



97th season: 1922-2018 • THE GOLD & BLUE • LIVE LIGHTLY Winter Issue

GRAND OPENING OF THE NEAR NORTH ENVIRO-EDUCATION CENTRE



Joc welcoming everyone to the opening ceremony.

We are so often asked, “What’s new at GBC?” And we’re proud to introduce the Near North Enviro-Education Centre (NNEEC).

September 30, 2017 dawned and remained blue & gold throughout the day. The Grand Opening of the Centre at 140 Main Street in Sundridge presented an opportunity to explain its purpose to over 200 people who attended. NNEEC will allow local citizens and their friends, businesses, government agencies, universities, colleges and schools to nurture and generate leaders aligned with three pillars essential to the viability of our rural communities. The three pillars are:

- Environmental sustainability
- Rural economic viability
- Social diversity

Our plan is to empower rural communities to become models of sustainable living through education, information and practical, engaging learning opportunities focused on these three pillars.

The principles driving NNEEC acknowledge the requirement to develop synergies between the concerns of the small communities where we live, work and play, and the broader focus of institutions, corporations and government in our shared responsibility to live sustainably in the 21st century.

NNEEC is designed and built using many state of the art technologies including: solar power, geothermal heating and cooling, composting toilets, building envelope design, green roof technology, energy saving lighting and more. The conference and learning facilities utilize audio-visual wireless connectivity.

Many visitors took the opportunity to tour the building and to be introduced to the features that make this building a model of sustainability in many ways.

The Exposition portion of the day offered visitors several exhibits that demonstrated technologies now available in order to save on

hydro, utilize the sun’s energy without overheating a home or school or factory. Exhibits also featured the growing and cooking of local foods. Two popular features were the Science North Pop-Up Planetarium from Science North in Sudbury and The Scales Nature Park exhibit of reptiles in Orillia.

The all-day “Northern Innovation Symposium” involved 90+ people and included six thought leaders from both Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities who shared their perspectives and knowledge in each of the three pillars of NNEEC; rural environmental sustainability, economic viability, and the enhancement of social diversity. Following each pair of presentations by the Indigenous and non-Indigenous leaders, the audience broke into small discussion groups to consider how communities could embrace the changes and challenges in planning to become a model community.

The new Near North Enviro-Education Centre and GBC will eventually benefit through the sharing of information and leadership throughout the year. It will permit experts to be available on a 12-month basis with costs shared by NNEEC and GBC. In addition, GBCers will have an opportunity to promote the goals and objectives of NNEEC and to be a part of its achievements in the future. Further details with respect to ideas and action plans will be forthcoming in the year ahead. Keep checking back at www.nneec.ca.

Many thanks for the Grand Opening to:

The Symposium thought leaders, moderator, and volunteers. Romano Marchi, NNEEC Executive Director, for key preparations over many months, and Robin Gibson for leading the media relations, news releases, silent auction preparations, reminders, details, etc. Sue Eckersley and Justina Armstrong for ideas, schedules and being on top of many changes and details. Sabrina Salhia for her efforts in transforming the camp dining hall for the celebratory dinner as well as her efforts toward the silent auction. To Negar Mahdavian for her ability to capture many key points in a single sentence. The Town Councils, corporations and individuals from the community who brought their support for NNEEC objectives. Special thanks to Doug Dokis, Indigenous Coordinator of ACTUA for his understanding and help as we begin the collaborative steps ahead with our First Nations, Métis and Inuit neighbours. A huge salute to Carolyn Bennett for being the star of the Grand Opening of this unique, rural Centre, one I hope will be an example for other rural communities across Canada.

NNEEC RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY



(L to R): Doug Dokis, Carolyn Bennett MP, Norm Miller MPP, Cynthia Wesley Esquimeaux, Jocelyn Palm, Peter Kidd, Dennis Rochfort, Frank Gill, Christine Ellis Mayor Strong Twp, Bruce Baker Mayor Joly Twp, Lyle Hall Mayor Sundridge

The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony took place at 1:00 p.m. and opened with a traditional Indigenous blessing by Doug Dokis – Indigenous Coordinator of ACTUA and followed by the singing of the National Anthem led by Gloria Kidd.

Comments and thanks were presented by Lyle Hall (Reeve Sundridge); Christine Ellis (Reeve Strong Township); Bruce Baker (Reeve Joly Township) and Norm Miller (MPP Parry Sound-Muskoka).

We were pleased to have The Honourable Carolyn Bennett P.C., M.P., Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs, with us for this day of celebration. Carolyn brings her life skills as a camper, teacher, physician, planner and champion



Carolyn Bennett addresses the attendees at the ribbon cutting ceremony

of health issues to her current role in Parliament and in her travels across every corner of Canada. Her comments on Sept. 30th reflected her understanding of the mission to continue placing Truth & Reconciliation into action.

She highlighted seven learnings of what we lost as a country when the settlers thought that they and their ways were superior; now present as opportunities to rekindle efforts.

1) Indigenous Peoples thought 7 generations out. In their actions, they considered what effect it would have on 7 generations that would come after them. For example, they knew not to clear-cut a forest or fish out a lake.

2) Settlers were focused on a medical model of repairing health



Doug Dokis opening the ceremony with a traditional Indigenous blessing.

problems instead of understanding and respecting the medicine wheel approach - keeping people well physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually.

3) Instead of the Indigenous pedagogy, which is learning by doing, settlers put children in tidy rows copying and memorizing off a blackboard. Indigenous children learned physics by trying to get the canoe to go forward in wind, biology by dressing a moose or cleaning a fish, or chemistry by using the brain of a deer to tan a hide.

4) Settlers didn't respect that Indigenous leadership put children at the center of public policy decisions.

5) Indigenous communities listened to wise women. Pre-suffragette settlers wouldn't consult with women, even though they ran the communities.

6) Settlers didn't understand the wisdom and importance of elders in the health, planning and decision making of their communities. They viewed their older people as 'elderly' therefore not able to contribute.

7) Finally settlers had a view that leadership was being a boss. Indigenous leaders led by 'asking not telling'; by passing a talking stick around the circle so that they could determine an existing consensus, or discover that people needed more information in order to make a decision.

In concluding her remarks, Carolyn commented that in her many years of communicating with Indigenous communities, the importance of ceremony in marking important events cannot be understated. This gathering together to mark the opening of the Near North Enviro-Education Centre is a day that none of us will soon forget.

THOUGHT LEADERS OF NNEEC SYMPOSIUM



Thought leaders with us at the Symposium were:

ENVIRONMENT

Nicholas Mercer - University of Waterloo – pursuing PhD studies with the Dept. of Geography and Environmental Management. Nicholas' research focuses on sustainability implications of renewable energy development in off-grid communities throughout Canada. In particular, the research project seeks to assess how renewable energy projects create economically, environmentally, and social vibrant communities.



Rev. John Hayes & Nicholas Mercer

Rev. John Hayes – an Odji-cree Irish (Métis) resident of Sundridge, currently working at the Chigamik Community Health Centre in the Aboriginal Cultural Program and sits on the Aboriginal Elder's Advisory Committee. He assisted with the Living with the Land course at Laurentian University and has a great interest in environmental sustainability.

RURAL ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY



Patricia Baxter & David J.A. Douglas

Patricia Baxter - Anishnabe-Kwe (Ojibway) has been self-employed for 25 years working in Indigenous communities on national, provincial and local levels. She is currently co-chair of the Aboriginal Human Resource Council and volunteers with the Canadian Women's Foundation. She is passionate about working on Indigenous health issues and with Indigenous Women, and has facilitated large forums such as the Prime Minister and First Minister roundtables.

David J.A. Douglas – University of Guelph Professor Emeritus, specialist in rural community and regional development across Canada and in several international contexts. He was a Professor in the School of Environment Design and Rural Development until 2009. He has published four books on community development, community economic development, municipal viability and rural planning and development. He continues to work as a management consultant in every region of Canada including several First Nations Communities.

SOCIAL DIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT

Cynthia Wesley-Esquimeaux – Adjunct Asst. Professor, Faculty of Anthropology and Research Affiliate of Centre for Health Care Ethics, currently 1st Indigenous chair on Truth & Reconciliation on behalf of Lakehead University, Thunder Bay and Orillia. Cynthia is a Board Member for Healthy Minds Canada and the newly formed Teach for Canada non-profit. She also sits as a member of the Governing Council of the National Research Centre at the University of Manitoba. She is interested in environmental and humanitarian causes and has dedicated her life to building bridges of understanding between people.



Nicholas Mercer & Cynthia Wesley-Esquimeaux

MODERATOR



Kelly Lendsay

Kelly Lendsay – President & CEO Indigenous Works.

A proud Indigenous leader of Canadian Cree, Métis and European ancestry, a social entrepreneur who is internationally recognized as one of Canada's foremost innovators of Indigenous social and economic inclusion, corporate engagements and partnership bringing his message of inclusion to

more than 250 audiences in Canada, USA and Australia.

NNEEC OPENING DINNER



What a night!

Capping off the incredible opening of the Near North Enviro-Education Centre, the dining hall at camp was transformed to welcome 125 people for a fantastic celebratory dinner!

Starting with cocktails, followed by a delicious catered dinner by Christine Bib, who was awarded top caterer in the Muskokas, we were entertained by emcee Kelly, as well as the amazing duo of Michelle Colton and Alejandro Céspedes from Orégano Percussion, both of whom are talented musicians in the genre of Latin-Caribbean percussion chamber music.

GBC alumnae were out in full force showing their support with their presence at NNEEC's opening ceremonies, the dinner at camp and an overnight! Not to be left out of the entertainment, alumnae broke out in camp song much to the delight of the camp visitors in attendance! A very heartfelt thank you to Lara Smith, Vic Tait, Wendy Rowney, Janet Mowat, Mary Marshall, Judy Richards, Steph Collins, Rachel Manson, Lindsay Thompson Black, Carrie Lavack, Sharon Malone, Kate Wood, Wendy Nicholson, Sabrina Salhia, Amy Hondronicols, Regan Gragnoli, Annie Dearden, Aliya Hollingsworth, Pam Deane, Jessica Clarke McDougall, Bronwyn McDougall, Janine Brisbois, Louise Brisbois, Annie Snow, Tannis Toohey, Lois Brisbois, Marg Fisher, Gai McChesney, Mary Pat Bradbury and Sally Palm.

Enjoying dinner in the DH!

Alumnae (L to R) Regan Gragnoli, Judy Richards, Mary Marshall, Carolyn Bennett, Lara Smith, Janet Mowat, Lindsay Black



Reminiscing about camp (L to R) Judy Richards, Jessica Clarke McDougall



Late night in Northway (L to R) Aliya Hollingsworth, Annie Dearden



Camp songs in Northway (L to R) Rachel Manson, Annie Dearden, Steph Collins, Sharon Malone, Janet Mowat, Amy Hondronicols, Megan Snape



Best Buds (L to R) Pam Deane, Sue Eckersley, Lara Smith, Wendy Rowney

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS EXPERIENCE GBC



In late August, GBC hosted a 3-day orientation for an amazing group of international students attending Cambrian College in Sudbury. Students from India, China, Brazil, Ecuador, Chile, Mexico, Honduras and more had their first Canadian experience under open skies at GBC.

Led by Manager of International Students, Kyllie Jansen, students had the opportunity to learn about the Canadian health-care system, their options for housing, how to apply for a job, what the city of Sudbury and the surrounding area had to offer them as well as little pieces of important information such as where to buy a winter



Students meet their cabinmates for the first time.

coat! All vital details to make a smooth transition to Northern Ontario.

It wasn't all serious learning however. That is where GBC came into the forefront! Students were able to try archery, high ropes, mountain biking, trampoline and tennis. And the highlight - hands down was watching the students canoe. After some brief instruction on strokes and how to balance in a canoe, the students learned very quickly by dumping and dumping and dumping. The sheer joy of their shared experience was contagious and their laughter was heard from Triland to Alter Rock. Many of the students traded in their paddles for a good, old-fashioned swim!

The students appreciated being immersed in the camp setting as well. Clyandrea, who is from the Bahamas, said: "we shared a cabin and I really appreciated getting to know people from different backgrounds. My cabin was actually shared with three Indian girls



Joc teaching basic canoe strokes

and we quickly bonded. We had a buddy system if we needed to use the bathroom. She'd wake me at 3 a.m. We'd get our flashlights. It was a great experience". Another student, Jaspreet, from India said: "I made friends from the Bahamas, even the U.S.A., and Australia, not just at the college, but the staff at the camp was very friendly. The best thing was the campfire on the last night and telling us about the

Aboriginal Peoples and the songs. The food was also very good".*

As GBCers, we felt very grateful to have spent time getting to know each of the Cambrian College students. Their connection to GBC was apparent when we visited Cambrian in September and were warmly received. Opening Glen Bernard to as many people



For many, this was their first try at archery!

as we can, through additional groups, enables us to share the benefits of a camp experience with those who may be new to the idea of "summer camp". In our view, that is priceless.

*Excerpt from article in Northern Ontario Business, October 4, 2017.



Students and Cambrian staff take a great group photo!

WOMEN'S WEEKEND 2017

Every one of our fall events at GBC are fantastic, however, it is worth mentioning just how spectacular Women's Weekend was. Our Women's Weekend "campers" enjoyed a picture perfect fall weekend. Sunshine and warmth found the group swimming in the lake, canoeing, paddle boarding and kayaking, and our fabulous guest instructors offered even more options! Mary inspired creative talent in the art sessions; Emily brought calm and relaxation with yoga; Rosa had everyone dancing up a storm; and Jane taught the latest sport craze, Pickle Ball! Many of the women tried zip lining for the first time and the personal accomplishments were off the charts! We spent the entire weekend impressed with the level of engagement of each and every one of the women.

If you haven't attended Women's Weekend before, consider being warmly welcomed into this fabulous group of women and join the fun in 2018!



The Divas learn how to play Pickle Ball!



Perfect weather for kayaking!



Leaping off the zipper!



2018 Calendar of Events

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Period 1 | • June 29 - July 19 |
| Period 2 | • July 21 - August 10 |
| Alumni Canoe Trip | • August 7 - 10 |
| Period 3 | • August 12 - 25 |
| Fall Family Weekend | • September 7 - 9 |
| Women's Weekend | • September 14 - 16 |

- TWO-WEEK SESSIONS:** (ages 8 - 11)
- | | |
|----------|----------------------|
| Period A | • June 29 - July 12 |
| Period C | • July 21 - August 3 |

- ONE-WEEK SESSIONS:**
- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Period B (ages 6 - 8) | • July 13 - July 19 |
| Period D (ages 6 - 8) | • Aug 4 - Aug 10 |
| Period E (ages 6 - 8) | • Aug 12 - Aug 18 |
| Period F (ages 11 - 13) | • Aug 19 - Aug 25 |

- BUNNY CAMP:** (ages 4 - 6)
- | | |
|---------|-----------------------|
| Bunny 1 | • July 13 - July 15 |
| Bunny 2 | • August 4 - August 6 |

- SPECIALTY SESSIONS:**
- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Canoe Trip 1 | • July 13 - July 19 |
| Canoe Trip 2 | • July 21 - July 27 |
| Canoe Trip 3 | • August 4 - August 10 |
| Canoe Trip 4 | • August 4 - August 10 |
| Young Keen Riders 1 | • July 13 - July 19 |
| Young Keen Riders 2 | • August 12 - August 18 |
| Aquatic Leadership 1 | • July 21 - July 27 |
| Aquatic Leadership 2 | • August 12 - August 18 |
| Wilderness Canoe Trip | • August 12 - August 25 |
| Theatre Program | • August 12 - August 25 |

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