

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Chief's Message



As we head in to the Holidays I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

The holidays are meant to be a time for family, fun and relaxation when you can.

Please be responsible and the LMG would like to wish you and your family a Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year.



Positive End to the Year for LMG

The LMG is essentially two years ahead of its Management Action Plan (MAP), which gives everyone a little more breathing room

"It's truly incredible the way that it has changed," said John Alexander, the Director of Finance. "A lot of the credit needs to go to the directors."

Financial troubles led to Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) requiring a MAP. It laid out how the organization would address and improve

the issues. It meant more paperwork, meetings, and monitoring.

"It's a vicious cycle when you're in it," said Alexander. "But it's like it's almost a positive cycle when you get out of it."

AANDC creates ratios to judge the financial health of organizations. The same ratios are used by banks, which contribute to risk ratings and interest rates.

After a downturn in these ratios, the LMG laid out ways it would

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COMMUNITY



The Harmony Project invites everyone from Listuguj and Pointe-à-la-Croix to decorate their homes for the 12th annual Christmas home decoration competition. (PHOTO: Adam Hodnett)

12th Annual Home Decoration Competition

The annual Christmas decorations competition with Listuguj and Pointe-à-la-Croix is going on again this year. This will be the 12th year in a row that it has been held. And like everything by The Harmony Project, it is to "build up relations between native and non-native communities in the area," said Pierre Vicaire, one of the co-coordinators.

A bus full of people from Listuguj take an evening to go select three winners from Pointe-à-la-Croix. They drive through the streets and look at how all the homes are decorated. People from Pointe-à-

la-Croix do the same in Listuguj. Participation prizes will also be awarded this year.

People can only win once every three years, so everyone has a chance.

It's just another small initiative in The Harmony Project's overall goal.

"It's no different, Christmas here than it is anywhere else," said Vicaire. "No matter if it's here, or next door, or if it's across the bridge, or if it's anywhere - it's Christmas. And at the base, that's what we're trying to promote."

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EDUCATION

Deadlines for funding

Students starting, returning, or continuing post-secondary education need to have their intent form submitted by February 29th. This includes anyone seeking funding for the spring/summer 2016, the fall 2016, or the winter 2017 semesters.

The form can be found at the Gu'gu'gwes Facebook Page, (link available in online version of this story.) It needs to be sent to there-sam@listugujeducation.com.

This form is new for returning students, and will allow the department to plan better, and ensure proper funding is available.

A Post-Secondary Luncheon will be held on Dec. 29th at the LMDC to talk about these changes, and to introduce some of the new front-line workers.

The Post Secondary Student Support program has undergone changes to improve its goal of supporting community members pursuing post secondary studies.

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HARMONY

The Harmony Project has come a long way since it began as a way to figure out how to avoid the conflicts that were arising over a skate park in Pointe-à-la-Croix.

“The history of our communities had it built, in their mind, that whenever our kids would go over there, it wasn’t for sharing, it was confrontation,” Vic-aire said.

He said it’s hard to recognize that environment today.

“There are so many positive things, or good stories, that have come out in the last 13 years.”

Through many activities and field trips, neighbors are given the opportunity to create fun memories early on.

“Keep your culture, keep your language, keep your schools, but it’s got to be based on giving yourselves some fair chances to share some fun time together,” he said

A key focus is creating those relationships early. In fact, when kids strike up friendships, it helps mend relationships with parents, and even grandparents.



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EDUCATION

“The enhancements to the program is that the career development services are available to all new applicants,” said Lorna Sook, the Director of Education and LMDC, which have recently merged.

“So students are accessing professional services from counsellors that have been doing it for a very long time.”

Many resources are available to potential post-secondary students. Help can be found for all aspects, from choosing a suitable career, to researching, to identifying different schools and funding options.

“It’s something the LMDC has been doing since its inception,” said Sook. “The counsellors are use to the process. So students are accessing professional services from people that have been doing it for a very long time.

The LMDC also wants parents and guardians to be aware that Career Counsellors will be scheduling appointments with potential high school graduates who have not yet applied for post-secondary studies.



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LMG

improve. This really meant improving its financial standing, and its long-term sustainability.

“The actions were pretty basic,” said Alexander.

Deals were made with major creditors, departments were restructured, and people were laid off. It was difficult, but necessary.

The step after a MAP is “third party management.”

Under “third party management,” an accounting firm essentially takes control of all funded money. For Listuguj, that’s about 40 percent of its revenue, or nearly \$20 million dollars.

“It’s an extra expense, without an extra solution,” said Alexander. “It’s just – we lose control.”

The plan was deliberately slow. It was expected to take three years. But, being ambitious and falling short would have reflected poorly, and would have potentially resulted in “third party management.” Instead, goals were realistic, and the LMG far exceeded the expectations, within only 18 months.

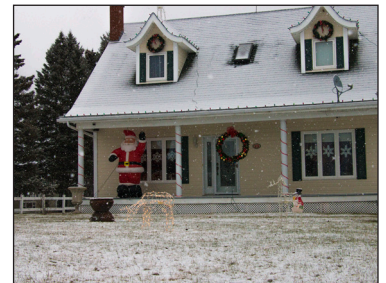


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Home Decorations

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Community Listings

LMG CLOSED

The LMG will be closed from Dec. 21 to Jan. 3 for the Christmas Holiday. It will open again on Monday, Jan. 4.

Post-Secondary Luncheon

A luncheon for new and returning post-secondary students will be held to discuss changes.

WHEN: Dec. 29
WHERE: LMDC

Jobs

The LMDC has posted a list of 24 jobs in the area. Find the list on the LMG Facebook page.

CONTACT: 418-788-1347

Intent Form Deadline

All new and returning students must have their intent form submitted by Feb. 29 if they wish to receive funding for any upcoming semesters.

EDITOR’S NOTE:

Merry Christmas!

We’re happy to be able to close out the year with some positive stories. There were many big changes throughout the year, and it’s great to see them yielding positive results.

With the new year our goals will be pretty well

remain the same – more multimedia content, and human-interest stories.

Always keep us in mind. We’re always looking for good stories, and interesting people.

We’ll be taking a short break for the holidays, but will be back in January.

We hope everyone enjoys the holidays!



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