



# RECOGNITION AWARDS DINNER

**TUESDAY 5:00 - 8:00 PM**  
**SCANDIA ROOM - VALHALLA INN**

The Housing Innovation Showcase is an opportunity to recognize innovations and achievements in housing initiatives at a community level. Listening to those recognized as part of this popular awards program is one of the most motivational and inspiring parts of the conference. This year we have two recipients: Batchewana First Nation, and Constance Lake First Nation. CONGRATULATIONS!

## **BATCHEWANA FIRST NATION** **2014 INNOVATION HOUSING AWARD RECIPIENT**

Batchewana First Nation is comprised of four communities: Goulais Bay, Obadjiwan, Rankin and Whitefish Island. The geographical distance between these satellite communities makes the management of the housing program a challenge for Chief & Council.

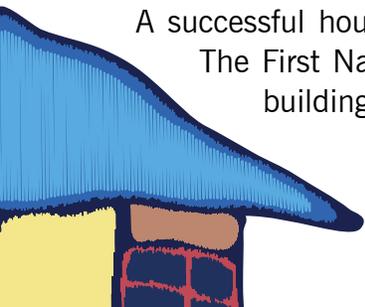
One of the key missions of the Batchewana First Nation Administration and Housing department is to ensure there is equal services and comparable programming to all the satellite communities.

Batchewana First Nation recognizes the diversity of their community members and tries to meet the many varying needs of the membership. The Batchewana Housing Authority ensures there is safe, affordable housing for families, as well as effective and respectful housing for community elders.

“Housing” is a business that works for Batchewana First Nation but only because the Chief & Council have been willing to adopt and abide by policies and procedures that work for the Housing Department’s and the membership’s best interests. There is no bias, no nepotism and no interference by the Chief and Council. They allow the Administration and Housing Department to administer the programs autonomously, as long as they apply the policy equally to everyone.



A successful housing program is about empowering community members with ownership and pride. The First Nation realizes if an individual is to receive a home they should have some say in the building process. Each new home owner is given the opportunity to choose from different floor



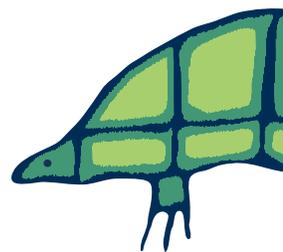
plans, they are given the opportunity to choose colors in shingles, siding and paint and flooring. As well they have input in choosing cabinet styles and countertop color. By offering these options, the individual is able to make personal choices and becomes invested in the home. Pride and ownership in the developments start from the beginning.

In Batchewana, a new homeowner is expected to participate in a Home Maintenance Workshop. Where they are instructed on how the house works, as well as how the furnace, water heater, sump pump, stove, and fridge are maintained. They are also instructed on seasonal maintenance for equipment and home maintenance, easy care tips, preventable maintenance to enhance their knowledge as a new Home Owner. Not only is this beneficial for the new homeowner but assists in longevity of the unit itself.



Along with educating new home owners the Housing Authority also enhances the skills of band members by providing meaningful employment in home construction and has plans to have more band members trained in the future in all related trades & disciplines to ensure that all human resources required to construct homes are available in the Community.

**THE FIRST NATIONS NORTHERN HOUSING WORKING GROUP RECOGNIZES  
BACHEWANA FIRST NATION FOR THEIR CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO "MAKING  
HOUSES HOMES".**



# CONSTANCE LAKE FIRST NATION

## 2014 COMMUNITY INNOVATION HOUSING AWARD RECIPIENT

Located on the shores of Constance Lake near Hearst, ON, Constance Lake First Nation is home to close to 1605 members of Cree and Ojibway ancestry; with approximately 820 living on reserve.

Early in the 1900s, due to the construction of the transcontinental railway, Hearst became a meeting place for First Nations peoples engaged in the fur trade and many people re-located to this area near the present-day Constance Lake First Nation.

Today Constance Lake First Nation again finds itself at the junction of a major economic development with the expansive Ring of Fire mining development. Constance Lake First Nation is one of the nine First Nations involved with this massive undertaking that will surely change the future of this community.

With a bright, but unknown future the community of Constance Lake is preparing for new challenges and opportunities by ensuring their members have a solid foundation in the community and that means the development of safe, efficient and affordable housing. An effective housing program also starts with support of Chief & Council and having an enforced housing policy. Constance Lake's policy has been in effect since 2006-07.

The goal of the Constance Lake First Nation Chief and Council along with the Constance Lake First Nation Housing Authority is to meet the housing needs of all of their members, and to this end Constance Lake First Nation has constructed 106 homes in the past 15 years.

Constance Lake First Nation began a new housing program in the late 1990's and built 10 houses in the inaugural year of the program. They continue to build new houses almost every year, including a Senior's Complex with 10 apartments, a 5-plex for single tenants and a 6 unit row housing project.

There has not been any cost over-run on any of the housing projects in Constance Lake. The First Nation is the main contractor and they sub-contract tasks such as, plumbing, heating, electrical, and foundation work. The remainder of the required labour to construct the homes comes from the community. One of the goals of the housing program is also to develop the skills of community members to ensure the future of the housing program and maintenance of the newly constructed homes.



The Effective Housing Program in Constance Lake is to be commended and act as a good example to other First Nation Communities as to how to plan and execute a truly successful housing program.

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