

NIIBIN 2025 EDITION

MINWAAJIM



Formerly known as the Mississauga FN Smoke Signal



AANII -

From The Editorial Committee

As summer stretches on, it is filled with warmth, sunshine and vibrant energy. While the days were long where we can enjoy the weather, it's time to start preparing for the colder months to come.

In our ninth edition, also known as the summer edition of the Smoke Signal, we continue to slowly re-brand as “Minwaajim”. Minwaajim in Anishinaabemowin means 'to bring good news'. The word “niibin”, which translates to ‘in is summer’ in the language.

Our approach to keep operating costs low enables us to reduce our carbon footprint on the environment. By offering a digital only platform of the newsletter and growing its outreach potential.

Community members who wish for a physical copy of the Minwaajim, can contact Stacey Schellekens at: stacey@mississaugi.com to be added on the mailing list.

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Echoes of the Misswezhaging Ziibii:

Rematriation, Resilience and the Continuing story of the Mississauga People

By: Miranda Bobiwash

In partnership with Mississauga First Nation, the Timber Village Museum launched an exhibition at the Blind River Marina on June 20th, which also coincided with Indigenous Peoples' Day. The exhibition named, **Echoes of the Misswezhagig Ziibii: Rematriation, Resilience and the Continuing Story of the Mississauga People**, tells the story and the history of our people that inhabited the land for centuries.

Before the exhibition opened to the public, Chief Brent Niganobe led a ceremony with the public in attendance and also for boxes that were returned to the community from the Canadian Museum of History. A total of eight boxes were in the ceremony that were rematriated.

As the ribbon was cut and speeches were given by Chief Brent Niganobe of Mississauga First Nation, Ashley Young, the curator of the Timber Village Museum and Blind River Councillor, Betty-Ann Dunbar, the exhibition and art show opened to the public.

The exhibition displayed many artifacts that the archaeology team have acquired from our territory within the last year, and artifacts that the Timber Village Museum have had over the years.

Some of the objects that were displayed were: a birchbark canoe made by community member Napoleon Vincent, Petun pottery, Woven baskets, a display of the pictographs and petroglyphs in the community, quill-embroidered book covers, traditional knives, projectile points and many more pieces that make up the cultural heritage of Mississauga First Nation.



Displayed are Neck/Shoulder Sherd, that came from the neck of a clay vessel usually decorated with details.



Birch Bark canoe by Napoleon Vincent

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There was also an Indigenous Art Group exhibition that was open upstairs at the art museum until July 1st. Artists from the community and surrounding areas displayed their art, regalia and beading at the Indigenous Art group exhibition.

Some of the artists that were included in the exhibition were Lacey Niganobe, Conrad Bobiwash and Dana Boyer from Mississauga First Nation and other various artists from Wikwemikong and Sault Ste. Marie with roots within our local communities.

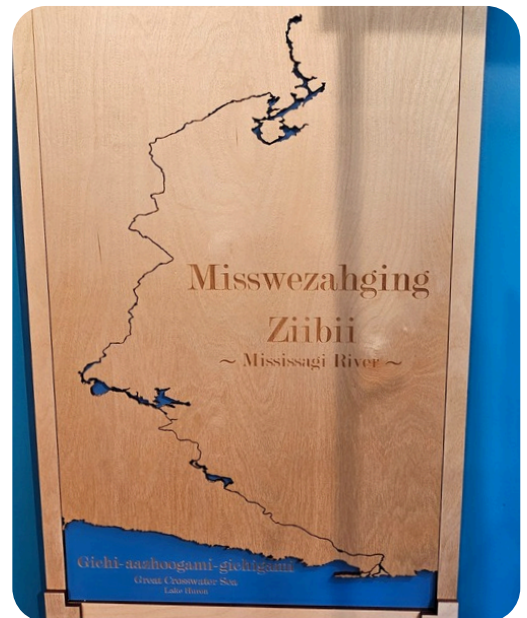
Congratulations to the team that helped herald the exhibition and helped create the exhibition. This includes Zoie Piche (Junior Archeology assistant), Ashley Young (Curator of Timber Village Museum), Jake Cousineau (Data Management Technician), Chief Brent Niganobe and Miranda Bobiwash (Archival Clerk/Librarian). Also a huge thank you to Dr. Alicia Hawkins from the University of Toronto, as well as the students who have studied on our lands to make this project happen.

The exhibition was a year-and-a-half-long process to create and to acquire our artifact that's the Canadian Museum of History had and also the Ojibwe Cultural Foundation. This grant was awarded for this project in collaboration with TVM from the NOHFC to rematriate our objects to the first nation.

The exhibition is a collaboration between Mississauga First Nation, the Town of Blind River and the Government of Canada. It will be open until December 2026 at the Timber Village Museum. Don't be shy and come out to check out the beautiful display of the past and future of our cultural heritage.



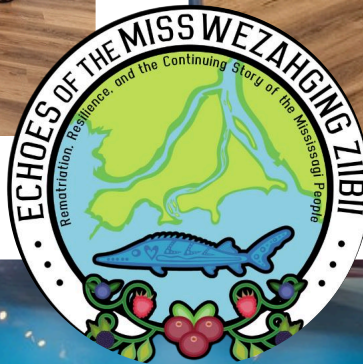
Wooden Cranberry Picker



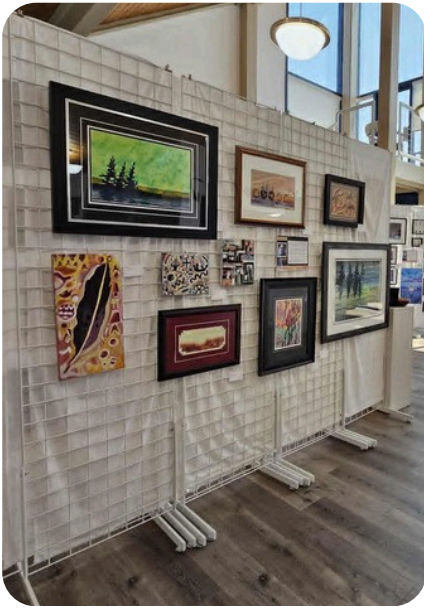
Echoes of the Misswezhaging Ziibii:

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BY: Miranda Bobiwash



Indigenous Art Group Show



Conrad Bobiwash



Dana Boyer



Grace Swain



Lacey Niganobe



NISDOTANG GAA-BI-ZHIWEBAG WIINI-NMO- BMAADZING



Understanding what happened in the past to live a good life

YEAR 2 - UPDATE

This summer marked the second year of the Nisdotang Project—an Indigenous-led archaeological initiative to locate, document, and protect sacred sites across Mississauga First Nation's traditional territory.

Our focus this year was on rock art and land management.

We also dedicated a significant amount of time to cataloguing boxes of materials that were repatriated to our community from several institutions, including the Canadian Museum of History (CMH), the Ojibway Cultural Foundation (OCF), and Parks Canada.

During the week of August 4th, we welcomed Dr. Brandi MacDonald from the University of Missouri to help us study rock art/pictographs in our territory. At each site, Dr. MacDonald used X-ray scanning technology to analyze the pigments used in the artwork. Our goal is to identify the ingredients and binders in these pigments, with the hope of one day hosting a workshop to harvest natural materials and recreate traditional ochre pigments. Our team also photographed and created 3D scans of each rock art site, while completing condition reports that documented lichen growth, fading, cracking, water damage, and other disturbances. These reports are vital for the long-term monitoring and protection of these sacred places.

Unfortunately, we were unable to relocate a couple of pictographs in our territory. After further investigation, we discovered that one site had been vandalized with spray paint. Sadly, this wasn't the first time this location had been defaced. Incidents like this result in the loss of irreplaceable history and highlight the urgent need to protect and preserve OUR cultural heritage.



PROJECT OVERVIEW

Year 1

Revisit Research previously undertaken in MFN territory by bringing home archaeological collections from the 1960's - 1980's - doing condition reports and relocate sites

Year 2 & 3

Target fieldwork in the Mississagi Delta to address questions of landscape management and fisheries in the past

Year 4 & 5

Focus our research on the interior regions of MFN territory. Documenting wintering camps and undertaking condition survey of rock art/pictographs.



NISDOTANG GAA-BI-ZHIWEBAG WIINI-NMO- BMAADZING



Understanding what happened in the past to live a good life

YEAR 2 - UPDATE

During the week of August 18th, we were honoured to welcome Geoarchaeologist Don Butler and PhD students James and Suzanne to our territory. Together, we analyzed copper artifacts using a specialized X-ray tool that reveals their mineral composition. This allowed us to determine whether the copper is of local (Native) origin or was acquired through European trade.

Don and James also collected core samples from various locations across MFN territory to better understand historical land and fisheries use. These samples help identify areas used for cultural burns, fishing, and show how vegetation and landscapes have changed over time. This data is vital in reconstructing our environmental history and deepening our understanding of how our ancestors lived on and with the land.

The 2025 field season flew by, and we're already looking forward to welcoming this wonderful team back next year. Miigwetch to everyone who has contributed to this important work. We are excited to continue learning more about our own history.



The Nisdotang Project is about more than archaeology—it's about responsibility, respect, and reclamation. By documenting, monitoring, and protecting our sacred sites, we ensure the voices of our ancestors continue to speak to future generations of Mississauga people.



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Community Potluck and Drum Social

By: Miranda Bobiwash

Another event that took place on Indigenous Peoples Day was the Community Potluck Feast and Drum Social at the Sports, which the community members could enjoy and conclude the day.

The evening began with Anishinaabe Bingo, followed by a hearty dinner that was filled with fish, rice and delicious treats that everyone enjoyed.

As the evening progressed, the drum social began as the two drum groups were taking turns, keeping the beat going throughout the evening as people were dancing. This event allowed people to warm up for the upcoming pow wow that was scheduled the month after.

A Chi Miigwetch to Sarah McGregor, The Community Support Service Worker from the Social Services Department, for organizing the Drum Social and other events within the community.



Mississauga First Nation 44th Annual Powwow

By: Miranda Bobiwash

Every summer, during the third weekend in July, people from all around fill up the powwow grounds in Mississauga to enjoy a weekend filled with dancing, music, food and arts & crafts throughout the weekend.

For this year's powwow logo, the committee held a competition, and anyone could enter their drawing to be chosen. Community members were asked to vote on their favourite logo at the Health Fair, which is held every year in May. The theme this year was "Planting Seeds for Future Generations." Which, in the language, translates to "**gtigaadeg miinkaan**
waa-ni-niigaaniig nji."

Junior MC Nick Cada and MC Darren McGregor took turns on the mic throughout the whole weekend as co-hosts MC's, while Rodney Stoneypoint was making sure everything went smoothly over the weekend as the Arena Director. For this year, the head dancers were Wesley Cleland Sr. and Tracy Cleland. The Head Youth dancers were male dancer Niigaani Niganobe and female dancer Nailah Pyawasit, representing the younger dancers attending the powwow.

The head Elders for the powwow were Leona Stevens and Wesley Whetung, and the head veteran was Wayne Pitawanakwat.

The host drum for the weekend was Bear Creek, and co-host drum Young Tribe took turns taking charge of the beat while the Mizhwezhaging boyz were waiting their turn to change up the tempo.

There were special dance categories throughout the weekend, such as: Men's 18+ woodland, post-secondary student dance hosted by Sarah Daybutch, a two-step showcase, inter-tribals and a potato dance so everyone can join in on the fun.



The winning logo



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Mississauga First Nation 44th Annual Powwow

By: Miranda Bobiwash

The history of powwows in our community started around 1985, as an article in the autumn 2002 edition *Smoke Signal* by Cliff Niganobe describes it:

'For Mississauga First Nation, the powwow was reintroduced in the summer of 1985. It was a dream of one elder, Mr. Richard Chiblow to reintroduce it into the community. It was first held about where the sports complex, ball field is located, then moved to the Potomac to where it is now held. The existing Powwow grounds were selected and then a ceremony was performed to open the grounds for the Powwow. I remember as a child, when the church use to put bazaars on in the late sixties or early seventies, I am not sure, but I recall a lot of people gathered around a drum and dancing in the old ball field behind where Mathew Armstrong lives.'

With our culture and history still thriving, we look forward to seeing everyone next year at the arbour at the Mississaugi's 45th Annual Powwow.



Mississauga First Nation Indigenous Rookie League Wins

By: Blayr Legris

The inaugural season at the Bruce Cuda Memorial Field has ended, and it was nothing short of historic. With an impressive 3,539 league points, Mississauga First Nation emerged as the regular 2025 season champions, setting a high bar for future competition.

But this season was about more than wins and losses. Thanks to a unique point-tracking system developed by the Jays Care Foundation in partnership with Maamwesying, teams earned points not only for athletic performance but also for embodying values that strengthen community ties. Points were awarded for community support, sportsmanship, cultural teachings, and parental participation, making the league a celebration of holistic development and Indigenous pride.

The season featured three home games and three away games, with Mississauga First Nation hosting and travelling to Atikameksheng First Nation, Sagamok First Nation, and Serpent River First Nation. Each matchup was an opportunity to build relationships, share traditions, and showcase the talent and spirit of youth across the region.

The Bruce Cuda Memorial Field, named in honour of a beloved community member, proved to be a fitting venue for this groundbreaking season. It not only hosted competitive games but also served as a gathering place for families, Elders, and supporters who came together to cheer on the next generation.

As the season wrapped up, the legacy of this first year will be remembered not just for the scoreboard but for the unity, culture, and joy it brought to the community.



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The Senior Jays team



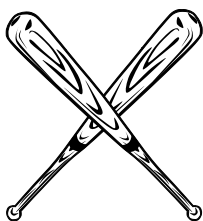
The Junior Jays team



Summer Student vs. Staff Baseball

By: Miranda Bobiwash

To celebrate the last day of our summer students, a game was held at the Bruce Cada Ball Park between the students and MFN staff. Despite some rain between innings, the game continued, featuring strikeouts and home runs. We wish the summer students the best in their future endeavors.



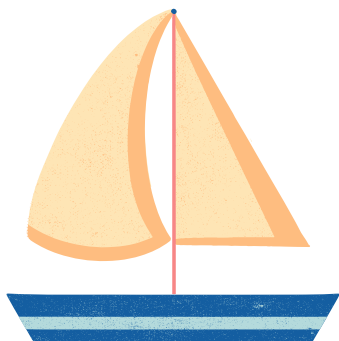
Rest & Relaxation Day

By: Miranda Bobiwash and Jon Cada

On a beautiful, sunny day in August, the staff at Mississauga First Nation enjoyed a relaxing and enjoyable R&R day. Games in the morning included cardboard boat building and races. After lunch, the staff enjoyed leisure activities.

This is the staff's first such event since before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Miigwetch to the Events Committee for preparing for this wonderful day and to staff who participated.





Photos from the past



DEC 1961

Photo of one of the earliest pow wows on the Mississauga First Nation. (Photo courtesy of Leona Boyer)



Powwow in the ballpark (est. 1980).



Powwow in the ballpark (est. 1980).

Rising stars in training

By: Kerrie Bellefeuille

This season, we're proud to celebrate two rising stars, Aubreigh Fox and Avery Bellefeuille, as they officially signed with the U13B Sudbury Lady Wolves! Their achievement reflects the exciting growth of girls in hockey and the strength of youth development in the sport.

Congratulations and best of luck for a great season ahead!



SUMMER/NIIBIN WORDS IN ANISHINAABEMOWIN

CORRECTLY MATCH THE FOLLOWING WORDS:



- Rice Moon

- Akiwewin
(Ake-way-win)



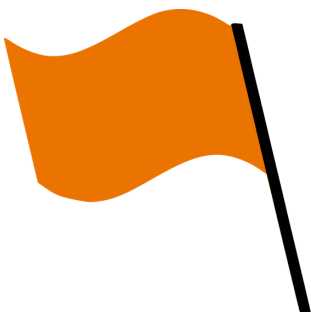
- Powwow

- Manoomin
Giizis
(mah-no-men
Gui-zus)



- Hummingbird

- Jiingtamok
(Jing-tah-muk)



- Flag

- Aamo-
Binashée
(ah-mo Bean-
ash-ay)

SUMMER/NIIBIN WORDS IN ANISHINAABEMOWIN

CORRECTLY MATCH THE FOLLOWING WORDS:



- Berry
Moon

- aajijak
(o-jii-jak)



- Fancy Shawl
dancer

- Miin giizis
(meen gui-zus)



- Crane

- Dagaak
(day-gawk)



- Ice Cream

- Memengwaani
hiin ezhigad
(memengwah-nin ezh-
zhee-ghad)

MISSISSAUGA FIRST NATION ADULT EDUCATION 2025 SCHOOL YEAR

**Earn credits for your
OSSD:**

Courses that we are providing:

LN0A1-Native Language class

PAD30-Outdoor Education

Secondary courses

Mathematics & English

PLAR Program

CO-OP

and much more!

**CONTACT DONNELLY @ D.TRUDEAU@MISSISSAUGI.COM | CONTACT CONRAD @
AETEACHER@MISSISSAUGI.COM | CONTACT STACEY @ STACEY@MISSISSAUGI.COM**



Chiblow Lake
Lodge

**DATE
CORRECTION**

ELDERS STAY

 **Dates: October 17–19, 2025**

 **Location: Chiblow Lake Lodge**

We're pleased to invite Elders to a peaceful and restorative stay at Chiblow Lake Lodge. This gathering offers a chance to relax, connect, and enjoy the beauty of the land.

Check-In:

 October 17th, any time after 3:00 PM

Check-Out:

 October 19th by 11:00 AM

Bookings are first come, first serve.
Limited space. Contact the Chiblow
Lake Lodge Manager to confirm
booking @ 705-843-0402



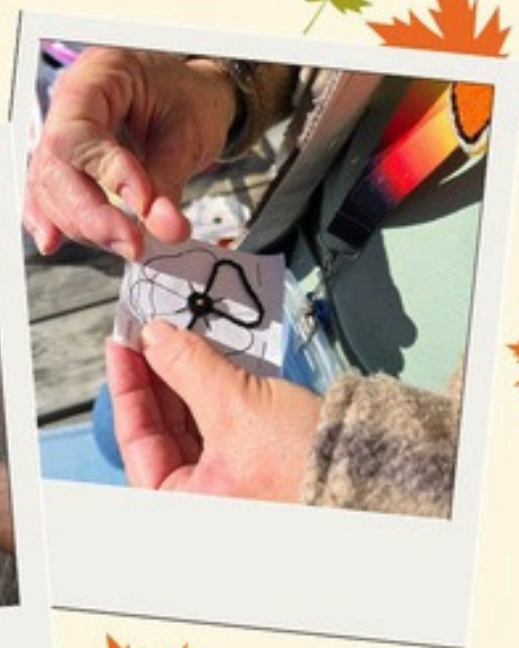
FALL



GATHERING

SAVE THE DATE

OCTOBER 6TH - 9TH 2025



Upcoming Events

In the community

September

Sept. 22nd - First Day of Fall

Sept. 30th - Truth And Reconciliation Day



October

Oct. 6th to 9th- Fall Gathering

Oct. 13th - Thanksgiving

Oct. 31st - Halloween

Answers to Word Match

Summer/Niibiin: page 1:

Rice Moon:
Onabaani Giizis

Powwow:
Jiingtamok

Hummingbird:
aamo-binashe

Flag:
Akiwewin

Summer/Niibiin: page 2:

Berry Moon:
Miin Giizis

Fancy Shawl Dancer:
Memengwaanihiin ezhigad

Crane: Ajjijak

Ice Cream: Degaak



Upcoming Events

In the community

November

November 1st - All Soul's Day

Nov. 2-8- Treaties Recognition Week

November 8th - Indigenous Veteran's Day

November 11th - Veteran's Day

December

December 21st- Winter Solstice

December 25th- Christmas

December 26th - Boxing Day

December 31st - New Year's Eve



COMMUNITY NOTES

FROM THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Aanii,

We hope you enjoyed the ninth edition of “Minwaajim.” In Anishnaabemowin, the word “Minwaajim” means 'to bring good news.'

To help preserve the Anishinaabe language, the editorial committee will strategize and implement it in more articles, captions, and headlines. The Editorial committee also understands that it is important to preserve the language and utilize a strategy that encourages community members to reconnect with the language, history, and traditions of Mississauga First Nation. If you are practicing the language and wish to support us, please don't hesitate to contact us.

The newsletter is for the community, and if you want to put anything in Minwaajim, stories from the past, photos or any events happening in the community that you want to promote, you can email Stacey or Miranda for the next edition of the Minwaajim.

The Mississauga First Nation website is also back up and running so go check out [this link](#) to get up to date on what's happening around here.

For any more inquiries regarding the Minwaajim publication, please contact our lead editor, Stacey Schellekens at stacey@mississaugi.com

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