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ISSUE ○ WINTER ○ 2014/15

WAHA *focus*

WEENEEBAYKO AREA HEALTH AUTHORITY
WINTER 2015/16 NEWSLETTER

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

As I look back over the past year, it has been busy and successful.

The Moosonee Health Centre re-opened this July after being closed as a result of a fire and we are just re-opening the Attawapiskat Hospital after an oil spill. I would like to thank the public for their patience and appreciate their support while WAHA provided patient care under challenging conditions in both communities. I would also like to thank our stakeholders who helped make this happen. And finally, I applaud the staff whose commitment and efforts made it work.

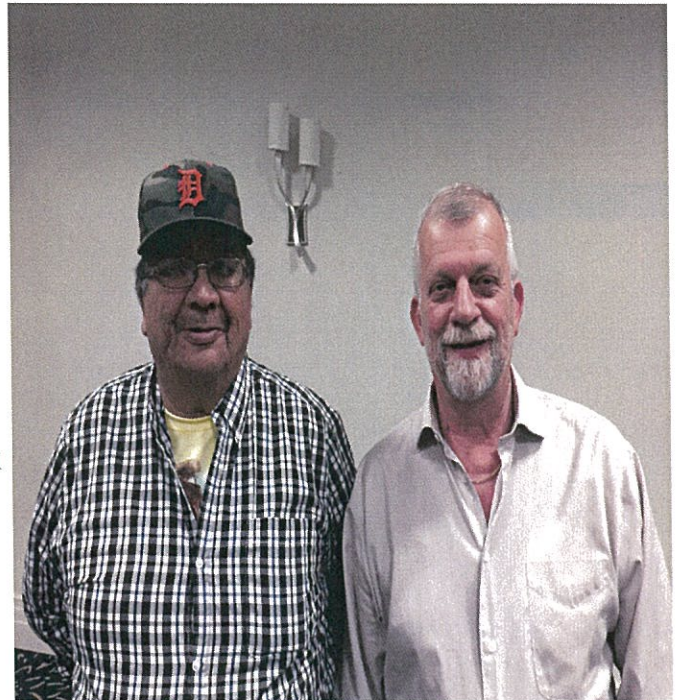
This October was WAHA's 5th year anniversary. Late this fall, there was a WAHIFA meeting in Ottawa where updates of WAHA progress and of both the Health Canada Evaluation study and the Provincial Operational Review were provided. It is expected

that draft reports will be available to the Steering Committee early next year.

WAHA is continuing to work with the Provincial Capital Branch for approval to move to Stage 2 of the process and receive planning grants associated with the approval for a new hospital.

We recently had our last board meeting for 2015. I would like to welcome the two new board members from Kashechewan and a new board member from Moosonee. WAHA has now a full board slate with these appointments.

In closing, I would like to wish all staff a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I look forward to working with you in the new calendar year.



RE-OPENING OF ATTAWAPISKAT HOSPITAL

WAHA is proud to announce that Attawapiskat Hospital officially re-opened on December 2nd in the early afternoon to provide urgent walk-in medical services. Inpatients, that were temporarily staying at Ft Albany and WGH returned to the Attawapiskat Hospital just in time to celebrate Christmas with their community.

The Hospital was closed as the result of an oil spill which was discovered on November 29th, 2014. Thank to the WAHA staff, Attawapiskat First Nation, the Northeast Local Health Network and the Capital Branch—Ministry of Health and Long Term Care who worked together to make this happen.



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

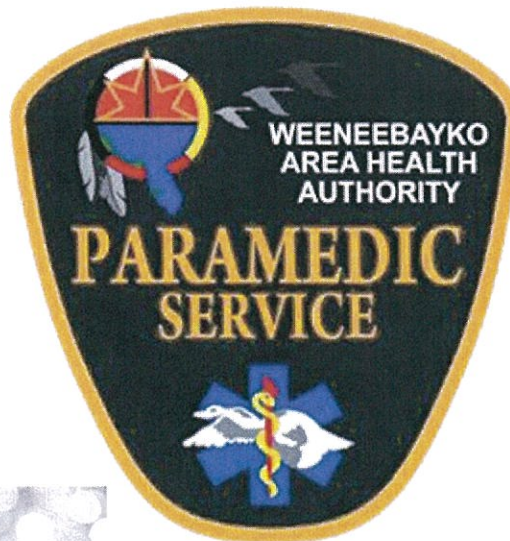
The Weeneebayko Recreation Committee held a Christmas Spirit Week with a number of activities including a Door Decorating Contest, Ugly Christmas Sweater Day, a Deck the Halls Contest and a Christmas Tea Party and Gingerbread House Contest.

Below are the winners (the Dietician Team—Pat Chum, Barbara Hardisty, Alana Berry, Sandy Sutherland, Jordana Johnstone, Melissa Hardy), of the Best Door Decoration Contest.



New Name for JBAS

Over last 40 years, the James Bay Ambulance Service (JBAS) has advanced with new delivery models and has kept current with provincial standards, training and technology. As a result to better reflect the service delivery and enhanced training and skill levels, the name of JBAS is being retired and will now be called the Weeneebayko Area Health Authority Paramedic Service. New arm patches were designed (see right picture) and are being put into use.



WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS WINTER, 2015



Several Paramedics—Melissa Macedo, Matthew Macedo, Erick Potvin, Adam Thrasher, Julie Miner, Joshua Forster, Hillary Renaud, Bradley Henderson, Matthew Renaud, Jarin Kilby, Ingrid Miller, Mohammed Houssein and Kristian Kasap. And also Patrick Solomom, Driver/Transp. Coordinator, Sharon Ho-Sang, Medical Secretary, Otice Smith, Electrician, Michell Kakegamic, RN, Brian Keddie RN, Michelle Villaneueva, RPN, Clarice Friday RPN and Alanis Baxter, Accounts Clerk.

Farewell to the following employees:

Melissa McCauley, Shawna McDonald, Heidi Hanney and Robert McLeod.

If you wish to provide an article for the newsletter, please contact Jaime at Ext 2317