

Rocky Bay Child and Family Services

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



AUGUST IS  
MANOOMINIKÉ-GIIZIS  
(RICING MOON)

August 2024

## Honouring Our Children:

On Wednesday July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the Rocky Bay Child & Family Services (RBCFS) team hosted the much-anticipated Honouring Our Childrens Day at the Spirit Bay School yard. Despite the hot weather, the event was a resounding success, thanks to meticulous planning by the RBCFS team.

The day was packed with a variety of engaging activities. The bouncy castles, especially the water bouncy castle, was a massive hit. Kids and adults alike enjoyed the clowns, face painting, tattoos, lawn games, bubble making, and a DJ who kept everyone moving with spot dances. Other attractions included a penny auction, ducks in a pond, canvas painting, a special area for small children, and the crowd favorite: the Mini Donut stand!

One of the highlights of the event was the Dunk Tank, where participants had the chance to dunk some brave volunteers. Those taking the plunge included JP Lead Cohen Richardson, Prevention Manager Amy Dee King, Prevention Worker Bill Kusziner, Traditional Care Worker Jamie Ledger and BZA Councillor Myles Becker.

Nokiiwiin graciously prepared and served lunch, offering delicious cheeseburgers, hotdogs, and fresh fruits, along with refreshing beverages. For supper, the RBCFS team members put together “taco in a bag,” a hit with everyone. Dessert featured an assortment of cupcakes that satisfied everyone’s sweet tooth.

With over 200 people in attendance, Honouring Our Childrens Day was a tremendous success, bringing the community together for a day of fun, laughter, and celebration. This memorable event showcased the spirit and dedication of the RBCFS team in creating a joyous occasion for all.

### Special Thanks

To our Ancestors.

Without your Strength & Resilience,  
there wouldn’t be a today.

“Try to be a rainbow in someone else’s cloud.”  
— Maya Angelou

## **Programming**

### **Lets Talk Finance...**

We are thrilled to share the success of our recent Financial Literacy programs curated by the wonderful Prenatal Infant Care Worker, Jessica Colvin. Financial Literacy was held both in Thunder Bay and BZA. The Thunder Bay session took place on June 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Spence Clinic, 4<sup>th</sup> floor boardroom on Arthur Street. While the BZA session was held on June 4<sup>th</sup> at the RBCFS office.

At both events, Thunder Bay counsellor Karen Shalley provided invaluable insights into the basics of financial literacy. Attendees learned practical tips on budgeting, saving, and goal planning. To add an element of excitement, participants at both sessions had the opportunity to win a grocery basket.

Although we don't have any photos from the events, the impact was significant. For those who couldn't attend, we have good news! Karen Shalley offers FREE financial counselling sessions, available both over the phone and in person. You can schedule your private and confidential meetings with Karen by emailing [financialc@tbaycounselling.com](mailto:financialc@tbaycounselling.com) or calling 1-888-204-2221.

We encourage everyone to take advantage of this fantastic opportunity to enhance your financial literacy and secure a brighter financial future.

### **Coffee Talk...**

This July, our Traditional Care Workers, Jessie Cameron and Cheyenne Nobis, brought the warmth of community and the comfort of a good brew to the RBCFS BZA office with their delightful "Coffee Talk" program.

The event was a wonderful opportunity for RBCFS Traditional Care Providers to come together, share stories, and enjoy each others company in a relaxed, inviting atmosphere. Jessie and Cheyenne facilitated engaging conversations that sparked new ideas and strengthened bonds among the providers.

Participants savoured every moment, sipping on freshly brewed coffee or tea, perfectly paired with a delectable assortment of sweet treats. The aroma of coffee mingled with the laughter and animated discussions.



### **An Evening of Food, Fun, and Prizes...**

On July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the RBCFS office on Memorial in Thunder Bay came alive with laughter and camaraderie during our monthly Adult Social. This Month's event was expertly hosted by Band representative, Winonah Thompson. Who ensured the evening was both enjoyable and memorable for everyone.

The night began with a mouthwatering dinner that had everyone coming back for seconds. The menu featured delicious Chicken Parmesan, served alongside creamy pasta that was cooked to perfection. To top off the meal, guests were treated to a slice of lemon meringue pie that left taste buds tingling and spirits high.



But the fun didn't stop with the food. The highlight of the evening was the lively game of B I N G O. Where participants eagerly competed for a variety of household prizes. The atmosphere was electric, filled with cheers and friendly banter as each number was called. Best of all, no one left empty-handed, ensuring that everyone went home with a prize and a smile!

Our monthly Adult Socials are always a fantastic opportunity to connect with friends, enjoy great food, and have lots of fun. If you missed this one, make sure to check our calendars for all future socials!



### Teddy Bear Picnic...

On July 9<sup>th</sup>, Traditonal Care Workers Jamie Ledger and Jessie Cameron brought joy and excitement to the annual Teddy Bear Picnic in Thunder Bay. Their table was a hive of activity and a resounding success from start to finish!

With more than 200 balloons handed out, the smiles and laughter were endless. The highlight for many was the adoption of 26 adorable teddy bears, each finding a new home and a child's loving embrace. The fun didn't stop there- hundreds of fidget sticks were crafted, providing a creative enjoyable activity for kids of all ages.

The enthusiastic response was overwhelming, with a steady stream of eager children lining up to join in the fun. The positive energy and joyful atmosphere made our table a favourite spot at the picnic.

We're thrilled to have been part of such a fantastic event, we cant wait to bring more smiles and memorable experiences in the future!



### Bingo Bonanza: Meat Madness at BZA...

On July 10<sup>th</sup> the BZA Community Centre buzzed with excitement as Jordan's Principle workers, Kirby Thompson and Sheryl Singleton hosted an unforgettable Meat Bingo Night. The event kicked off with an insightful presentation about the vital roles of the Jordan's Principle team and the wide array of programs they offer, leaving attendees well-informed and eager to participate.

The evening featured a delectable spread of sandwiches, fresh fruit, crisp veggies, and refreshing beverages. Ensuring that everyone was well-fed and ready for the fun to come. As the bingo games began, the air was filled with anticipation and joy. Families played for a variety of meat prizes, culminating in an exhilarating jackpot game offering a large meat selection. The door prize, a cooler filled with premium meats, added an extra layer of excitement.



The feedback from our guests was overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing a desire for more bingo events. One popular suggestion was to host a dry goods bingo in the future. The turnout exceeded our expectations, proving that bingo is a beloved activity within the BZA community.

Looking ahead, we are thrilled at the prospect of organizing even bigger and better bingo nights. The success of this event has inspired us, and we can't wait to bring more fun and engaging evenings to the community of BZA.





## **Programming Continued**

### **Beach FUN...**

On Thursday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, the Rocky Bay Child and Family Services team in BZA hosted their much-anticipated monthly Activity Day at the beach! The hot afternoon was perfect for a fun-filled day of laughter, swimming, and making wonderful memories.

The event featured delicious hotdogs, smokies, and refreshing watermelon, keeping everyone energized and cool. Adding to the excitement, Natasha and Brandi each won food vouchers for Zechner's Food Market in Nipigon. Congratulations to our lucky winners!

A big thank you to everyone who joined us and made the day a splashing success.



### **Elders Social...**

On July 22<sup>nd</sup>, the BZA community was abuzz with excitement as the elders gathered for a delightful social event, hosted by Prevention Worker Josee Lynch and JP DPR Worker Kirby Thompson. The evening was a perfect blend of delicious food, fun games, and heartwarming camaraderie.



The elders were treated to a mouthwatering spaghetti dinner accompanied by Caesar salad and garlic bread. The feast continued with an array of scrumptious desserts, including apple pie & blueberry pie, as well as irresistible butter tarts.

The highlight of the evening was the lively bingo games, with Josee Lynch taking on the role of the spirited bingo caller. Laughter and cheer filled the room as everyone enjoyed the playful banter and the thrill of winning. The prizes added to the excitement, with practical household items up for grabs, including cleaning supplies, baking essentials, dinner items like Sidekicks and Kraft Dinner, and plush bath towels.



## Continued

### Social...

On July 28<sup>th</sup>, BZA's Prevention Worker Josee Lynch, hosted a heartwarming and creative social event that brought together community bonding, was a resounding success!

Attendees were invited to unleash their inner artist in an open painting session. The room buzzed with excitement as participants of all ages picked up brushed and transformed blank canvases into colourful masterpieces. The atmosphere was filled with laughter, friendly conversations, and the joy of shared artistic expression.

As the artistic session continued, everyone was treated to a comforting meal of mac and cheese with smokies. The rich, cheesy goodness paired perfectly with the savory smokies. To top it all off, dessert came in the form of refreshing ice cream cups. A perfect treat to beat the heat.

Despite the sweltering weather outside, the cool air conditioning provided a pleasant relief. Ensuing everyone stayed comfortable while expressing their artistic side.



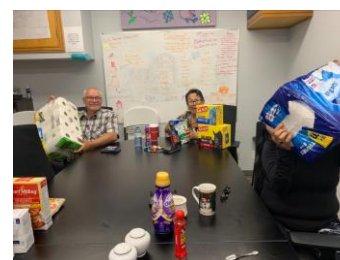
### Elders Social...

On July 22<sup>nd</sup>, our monthly Elder Social in Thunder Bay brought together community members for an evening of warmth, connection, and fun. The event was a success! Thanks to the heartfelt efforts of Band Representative Winonah Thompson/ Winonah wowed everyone with her culinary skills, preparing a delectable dinner of homemade chili and Bannock, crafted entirely from scratch. The rich, savory aroma of the chili, combined with the comforting scent of freshly made Bannock filled the air, creating a cozy and inviting atmosphere that everyone enjoyed.



The highlight of the evening was the lively household bingo games. As numbers were called out and cards were marked, the room buzzed with excitement and friendly competition. Laughter and cheers filled the space, and the joy of winning was shared by all, as no one left empty-handed. Prizes ranged from practical household items to delightful surprises, ensuring that everyone had a memorable and enjoyable time.

We warmly invite you to join us for our next Elder Social on August 26<sup>th</sup>, from 5 to 8pm! Come and experience the joy of good food, great company, and plenty of fun. Lets continue to build and strengthen our community bonds, one gathering at a time.



## **STAFF FEATURE**

### ***2024 Summer Students***

This month our staff feature are six lovely students that we've had the pleasure of working with...

#### **Hannah Thompson**

Hannah Thompson, our bubbly and enthusiastic summer student! Hannah dreams of becoming either a social worker or a pro wrestler. One of her favorite aspects of working with RBCFS is the chance to enjoy swimming days. She loves working here as it allows her to reconnect with her cousins, making her feel like a cherished part of the community.

#### **Tristan Hardy**

Tristan Hardy, known for his calm and collected demeanor, aspires to develop his writing. Who knows? We might be reading his books one day! His favorite memory with RBCFS is creating the "Orange Shirt Megamind." Tristan enjoys working for RBCFS because it allows him to meet family members he might never have encountered otherwise.

#### **Taryn Thompson-Wynne**

Taryn Thompson-Wynne is a considerate individual with hopes of pursuing a career in social work, specifically as a school guidance counselor. Alternatively, she dreams of attending fashion school. Her best memories with RBCFS include Honouring Our Children Day and last year's Splish Splash event. Taryn values the sense of community and the invaluable experience that working here provides.

## **STAFF FEATURE**

### ***2024 Summer Students***

#### **Averil LaDuke**

Averil LaDuke, known for her great sense of humor, has set her short-term goals on improving her math skills and graduating from high school. Averil finds working for RBCFS both exciting and eventful, with the bonus of earning money!

#### **Michael Thompson**

Michael Thompson, a gentle soul, dreams of one day driving an F1 car. His best memory from working with RBCFS is spending an afternoon playing video games with his peers, particularly excelling at Minecraft. Micheal appreciates this job as its one of his first opportunities to earn money and gain work experience.

#### **Aurora LaDuke**

Aurora LaDuke, A quiet but very smiley individual, is determined to graduate from high school following the summer. Aurora enjoys working for RBCFS because evert moment is engaging and exciting, and like her sister, she enjoys the financial benefits.

This summer RBCFS had the pleasure of welcoming 26 unique students to our work family. Their presence brought excitement, laughter and happiness to the halls of our building. We cant do anything but hope to see many familiar faces return in the summer of 2025!



If you would like a copy of the monthly newsletter emailed to you, please contact Lily at [lindstrom@rbcs.ca](mailto:lindstrom@rbcs.ca) to provide your email address. Newsletters will also be posted on our Facebook page.

### *Honouring Our Children Day Photos!*



Find Us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/RBCFSBZA](https://www.facebook.com/RBCFSBZA)



If you would like a copy of the monthly newsletter emailed to you, please contact Lily at [lindstrom@rbcfs.ca](mailto:lindstrom@rbcfs.ca) to provide your email address. Newsletters will also be posted on our Facebook page.



Find Us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/RBCFSBZA](https://www.facebook.com/RBCFSBZA)



If you would like a copy of the monthly newsletter emailed to you, please contact Lily at [lindstrom@rbcs.ca](mailto:lindstrom@rbcs.ca) to provide your email address. Newsletters will also be posted on our Facebook page.



Find Us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/RBCFSBZA](http://www.facebook.com/RBCFSBZA)



If you would like a copy of the monthly newsletter emailed to you, please contact Lily at [lindstrom@rbcfs.ca](mailto:lindstrom@rbcfs.ca) to provide your email address. Newsletters will also be posted on our Facebook page.



Find Us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/RBCFSBZA](https://www.facebook.com/RBCFSBZA)