance)

Call: 1-866-856-9276
6PM - Midnight

Kids Help Phone

Call: 1-800-668-6868
Text: 686868
Chat: kidshelpphone.ca
24/7 Support

Indian Residential School Survivors Society

Call: 1-800-721-0066
6PM - Midnight

National Residential School Crisis Line

Call: 1-866-925-4419
24/7 Support

LGBTQQ22SI Youth Crisis Hotline Trevor Project

Call: 1-866-488-7386
24/7 Support

Talk Suicide

Call or Text: 1-833-456-4566
24/7 Support

COMFORT LINES

Good 2 Talk (Post-Secondary Student) Helpline

Call: 1-866-925-5454
24/7 Support

Hope for Wellness (First Nation & Inuit) Helpline

Call: 1-855-242-3310
Mon-Fri | 10AM - 10PM

Talk 4 Healing (Aboriginal Women) Helpline

Call: 1-855-554-4325
6PM - Midnight

Seniors' Safety & Support Line

Call: 1-866-299-1011
24/7 Support

If you or someone you know is in immediate danger, **call 911 right away.**

Building Futures Sagamok Career Connections

Curious about a career path?
Your next opportunity could be closer
than you think!

MEC | Sep 24 | 1-4 PM

Light snacks provided



www.SagamokAnishnawbek.com

Seeking Parent Feedback

We're seeking feedback from parents and guardians, including families of children with exceptionalities, to help shape smaller-group programs.

SEPTEMBER 23 | 6PM - 7PM

Youth Centre, 512 Cedar St



www.SagamokAnishnawbek.com





CONTACT:

I.T. and Communications Department
newsletter@sagamok.ca