

# Wigwam to Wigwam

YOUR "HOUSE TO HOUSE" NEWS

## We're back!

After a wee bit of a hiatus, we are pleased to report that Wigwamen's newsletter is back in business! This month's edition has a couple fewer pages (and a couple of extra inserts), but we'll be back in the regular swing of things in the new year.

Suffice it to say, things have been busy this fall, so without further ado, here are some of the highlights:

### Master Gardeners:

On Thursday August 4, 2005, our Flower Power judges made the rounds of the 20 gardens entered into this year's contest. The judging panel, which included Board member Donna Niven, Tenant Counsellor Jodi Hetherington, Terrace Manager Sarah-Jayne Kendall and Administrative Assistant Alla Ponomarenko, were quite pleased to see that in addition to the competitions' regular participants, a number of new tenants had participated in this annual event.

As always, all the entries were inspiring and it was no small task to choose the winning gardens.

Nevertheless, after long and careful deliberations, the results were tallied and we are pleased to announce the following winners and their cash prize amounts:

**1st Place (\$200):** Shawn Graham

**2nd Place (\$100):** Loretta Campbell

**3rd Place (\$75):** Monica Beaudry

**Honourable Mentions (\$50 each):**  
Veronica Rice, Deborah Debassige,  
Brenda Folz, Cynthia Hashie,  
and Tracy Sauve

All contestants who did not win a prize were rewarded with a lovely hanging candle with holder.

Thanks to all who took the time to participate!

*More news on Page 2...*



December 2005

Volume 7, Issue 6

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WIGWAMEN INCORPORATED

### Special Points of Interest:

- New Column: Four Directions—Page 5
- Christmas Comedy—Page 8
- Photos of Flower Power 2005—Insert
- Tenant Picnic Photos—Insert

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## ***A Gathering of Wigwamen Dwellers:***

The fifth annual Tenant Picnic was held on September 10, 2005, at Christie Pits Park and it was, without a doubt, a tremendous success.

For one thing, it was attended by over 250 people — more than any previous picnic! This total included approximately 147 tenants and children from our family housing portfolio; 56 seniors and guests from the Terrace; 23 new tenants and children from Sewells Road; 13 Wigwamen staff; and 10 other guests.

As you can see from the collage of picnic photos inserted in this newsletter, attendees certainly seemed to enjoy playing bingo, having their faces painted, hopping in the potato sack races, making crafts, watching a performance of drumming, eating endless quantities of hamburgers and hot dogs, and drinking copious amounts of pop and juice. And for the fifth year in a row, we were blessed with good weather.

Special thanks are due to Danielle Brennan who took the lead role in organizing the picnic; all of the Directors who attended and helped out including Bill Kinoshameg and Donna Niven; and to the

staff—as well as their family and friends—who volunteered their time and energy at picnic itself. The day would not have been the success it was without everyone’s hard work and dedication.

## ***Tenants Move Into 20 Sewells Road:***

After more than 3 years of planning and construction, not to mention some 174 (and counting) applicant interviews, occupancy of 20 Sewells Road finally began this summer.

To avoid the potential chaos of a single move-in day, the first tenants started moving into the building during the last week of June. Others arrived on July 1st, a small bunch came in August, and a few more trickled in during the months of September, October and November.

By the beginning of December, 74 of the total 92 units were filled. Another 10 families are expected to move into the project this month, and the final 8 units will be filled in January.

With the addition of 20 Sewells Road to our housing portfolio, we are also adding a new column to *Wigwam to Wigwam* next month. Much the same as the way “Terrace Happenings” is geared to the tenants at the Terrace, the new “Sewells Road Roundup” will focus on activities and events at 20 Sewells Road, and present information specifically for those tenants. Tenants of the new apartment building are welcome to submit ideas and announcements for the column, care of Sewells Road Manager Milroy Hoosein.

*Continued on Page 3...*



Moving day at 20 Sewells Road.

## 20 Sewells Road Building Development Fund Donor Recognition

Over the past several months, we have received a number of new donations towards the development of our new affordable housing project.

We would hereby like to thank:

***Angus Palmer***

for his recent contribution of \$250,  
bringing his total contribution to \$1,000;

***Adene Kuchera***

for her total contribution of \$500;

***Terry Marcus & Donna Wheeler***

for their contribution of \$250.



*...Continued from Page 2.*

### ***Dr. Albert Rose Bursary Winners and a New Wigwamen Initiative:***

We are pleased and proud to announce that four of Wigwamen's tenants this year were winners of the Albert Rose Bursary, awarded each year to a select group of social housing tenants who are pursuing a post-secondary education.

Because we're proud of our tenants, and committed to doing everything in our ability to help them succeed, Wigwamen will be launching its own special initiative in 2006. Watch for correspondence from our General Manager in the New Year, and look for more details in the next edition of *Wigwam to Wigwam*.

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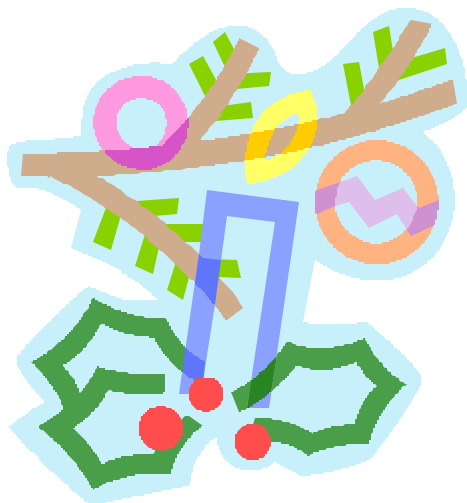
# Terrace Community Kitchen

## CHRISTMAS COOKED EGG NOG

6 eggs  
1/4 cup sugar  
1/4 teaspoon salt (optional)  
4 cups milk  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg

### Directions:

- In large saucepan, beat together eggs, sugar and salt; stir in 2 cups of the milk. Cook over low heat, stirring constantly, until mixture is thick enough to coat a metal spoon with a thin film. If you have a baking thermometer, make sure the mixture reaches at least 160 degrees F (70 degrees C). Remove pan from heat.
- Stir remaining 2 cups milk and vanilla extract into the mixture.
- Cover and refrigerate until thoroughly chilled; several hours or overnight.
- When serving, garnish with nutmeg.



## SWEET POTATO CLASSIC

5 sweet potatoes  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
1/4 cup butter  
2 eggs  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1/2 teaspoon ground  
cinnamon  
1/2 cup white sugar  
2 tablespoons heavy  
cream  
1/4 cup butter, softened  
3 tablespoons all-purpose flour  
3/4 cup packed light brown sugar  
1/2 cup chopped pecans



### Directions:

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Lightly grease a 9x13 inch baking dish.
- Bake sweet potatoes 35 minutes in pre-heated oven, or until they begin to soften. Cool slightly, peel, and mash.
- In a large bowl, mix the mashed sweet potatoes, salt, 1/4 cup butter, eggs, vanilla extract, cinnamon, sugar and heavy cream. Transfer to the prepared baking dish.
- In a medium bowl, combine 1/4 cup butter, flour, brown sugar, and chopped pecans. Mix to the consistency of course meal. Sprinkle over the sweet potato mixture.
- Bake 30 minutes in the preheated oven, until topping is crisp and lightly browned.

Source: <http://christmas.allrecipes.com>





# Four Directions:



## News from the Greater Aboriginal Community

### *“In Cree village, there’s no place like home”*

*By Ingrid Peritz*

*In this new column, we will be highlighting some of the activities and achievements of Aboriginal and people throughout the country, beginning with a small Cree community in Northern Quebec...*

Suzanne Bosum-Bush’s living room looks like a page from a home-décor magazine, with its burnished hardwood floors, walls in Santa Fe earth tones, and scenic lake views. Still, it’s unlikely she’ll get a visit any time soon from the Martha Stewarts of the world.

That’s because her home is a tad remote—725 kilometres north of Montreal. Mrs. Bosum-Bush is a Cree who lives in Ouje-Bougoumou, an aboriginal community carved out of the wilderness of Northern Quebec. Many residents, such as Mrs. Bosum-Bush, are owning and caring for homes for the first time in their tumultuous lives.

As first ministers and native leaders meeting in Kelowna, B.C., target home ownership as a means of improving the lives of aboriginals in Canada, they won’t find a better inspiration than Mrs. Bosum-Bush and her house. Her entire village of 750 has been designated one of the

50 model communities worldwide by the United Nations.

A majority of the Cree here own their homes, an exception to the rule in reserves across Canada. Like Ms. Bosum-Bush, they helped conceive, build and now maintain them.

The village’s tidy homes and fenced-in lawns defy the stereotypes of disrepair associated with many reserves in Canada. Here, native leaders say, residents feel pride and responsibility for what they’ve built, and home ownership has given them a stake in looking after their properties, as well as their community.

“Elsewhere, you ask for shelter for you and your family, you put your name down and wait. It’s very passive,” said Abel Bosum, the former chief who led the fight for self-government by the Ouje-Bougoumou Cree. “Home ownership gives a real sense of pride. Young people believe they have rights, believe they’re empowered to make decisions and assume responsibilities. These are big changes in natives’ lives.”

Ouje-Bougoumou marks the culmination of a remarkable struggle. Until they built their com-

munity in the early 1990s, the Cree of Ouje-Bougoumou lived in crude tarpaper and plywood shacks along the highway, without electricity and running water, in conditions comparable to the Third World. They were in constant displacement, forcibly relocated and dispersed at least seven times since the 1920s.

After a hard-fought battle, they reached deals with Quebec and Ottawa and a pledge to be included in the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement. In 1992, Ottawa agreed to contribute \$42-million for construction of their village, including a \$13-million fund to manage their own housing.

Then they got to work.

Residents began to plan and choose what kinds of homes they wanted, how many rooms they needed, even whether they wanted to pay more for upgrades such a cathedral ceilings or ceramic floors.

Today, pride of ownership shows. The homes have aboriginal touches and designs, including wood exteriors, but the streets look like a slice of southern suburbia. People began to

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care so much about property upkeep that Mrs. Bosum-Bush saw a niche for a landscaping business.

Two years ago, she began Sheskatuk Enterprise; she had seven employees this summer tending to people's lawns and planting trees and flowers. This winter, she'll be plowing driveways. Good thing, too—people are gearing up for the annual Christmas contest, in which neighbours compete for the best decorations inside and outside their homes. Unfortunately for them, Mrs. Bosum-Bush has had the competition pretty much sewn up. She tended to win every year.

The gentle-spoken woman still marvels at how her people created their own community. Tears well in her eyes at the memory of the day 12 years ago when she moved into her home after years of displacement and hardship.

"It's a blessing to be here," she said in her luminous living room, with its views of Lake Opemisca. "The day I moved in, I said to myself, 'I can't believe it. Look where we are, and look where we came from.'" The community-run housing program contributes 50 per cent of the cost of building the homes; homeowners repay the remainder as a mortgage. Ouje-Bougoumou's housing program is geared to income, so no one pays more than 25 per cent of family revenue.

As loans are repaid, the money is poured back into the housing program, which reinvests it to build more homes. This week, work-

men were hammering frames for the front doors of new houses going up in Ouje-Bougoumou. Local residents, mostly young couples, vie to land one of them.

"Moving into my own home is a dream," said Olga Wapachee, 30, an aspiring dental hygienist who is renting an apartment but planning to buy. "Owning a home makes a big difference. You feel it's more respectable. And having a house in Ouje-Bougoumou is like living in the bush, with your own chalet."

Ownership has had a profound effect on older residents, who recall the deprivations of the bush.

"It's like we came from the scrap shacks, then we come to this, a house," recalls Anna Bosum, 74, who once cared for 11 children in a one-room shack. "I feel it's something we achieved. We stuck together."

Private home ownership isn't feasible for all aboriginal communities. It works in Ouje-Bougoumou because the community enjoys economic self-reliance—unemployment is relatively low at 20 per cent—and a semi-autonomous local government employs many residents.

Still, it remains an inspiration. The Crees here set out to build a modern and architecturally harmonious village. They hired Douglas Cardinal, the architect of the Canadian Museum of Civilization, to design it. Completed in 1993, Ouje-Bougoumou has unmistakable aboriginal architecture with the services of a well-run Canadian town, from a state-



*The village design is circular, with the shaptuwan (traditional meeting place for feasts) central and at the top of the hill. The inner two rings are lined with community buildings, reflecting the culture of sharing.*

of-the-art health clinic to a sports complex, daycare and a seniors home.

It has also earned recognition for putting a philosophy of sustainable development into practice, with a heating system fuelled by waste sawdust from nearby mills.

And Ouje-Bougoumou continues to be a source of hope. Families who pay off their initial housing loan can get second loans for home renovations. Mrs. Bosum-Bush is talking about adding wood mouldings to her living room. And then there's fixing up those picture windows.

"I'm not finished," she said. "There is still plenty to do."

And there's more good news for the people of Ouje-Bougoumou. Mrs. Bosum-Bush is voluntarily sitting out this year's Christmas decoration contest. "I thought I'd step down," she said good-naturedly yesterday, "and give somebody else a chance to win."

*Reprinted with permission from The Globe and Mail.*

## 20 Sewells Road Building Development Fund Donors

### **Platinum Donors:**

Adams, Masin &  
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### **Gold Donors:**

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National Bank Financial  
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### **Silver Donors:**

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### **Bronze Donors:**

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Serpent River First Nation  
Brian Taheny  
Lynne Vallis  
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Wiggins Paralegal Ltd.

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# Christmas Comedy

**Why does Santa's sled get such good mileage?**

*Because it has long-distance runners on each side.*

**What is a skunk's favourite holiday song?**

*Jingle Smells.*

**Who delivers presents to baby sharks at Christmas?**

*Santa Jaws.*

**Why did the gingerbread man go to the doctor?**

*Because he was feeling crummy.*

**What do elves learn in school?**

*The Elf-abet.*

**What do you have in December that you don't have in any other month?**

*The letter D.*

**If Santa rode a motorcycle, what kind would it be?**

*A Holly Davidson.*

**What do aliens say when they land in the North Pole?**

*Take me to your heater.*



*Source: <http://www.corsinet.com/braincandy/jkxmas.html>*

## REUSE & RECYCLE

During the holiday season, there is always something to reduce, reuse and recycle...

- Make gift tags, cards and decorations from last year's holiday cards.
- Save wrapping paper, cards, boxes, ribbons and bows for next year.
- Use gift bags, boxes and tins which can be used for many years.
- When shopping, bring your own bags or put new purchases inside bags you already have.
- Give gifts with minimal packaging.

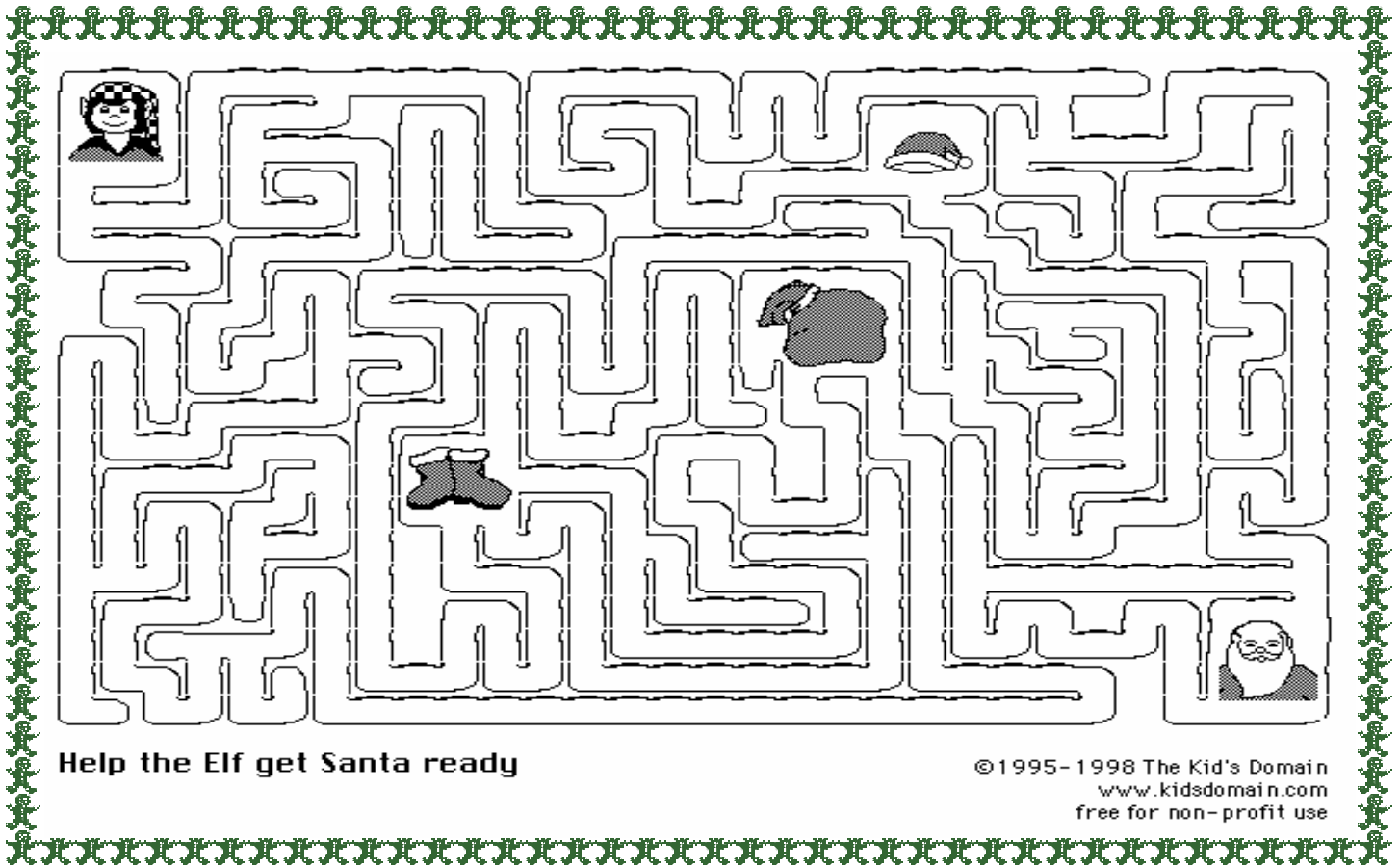
**Remember:**

All used wrapping paper, paper and cardboard packaging can be recycled in your Blue Box.

*Source: City of Toronto 2005/6 Curbside Collection Calendar*



# Kids' Christmas Stuff!



## CLOWN ORNAMENT

A fun clown ornament to add to your tree or tie on a present.

### **What You Need:**

- White ping pong ball
- Markers
- Dark pink felt
- Yellow felt
- Pink pom-pom
- Hot glue gun and glue sticks
- Scissors
- Thin gold cording or ribbon



### **How To Make It:**

1. Draw the face of the clown onto the ping pong ball with the markers.
2. Cut a circle 3.5 inches in diameter out of the dark pink felt.
3. Form the circle into a cone shape and hot glue the edges.
4. Fold up the bottom to form the hat.
5. Cut out several circles from the yellow felt and glue them onto the hat.
6. Glue the pink pom-pom to the top of the hat.
7. Hot glue the hat onto the clown's head.
8. Tie the gold ribbon or cord into a loop and glue behind the hat.

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A Housing Project for  
Native People

# Holiday Office Hours

(for all of Wigwamen offices)

**Friday December 23: 9 a.m. - 12 noon**

**Monday December 26: CLOSED**

**Tuesday December 27: CLOSED**

**Wednesday December 28: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

**Thursday December 29: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

**Friday December 30: 9 a.m. - 12 noon**

**Monday January 2: CLOSED**

## Zero Balance Club

Nicole Young, Gary & Teresa McKay, Suzette Darby, Tina Neshkawa,  
Cindy Jacko, Daisy Hahnfeld, Evelyn LeTourneau, Ken King,  
Valerie Garrison, Sandra Neshkawa, Mary Howk, Elizabeth Wemigwans,  
Kathrena Green, Josephine Millette, Gail Thomas, Fred & Olive Wesley,  
Alex MacInnis, Hella Von Dehn, Sheila Wyldes, Dorothy Stewart,  
Lee Harper, Mary Chakasim, Maryanne Morningstar, George Toth,  
Linda Wilson, Agnes Sagetcheway, Brenda Folz, Simone Keshrino,  
Sarah Recollet, Janet Bellefeuille, Thelma Elliott, David Wiszinowski,  
Marlene Henry, Stanley Anglin, Patrick Migwans, Norma Coté,  
Donna DeBassige, Mary Hookimawillillene, Crystal Viens.

And announcing new winner:

*Elizabeth Wemigwans*

who wins a \$50 gift certificate to Dominion Stores.