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The **Halloween Bonfire 2017** will light up the sky on Tuesday, October 31, 2017 at the Walpole Island Sports Complex.

There will be a Costume Contest, Pumpkin Carving Contest, free hot dogs, chips & juice plus raffle draws.

The Costume Contest judging begins promptly at 8PM.

The Halloween Bonfire is sponsored by the Walpole Island Volunteer Elf Association, the Walpole Island Fire Department and Union Gas.

Come out and join the fun! Don’t forget to wear your Halloween costume. For more information, please call (519) 627-2263.

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**Happy Halloween**

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Check us out:

- [www.walpoleislandfirstnation.ca/](http://www.walpoleislandfirstnation.ca/)
- [www.facebook.com/walpoleisland/](http://www.facebook.com/walpoleisland/)
Good News on the Education Front!

In a letter from Indian Affairs dated September 8, 2017, it has been announced that Walpole Island First Nation is entitled to an increase in Post-Secondary Student Support Program (PSSSP) funding for the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

Walpole Island will receive 1.7 million dollars in PSSSP funding for the 2017-2018 fiscal year which includes an increase of over $200,000. The Board of Education will decide how the funds will be utilized for the current fiscal year.

Also, the Board of Education has been successful in receiving over $300,000 in the past two years for Reverse Tuition dollars. Reverse tuition is paid to our school when students living off-reserve attend Bkejwanong Kinomaagewgamig.

Chief Dan Miskokomon said that the success of these two initiatives is the result of collaboration with the Board of Education, other First Nations and also justifies the time, lobbying effort and expenditures we spent at Education Conferences and Chiefs’ Meetings.

Report by Councillor William (Bill) Tooshkenig
Education Portfolio (Alternate)

Board of Education Elections 2017

WIFN Band Members came out to vote for two Board Members for the Board of Education. The voting took place in the Bkejwanong Kinomaagewgamig Boardroom on October 25, 2017.

Mark Aquash and Leela Thomas were both elected to a Three-Year Term.

The BOE oversees Bkejwanong Children’s Centre, Bkejwanong Kinomaagewgamig, Secondary, Post-Secondary and Adult Education matters. The BOE reports to WIFN Chief & Council via minutes and quarterly meetings.

The Swearing-In Ceremony is scheduled for Wednesday, November 1, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. in the Bkejwanong Kinomaagewgamig Cafeteria.
It was a beautiful weekend for the annual Walpole Island Fall Fair which took place on September 23-24, 2017 at Highbanks Park.

Traditionally, the Fall Fair is scheduled on the same weekend that Duck Hunting Season opens.

Saturday at the Fall Fair included the Ezgaag Market (Yard & Food Sales), the Duck Calling Contest, and Bouncy Castle/Inflatables for children.

Sunday’s events included the Fall Fair Parade, the Baby Photo Contest, the Exhibition Tent, Bingo, Karaoke and the Pie-eating contest.

The theme for this year’s Fall Fair was “Biish Gchi-piitendaa gwod” (Water is valuable).

One of the weekend’s highlights was the Pontoon Boat tours of Walpole Island given by Edward Shipman Jr. It was a great way to see our beautiful territory.
Hello, my name is Biindigaygizhig, also known as Danny Deleary, I am one half of Neegawnee Consulting, with Raymond Deleary. Neegawnee Consulting has been hired by WIFN Chief and Council to assist in the process of creating the Chi-Naaknigewin (Great Law), Bkejwanong Territory’s Constitution. As Neegawnee, we appreciate the opportunity to assist the WIFN community in its creation of the Chi-Naaknigewin, constitution. We have already completed a community information session and a simple community value survey at the WIFN Fall Fair. Feedback has been tremendous and supportive of developing a constitution.

This article will explore, what is a constitution? What are the benefits to the First Nation? What will be the process for creating the constitution?

What is a Chi-Naaknigewin/Constitution?
The Chi-Naaknigewin or constitution is first and foremost driven by the needs, collective thought, principles and values of the Nation membership. The Chi-Naaknigewin is a set of defining principles and laws which outline the manner in which a government is organized and functions. It will structure the Communities values by which the nation’s government operates and abides. The constitution will determine how a government interacts with its members, and how the members interact with their government.

A constitution is not a foreign concept to our Indigenous Nations, Anishinabe people have always had methods in which we determined how we formed our governments, decision law-making and administration, which was our clan system. The Chi-Naaknigewin which we are looking to create for Bkejwanong Territory is a modern form of our traditional law.

What is encompassed and how a Chi-Naaknigewin is developed, is completely up to the Nation and its membership. This will be based on the specific needs, principles and values of the nation membership. This means that the nation membership have the right to be engaged and informed in the creation of their nation’s Chi-Naaknigewin.

Components typically found within a constitution:
- Preamble
- Membership
- Rights and Responsibilities
- Structure of Government
- Law-Making Authority
- Elections
- Financial Accountability
- Land Management
- Conflict of Interest.
Constitution Community Engagement

What are the benefits to the First Nation?
There are many benefits to a First Nation creating their own constitution or Chi-Naaknigewin. Firstly and most importantly, as we have always maintained, we are sovereign, self-determining Nations, who have a Nation to Nation relationship with Canada. The constitution will enact and formalize Bkejwanong Territory’s sovereignty.

The constitution will also benefit by:

- Allowing for the creation of laws based in Anishinabe principles and values;
- Guiding the organization and formation of a government based in Anishinabe culture and traditions;
- Foundational document for self-government and self-determination;
- Will be the highest form of law for Bkejwanong Territory;
- Holding leadership accountable to its membership;
- Providing financial accountability;
- Outlining the rights and responsibilities of nation members; and
- Defining how we responsibly provide land management within the territory.

What will be the process for creating Bkejwanong Territory’s Chi-Naaknigewin?
As with the inception of any constitution, it requires the engagement of the nation’s membership to advise, inform and guide its creation. The values and principles of the membership are key to defining the laws of the Chi-Naaknigewin. Understanding and ensuring the unique cultural and traditional aspects of the community are implemented into the constitutional framework is crucial.

Neegawnee Consulting will take an Indigenous approach to its consultation and engagement process with the Bkejwanong Membership. A key to an Indigenous approach is ensuring that all members have a voice and a say in the development of their constitution. Therefore, we commit to utilizing all potential avenues of engagement to ensure that every member who wishes, will have a say in the creation of Bkejwanong Chi-Naaknigewin.

Various processes for engagement and consultation will be undertaken, such as:

- Community Engagement Sessions
- Specific Demographic Engagement Sessions (Elders, Youth, Women, Men)
- Community Survey.

There will be numerous sessions held throughout the months of November and December as well as community surveying. If you wish to have your voice heard, then please participate in one of the engagement sessions.

We look forward to working with the community in developing the Bkejwanong Chi-Naaknigewin which ensure our prosperous future for seven generations to come!
The Anishnaabewin Maanjidiwaad Culture and Language Gathering was held at Bkejwanong Kinomaagewgamig from October 18-22, 2017.

The five-day gathering offered opportunity for community to come out and learn. Workshops included Lacrosse, Soap Stone, Family Tree & Genealogy, Gindaasdaa (Let’s Count), Salve Making, Skirt Making, and Cornhusk dolls just to name a few. It was lovely to see families attending the workshops together.

Several WIFN Departments worked in partnership to host this gathering. Miigwech to WIFN Employment & Training, Ontario Works, Right-to-Play, Heritage Centre, Bkejwanong Kinomaagewgamig and Chatham-Kent Community Health Centres (CKCHC).

Miigwech to the organizers of the event who worked so hard to create this learning opportunity for us all.

Language Challenge

Boozhoo - Hello
Enh - Yes
Gaawiin - No
Tagwa - Please
Miigwech - Thank you
Aahaw - Okay
Baamaa pii - See you later
Anishnaabewin Maanjidiwaad Culture and Language Gathering

Makzinan  Anishnaabe Games  Tanning Hide
Scon over the Fire  Painting  Cornhusk Dolls
Beading  Drum Social  Skirt Making  Black Ash Basket Making
Veteran’s Day Ceremony

THURSDAY
NOV. 9, 2017
TIME: 10AM

“Let’s gather together on
November 9, 2017 to
give honour to our
Veterans for the sacrifice
and service they gave for
the freedom we all enjoy
today.”

- Edwin Taylor

Bkejwanong Territory Veteran’s Day Ceremony
MNA DE NNIM CHI PIITE NIM GE MIKWE NIM
(HONOUR, RESPECT AND REMEMBER)
- Bkejwanong Children’s Centre
- Bkejwanong Biwexizimag Kinomaaga’iwaad
- Bkejwanong Kinomaagewgamig
- W.D.S.S. Future Elders

We hope you can join us to honour all our veterans.
All welcome to the ceremony.

One-on-One Sessions with Hydro One

One-on-One Sessions with Hydro One will be scheduled for
November 8, 2017 from 10AM-6PM at the Governance Building.

Representatives from Hydro One will be available to review bills,
discuss concerns, apply credits where necessary and ensure your
account is exempt from HST and the Delivery Charges if applicable.

Call Alicia at (519) 628-5700 ext. 282 to make an appointment.