

FRIENDS OF THE NORTH MISIWAY YEAR IN REVIEW 2018

As a pebble when dropped in water, continues to send ripples outward, so too does Friends of the North Misiway. A big part of the rippling effect has been the inclusion of Friends for change. Now with nine committee members the work load and vision are shared. Monica's garage in the summer and basement in the colder weather has been a godsend. Lots of room to sort and pack.

WEBSITE

Our website attracts visitors, Mary Elaine, the chaplain from Regiopolis Secondary School found us, and contacted Linda regarding the food program. The results were 50 bags of food, with one class providing 7 bags. The students were shocked to learn how expensive food was and how there was only one store to shop in their northern community.

FOOD DONATIONS

Grace United Church in Napanee, another big food supporter with 30 bags delivered to our door. In total 4,325 pounds of food have been delivered to northern communities. As costs in the north are about four times as expensive as here that equates to a northern value of over \$34,000 worth of food to help families provide meals. We extend a very special thanks to the countless individuals who have donated food and to Metro and Bulk Barn who donated the bags. Your generosity is truly amazing.



ATTAWAPISKAT

Monica, who worked in Attawapiskat many years ago, communicates with two wonderful Cree women Rosie and Jackie who report that receiving the 28 bags of clothing is like Christmas every week. Linda has shipped 41 bags of food which is distributed using the food bank model.

MOOSE FACTORY

Pat has been hearing the requests from Verna, who works in social services in Moose Factory. During the past year 53 bags of nearly new clothing and school supplies as well as 24 bags of food have been received in Moose Factory. As well, Healthy Babies and Elders Outreach received packages of requested items.

KASHECHEWAN

In Kashachewan 24 bags of warm coats, boots, clothing and bedding have helped to keep children warm during the cold winter. In addition, 51 twenty-five-pound bags of food have helped families fill cupboards.

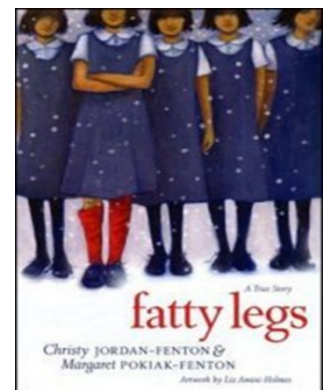
HELPING HANDS AND MORE

A very generous group called Helping Hands Northumberland has donated a large quantity of new toys and clothing. This energized group endeavours to have a two-week turnaround time between when the donation is received and it is distributed. Rose, from Port Hope and leader of the Rose Project donated 100 personal care kits for men and women.

BOOKS

fatty legs.....A true story by Christy Jordan-Fenton & Margaret Pokiak-Fenton "A perfect companion to the study of First Nations issues, this story helps readers empathize with a real person whose determination never waivers in the face of adversity."

30 Books were donated and delivered to Ministik Public School in Moose Factory as requested by the school Librarian for grade 6, 7 study.



MISIWAY SHOP

Responding to the suggestion that a gently used clothing store would benefit the community, the next step was to find a location. Eventually a room was rented in the Anglican church in Moosonee. A cargo van was driven to Moosonee with store fixtures and stock. Soon the shop was setup, stocked and Ronnie was hired to manage the shop for the summer. At summer's end Ronnie recommended Emily for the part time position. Jay, who is Emily's son very generously designed a logo which Emily uses to identify the Misiway Shop where she welcomes shoppers who appreciate the quality and prices. Since start up in June they have received 2,900 pounds of clothing.



CLOTHING

In total the above communities have received 5,790 pounds of clothing, coats, boots and bedding from the many generous people in our community. That is nearly three tons! The people in the north truly appreciates your generosity. We also thank Midge for her part in the transportation.

KIDS CLUB

During the summer, Doris, Irene, Linda and Anya provided Kid's Club for a week. Sixteen children received morning, lunch and afternoon snacks. Crafts, stories and games made for a full day for both the children and the leaders. We heard from a grandma who cares for three busy grandsons, about how much she appreciated the break during the summer. All in all, a big success.

FOUR WINDS LEGACY

As part of their legacy, Four Winds Presbytery, an overseer of United Churches in the area, focusing on reconciliation with our Indigenous brothers and sisters, has donated more than \$10,000 in the past couple of years to support the work of Friends of the North Misiway. We are truly grateful to these caring people of Four Winds Presbytery.

LIDLAW DONATION

We received a generous year end donation from Julia Laidlaw. The \$2000 came from her share of discretionary Laidlaw Family funds and went directly to Project George. Julia attended our final 2018 meeting to offer the funds. The decision by Friends of the North-Misiway was that Project George was the best recipient.

In conclusion, 2018 has been both a busy and productive year.

We, the team: **FRIENDS OF THE NORTH MISIWAY** Doris, Irene, Linda T, Anya, Linda M, Janice, Pat, Susan, Vivien, Sue and Monica wish to **THANK EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU** who have donated clothes, food and made monetary donations. Without you none of this would be possible.