

Tobique First Nation, NB November 2010

Wulustuk Times

Wulustuk - Indigenous name for St. John River

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Wulustuk Times:

Each month we gather and publish the latest, most current and relevant native information for our readers. Proceeding with this concept, we feel that a well informed person is better able to see, relate with, and assess a situation more accurately when equipped with the right tools. Our aim is to provide you with the precise tools and the best information possible.

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OVERSEAS AND BACK, TOBIQUE VETERAN, DONALD (SPIKE) MOULTON

p. paul

Heading Overseas

Our ship, SS Duchess of York, taking us to Europe (England) in 1942 was the only, and the biggest boat I ever saw. This was my first time getting on such a huge ship in all my 19 years, and I was a little nervous because we understood it would be a 2-week boatride to reach Liverpool, England.

Well they were almost right. It took eleven days and eleven nights to cross the Atlantic.

You know I should have been scared stiff by rights, but I never even thought of fear, or even had the time to get scared because there were so many of us jammed together in that tiny ship. I can call the ship 'tiny' now because as I discovered later other troop ships were almost double the size of ours. And because of its small dimensions we had to stay in close quarters on our journey across.

Another thing I recall, it seemed that all my shipmates were very young like myself, some even younger, being around seventeen. We were just too young to think of danger, fear or dying. Really, that is how

young crazy teenagers (like us then), would think about life anyway. We went there with the least thought of getting hurt, sick, worried or being fearful. We all thought we were invincible.

Our boat was not the greatest troop ship in the world by any means and because of the diminutive nature of our ship, it was tougher physically to accommodate so many guys in such tight conditions. For instance, the sleeping quarters for 10 guys in a 12'x14' space was much too small for resting and sleeping comfortably. But there we were, all jammed together in those tiny rooms like sardines in a can, sleeping double-decked on tiny hammocks that swayed back-and-forth, side-to-side in unison with the rolling and rising of the waves beneath us and around us.

Another sensation we felt was the sudden zigzagging motions of the ship occurring at every ten to twelve-minute intervals to avoid getting hit by enemy torpedos fired from preying enemy submarines. For a young person like us it was not all too harsh as one might think however. Some lighter moments came with the 'downers'.

A pleasant surprise happened a couple of days out when I ran into a guy Jerome Paul, from my reserve, who, as I found out later, was in the same 1st Division as I. We chatted a bit and had a great time recalling our time and life back home then stayed in close contact the rest of the trip to England. We ended up doing things together like watching Destroyers zipping and zooming around us, in and out of the fleet looking for enemy U-Boats. The Destroyers would just dive and disappear into huge black waves and re-surface like porpoises. For us, this was like watching a real-live action movie. Later we ran into other brothers from the reserve and it was like home away from home out there for awhile.

Somehow we made it through to Liverpool, England in one piece. And from there we disembarked and headed to our designated camps in the UK to prepare for battle and war.

Many of us were sent to the front lines while other guys stayed behind to serve on supply lines. The war encounter went on for about three years for some of our brothers. Sadly though, five of our Tobique comrades did not make it back.. God bless them.

When the war ended on May 8, 1945, (VE Day) thousands of Canadian troops stationed all over Europe had to be gathered and brought home. Regretfully, my shipmate buddy Jerome, who went over with me was not among the returnees. He died in action in Normandy, France.

In the end, German forces and their allies were totally beaten. They were physically and morally defeated to the last man and their once-proud leaders were forced to sign an unconditional surrender shortly after the cease fire.

From then the next humongous task was mobilizing Canadian troops for their return to Canada.

Return Trip Home

On my way back home in December aboard the SS Monarch of Bermuda, things were a little less hectic and jollier 'cuz all the guys were just so happy and excited to be going home after three to four years away from their families and loved ones. It was a happy trip that lasted only five days instead of eleven days it took going over, plus to our benefit, the ship was less crowded. We could sail in a straight line and not worry about torpedoes hitting us, and besides, we had now become men during the war and could hold up better and understand our situation.

So after five days on the ocean we landed in Halifax, Nova Scotia, minus most of our heavy gear to quickly board trains heading anywhere and everywhere across Canada.

At each stop the train would let off a bunch of guys and got emptier as we went. Long-haul travel back then was by train and for shorter travel people rode buses. It ended up many of our comrades took trains and connecting busses traveling night and day before they got home in the Maritimes, in Quebec, Ontario and western provinces.

Myself, the train let me off in Perth, NB. at noon on December 20, 1945, in time for Christmas.

From Perth, I went by bus and got off on the opposite shore to the reserve a few miles upstream. To my surprise the river was not frozen over for some reason and I had get to the other side by canoe. Faced with this predicament I had to start yelling at the top of my lungs for someone to ferry me over the river. Finally, it was the old railroad man Simon Perley who heard my yells and came and got me.

I discovered later that the word of my arrival had gotten around the reserve pretty fast and a lot of the good folks came to the canoe landing, Naswaukik to see me come ashore. I was one of the first guys to get back from war and that was probably why they greeted me at the landing site.

I recall my homecoming was a very special experience seeing so many community members coming out to hug me, to welcome me, shake my hand, offer food and drink and everything you could imagine.

Even now, in my later years at 87, I can still feel the rush and the emotions I went through when I think back to that day. And I can still see the happy smiling faces of people waiting on the shore, all coming around, gathering, greeting, talking the native language to me, all excited as I came ashore.

Tobique population was small in those days ranging around 400-500 persons during the 1940's but surprisingly, there were 45 men in uniform during WW-II, and roughly about half of them served overseas. It is important to mention the fact that all Indian soldiers were 100% volunteers because at the time Canada regarded native people as non-citizens in our own land. We were not legally bound or obligated to join, nor were we subject to the draft into the military. We were all volunteers. But as it turned out, many of us did join the service because we saw other kids our age going in and we didn't want to appear different.

Besides there was hardly a choice otherwise because there was no work on reserves in those days. We had poor housing and food was scarce. In the army we got these things regularly and a little pay to boot.

Something else I gotta comment on at this time is, it took Canada under the Diefenbaker regime \allow citizenship to Indians and legally be eligible for vote and draft. That was a terrible one black mark on Canada's treatment on the original inhabitants of this country. Prior to getting these rights government jobs were denied us, whereupon, after getting the vote, any native people could work anywhere and also could be called up for military duty in case of national emergency.

But to get back to my to my story, I must say that I was never so honoured and proud to be from the Tobique as I was on the day I got home. Just as I stepped ashore I felt the warmth, the love and a heartfelt welcome coming from the community. I was so deeply moved and honoured for the grand reception was given on that day, I shall never forget. Those were special moments of my life.

To me that awesome welcome radiating from the community was worth the whole 4-year journey to overseas and back, including enduring the hard times of war. What a thrill it was to be coming home to family, friends and relatives. Something I shall never forget. And right to this day I still thank and have the greatest respect for the whole community of Tobique for all it has given me.

I must also mention that I was one of about fort-five young men to join the U.S. and Canada military forces in those days when Tobique's population was merely around 500 persons at the time. - Spike

GRASSY NARROWS RENEWS BOYCOTT OF WEYERHAEUSER PRODUCTS

Grassy Narrows – Less than five months after some logging companies and large environmental groups declared a truce to the “war in the woods” a remote Ontario First Nation is calling for renewed boycotts against Weyerhaeuser Corporation, one of North America’s largest lumber producers. In an open letter today to loggers, retailers and investors Grassy Narrows Chief Simon Fobister states that “[w]e continue to call for the boycott and divestment of Weyerhaeuser Corporation due to their violation of our human rights as Indigenous Peoples.” The letter goes on to say that “[w]e will work with our supporters to promote, monitor, and enforce this position.”

Grassy Narrows is home to the longest running logging blockade in Canadian history, now in its 8th year. Grassroots women and youth put their bodies on the line and blocked logging trucks passing by their community after decades of petitions, letter writing, speaking tours, environmental assessment requests, and protests failed to halt the destructive clearcut logging of their traditional territory.

“We have never given our consent to any logging on our territory, and we have repeatedly said ‘no’,” declared Chief Simon Fobister. “Unwanted logging has a severe impact on our community’s ability to sustain our health, culture, and livelihood.”

In 2006, after Grassy Narrows members and supporters blocked the trans-Canada highway near Kenora, the Ontario government entered into negotiations with the community, and later appointed former Supreme Court of Canada judge Frank Iacobucci to oversee them. Since that time 3 major logging corporations have bowed to boycotts and committed not to log against the wishes of the community, and AbitibiBowater has surrendered their license on the forest. Logging has been suspended on Grassy Narrows territory as of July 2008, but under pressure from Weyerhaeuser the province has produced a 3-year contingency logging plan for the Whiskey Jack Forest allowing more than 27 clearcuts, including 17 that will be more than 260 hectares in size (500 football fields). The province has indicated that they intend to allow resumed logging as soon as this fall on Grassy Narrows territory.

The open letter explains that Weyerhaeuser’s actions threaten to derail any progress towards resolution by pushing for access to clearcut Grassy Narrows wood:

Far from respecting and supporting our process with the Province Weyerhaeuser’s actions have been a primary irritant preventing reconciliation of our long standing conflict over logging... The only way for Weyerhaeuser to correct this violation of our rights is to publicly commit not to log or source wood products from our Territory unless and until we give our free, prior, and informed consent, and outstanding conflicts are resolved.

Chief Fobister also urged companies to “take note that the recent Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement does not apply to Grassy Narrows Traditional Territory which is entirely outside the area covered by the agreement.” The agreement in no way absolves Weyerhaeuser of responsibility for ongoing violations of the human rights of Indigenous people in Grassy Narrows. No Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement signatory had an active boycott campaign against Weyerhaeuser.

In spite of numerous Supreme Court rulings, and international human rights instruments, provinces regularly ignore First Nations land rights when approving logging and mining plans. This injustice is giving rise to an escalating wave of conflict in communities including Grassy Narrows, Fish Lake, KI, Okanagan, and Barriere Lake.

“Before any logging in Canada can be considered ‘responsible’ companies must respect the right of First Nations to say ‘no’ to unwanted logging on their traditional territories,” said David Sone of Earthroots. “Any company that buys Weyerhaeuser products from Grassy Narrows is clearly in violation of Grassy Narrows’ human rights and may be targeted for protests and boycotts.”

*Contact

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FIRST NATIONS OPPOSE URANIUM MINING IN QUEBEC

Canada NewsWire

AENQ-CSQ takes position against after consulting its members

The Association of employees of Northern Quebec (AENQ-CSQ), affiliated to the Centrale des syndicats du Québec (CSQ), wants to inform the Eeyou Etschee Cree and Nunavik Inuit populations that, following the consultation held with its members, it takes position against the exploration and exploitation of uranium ore, whether it be in Mistissini or Kangiqsualujuaq.

This consultation was held during the month of October with all AENQ-CSQ members from Northern Quebec communities, Inuit as well as Cree.

More than 85 % disapprove.

This consultation was done following a request from certain of our teacher and support staff members from Mistissini, in solidarity with the "Meilleure Mine" coalition. The results showed that more than 85 % of our members wished that AENQ-CSQ take position against these uranium mining projects.

One must note that this position is taken in the context of the consultations held on the Cree and Inuit territories and wants to contribute to the public debate on these issues.

PROFILE OF AENQ

Founded in 1971, the Association of Employees of Northern Quebec, an affiliate of the CSQ, has over 1,500 members. It represents, teachers and support staff of the Cree and Kativik school boards as well as employees of childcare centres in the Cree Territory.

BC FIRST NATION LOSES SUPREME COURT RULING

CBC News

A First Nation in Northern B.C. lost a major case involving a hydroelectric dam on Thursday morning when the Supreme Court of Canada ruled the failure to consult the band had no adverse effect.

The Carrier-Sekani Tribal Council had sued BC Hydro and Alcan, arguing that they should have been consulted about a contract signed between the two companies in 2007.

The contract involved Alcan selling electricity to BC Hydro. That electricity was generated by a dam that was built in the 1950s without aboriginal consultation, flooding the traditional territory of the Carrier-Sekani.

The Supreme Court ruling released on Thursday morning said that despite the original lack of consultation, the contract in question had no adverse effect on current First Nations and therefore was exempt from the consultation process.

FIRST NATION CHIEFS WANT MINES MINISTER TO QUIT OVER COMMENTS

The Canadian Press

The Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs is calling for the resignation of B.C.'s minister of state for mining over what the group says were "shockingly offensive" comments.

"We are absolutely appalled that junior minister (Randy) Hawes has also gone on the record saying 'some First Nations reject mining for a more traditional lifestyle -- those linked to lower birth weights, higher birth-rate deaths and lower life spans,'" the union said in a statement.

But Hawes said Saturday he has no intention of quitting, and he plans to continue speaking his mind about the large social gaps between First Nations and non-First Nations.

"We should, all of us, be ashamed of those and we should be working together with First Nations to close those gaps."

In a letter sent to Premier Gordon Campbell, the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs said several recent statements by Hawes to the media have been unwarranted, insulting and inaccurate.

The letter, signed by Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, Chief William Charlie and Chief Bob Chamberlin, said Hawes' comments only promote racist stereotypes about First Nations culture.

Hawes said he doesn't consider what he's been saying racist, saying the high rates of suicide, addiction, school dropouts and incarceration are abysmal.

"There's something wrong here, and I believe it's a product of poverty on many First Nations territories. Now we need to work together to find a way out of, I guess I'll call it the cycle of poverty."

Hawes said some of that help can come through natural resource development, which creates jobs, brings in training and gives people a reason to stay in school.

The minister has supported the Taseko Mine's Prosperity Gold and Copper Mine proposal in an area outside of Williams Lake, B.C., and the native group said he has strongly criticized the local Tsilhqot'in First Nation for "putting a lake before their kids."

If the federal government gives approval for Prosperity Mine, a lake the Tsilhqot'in First Nation call Teztan Biny would be destroyed in the mining process.

The minister said if the comments that he made were taken out of the context in which they were meant, then he's sorry for offending First Nations.

"And I do apologize if I've offended them, and maybe I was not as clear as I should have been."

But Hawes said the statistical facts still show First Nations are at a disadvantage.

"And by bringing those out and talking about them, if that's racist, I'm sorry, but it's fact," Hawes said. "Sometimes there's an elephant in the room and we don't want to talk about these things for fear of being labelled."

In 2005, the provincial government called for a new relationship with First Nations, and the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs has requested a meeting with the premier to talk about Hawes and the need for mining reform in the province.

Hawes hasn't talked to Premier Campbell about his situation, but said he knows he has the premier's support because he was reappointed to his post in the Oct. 25 cabinet shuffle.

The minister said his door is open to members of First Nations who want to talk about the issue.

FIRST NATIONS JOIN FORCES AGAINST ONTARIO GOVERNMENT

BATCHEWANA FIRST NATION – Garden River and Batchewana First Nations are joining forces to battle the continued harassment of their citizens by the Ontario Government. Most recently, The Ministry of Natural Resources, and their officers have been violating Aboriginal and Treaty Rights to hunt and fish (affirmed and recognized under the Robinson-Huron Treaty of 1850) by imposing flawed enforcement policies outside of their jurisdiction.

Both Garden River and Batchewana First Nation's Councils have voiced their frustrations regarding Ontario's attempts through legislation to unilaterally extinguish First Nations rights to manage their own territories.

Chiefs of both First Nation's support the idea of safety while exercising rights to the resources, a concept that has been practiced for thousands of years under traditional Ojibway laws. Chief Lyle Sayers commented, "As distinct Nation's provincial legislation is not required to tell us how to act or behave in our natural environment".

To avoid and prevent the escalating frustration and potential conflict both First Nation's Councils are calling on Premier Dalton McGuinty, Aboriginal Affairs Minister Chris Bentley and, Natural Resource Minister Linda Jeffrey to recognize that their government does not have any authority or jurisdiction over First Nation's Territorial lands.

"Provincial agents are aggravating a volatile situation, harassment is disguised under MNR's current enforcement policies and we cannot sit idly by while Ontario systemically starves our people", stated Chief Dean Sayers.

Both First Nations will be working together to re-establish a historic relationship to advance and protect First Nation's rights, to oversee any attacks against these rights, and further will be calling upon the leadership of the Chiefs of Ontario and the Assembly of First Nations to collaborate on this effort.

In the interim Chief Dean Sayers, Chief Lyle Sayers and their Councils are recommending and advising their citizens to abide by the following protocols if they are confronted with harassment while exercising their rights to hunt/fish; Show First Nation's Identification Card, and provide contact information for your First Nation if further information is requested. All visiting First Nation members must apply for a Hunting & Harvesting permit and register with the First Nation they are visiting before engaging in any hunting, fishing or harvesting activities on that territory.

Chiefs are advising Ontario, the MNR in particular, when their technicians are presented with First Nation's identification cards that they are to cease any further action and contact their First Nation's Natural Resource Department for direction on how to proceed. This will minimize conflict and protect the safety of all.

Chief Lyle Sayers commented further, "Since time immemorial we have used the sacred gift to hunt and fish to sustain our families and communities in the spirit of sharing with our Elders and needy. As a Nation we will continue to exercise this right and to do so unmolested".

At all costs both First Nation's will work to avoid conflict and potential injury and will exercise diplomatic prerogatives with the Provincial Government. However, First Nation's leadership from Batchewana and Garden River will not negotiate the existing, historic rights of any First Nation's citizens.

In closing Chief Lyle Sayers, and Chief Dean Sayers added, "While our dispute is with the Province of Ontario, Canada has a trust responsibility to ensure the protection of our rights as well. Ontario, if you believe you have jurisdiction over our resources, show us the receipt where we gave it to you, stop pulling the wool over the public's eyes."

EMBRACE WIND, QUEBEC TOLD

The Gazette

Quebec should dramatically boost its wind energy production to further green energy development while protecting its investment in that domain, the Canadian Wind Energy Association president said yesterday.

Quebec's new goal should be another 8,000 megawatts between 2016 and 2025, Robert Hornung told the opening of CanWEA's annual conference.

Quebec's current objective is to integrate 4,000 MW of wind energy into its grid by 2015. Most of that capacity is still being built and follows several calls for tender by Hydro-Quebec including the current call for 500 MW for small projects by communities or First Nations.

If the province wants to keep the wind energy expertise that has developed in recent years, it must signal its intention for more development, Hornung said.

"If we wait, then the uncertainty that exists post-2015 means that investment will go elsewhere and Quebec will not be able to take its place as a leader in wind energy and the large-scale integration of wind and hydro," he said.

If Quebec demonstrates "clear political will," it can add 800 MW a year in new wind projects, he said.

By 2025, with a total of 12,000 MW of installed capacity, wind energy would account for 13 per cent of Quebec's energy portfolio.

Quebec's northern reaches are seen as untapped territories for wind energy.

Nathalie Normandeau, Quebec's deputy premier and natural resources minister, told the conference the development potential of Quebec's north is "quasi infinite." The territory north of the 49th degree of latitude represents 72 per cent of Quebec's land mass.

A working group on energy has identified "a theoretical potential of 4,000 MW of wind power" for the regions of the North Shore, James Bay and Nunavik, she told the conference's opening session. The integration of that power into the grid is another challenge but the potential has been highlighted, she said.

Under Quebec's Plan Nord, Quebec has decided to develop 300 MW of wind energy along with 3,000 MW of hydroelectric power.

Normandeau described CanWEA's proposal that Quebec add another 8,000 MW of wind energy to its energy portfolio as bold and ambitious. It requires further study and the consideration of cabinet, she said.

Both Normandeau and Hornung emphasized the importance of community support - "social acceptance" - of wind farms if further development is to occur. Wind farm developers have run into opposition by area residents despite promises of local economic development and jobs.

An infusion of 8,000 MW of new wind production between 2016 and 2025 would translate into more than \$15 billion being invested in Quebec, according to CanWEA's strategic plan for Quebec.

About 9,800 construction jobs would be created while 800 manufacturing jobs would be maintained. Another 1,200 jobs in wind farm management and maintenance would be created, the plan says.

CanWEA's 26th annual conference and exhibition wraps up in Montreal tomorrow.

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Creator's love - complete traditional
By grace, to all - and unconditional!

Why Can't We Get Along

This earth - when seen from outer space
Is just a little ball
And from the center of the galaxy
Has no significance at all,
The astronauts, a way up there
Have as good a view as man can get
They see the continental features
But - can't pick out people yet,
And, we get to see a lot of sights
From an airplane flying high
Cities, fields, and mountain tops
And the roads we travel by,
Soon things get much clearer
As we begin to settle down
The cars, the homes, and all the things
Of the country and the town,
Then we touch the surface
Get our feet back on the earth
When we become another "being"
Where everyone has equal worth,
The earth - as seen from outer space
Well, man's troubles just aren't found
For religion, race, and ownership
Are just problems - on the ground!
So, if that's the way the world works
And, to fight and clash are wrong
We need to look "inside" and ask ourselves
Why can't we get along?

D.C. Butterfield

Believe in yourself! Have faith in your abilities! Without a humble but reasonable confidence in your own powers you can be successful or be happy.