

2021 KETEGAUNSEEBEE (GARDEN RIVER) POWWOW

September 24, 2021



Introduction

Ketegaunseebee – Garden River First Nation has an annual powwow every year. This year the powwow was held on Saturday, August 21st and Sunday, August, 22nd 2021. “Honoring Residential School Survivors” was the theme. The committee chose the theme to acknowledge all Residential School and Indian Day Schools, of the past. It was important to recognize impacts to the findings of all the unmarked graves of the children found at the schools. The 2 day powwow took place at the Garden River Ball Fields. The 2021 Annual Ketegaunseebee (Garden River) Powwow is growing each year with participants, dancers, drummers, and spectators.

Background

To kickstart the planning and organizing of the ceremony, the powwow committee held their first meeting on June 23rd, 2021. The powwow committee provided a briefing, budget, and Covid-19 recommendations to Chief and Council on July 13th, 2021 and was granted full support by consensus of Chief and Council. The powwow committee met every Wednesday for 9 weeks to prepare and plan the 2021 Powwow. There was plenty of items that needed to be covered in such little time while planning for the ceremony. This year the committee created a GRFN Powwow website to assist with our online registrations and to provide information. Once the final poster was complete, it was shared via social media and rapidly spread the word across powwow country. Through social media GRFN has guests from Toronto to Thunder Bay and a lot of First Nation’s from within the surrounding areas. It was a pleasure to see and welcome the guests to GRFN territory.

Financials

Category	Total
Honorariums & Payouts	\$ 36,800.00
Travel	\$ 2,153.07
Materials & Supplies	\$ 5,221.18
Miscellaneous	\$ 3,075.50
Sub-Contracts	\$ 2,505.12
Equipment Rental	\$ 4,316.59
Total Expenses	\$ 54,071.46
Fundraising (revenue)	\$ 21,540.15

Head Powwow Participants

This year, our head drum group was ***Rolling Thunder*** from Thunder Bay. Even though we did not have a co-host drum we did have 6 other drums: *15D*, *Wolf Cloud*, *Nishnabe Nation*, *Good Time Ojibwe*, *Big Train* and *Burning Plains*. The sound of the drums is very powerful and creates an environment filled with emotions, happiness, and positive energy. Miigwetch to all the drums who participated.

Peter Jones and late **Shirley Roach** were the 2021 elders for the powwow. Peter Jones offered his knowledge through prayers at the 1st Grand Entry. Shirley’s words of wisdom during her prayer and speech at the 2nd Grand Entry was very powerful and emotional.



A Chi- Miigwetch to **Darrell Boissoneau** for being our Master of Ceremonies (MC). Darrell's willingness to step up in a time of need was greatly appreciated. Darrell's ability to MC kept the powwow in order while allowing time for fun throughout the agenda.

Kevin Syrette was the Arena Director for this year's powwow. Kevin's knowledge and abilities to provide accurate protocols and structure to the powwow's agenda does not go without recognition for a successful and well-organized ceremony. Kevin's expertise surrounding the contest specials and other fun dances allows the dancers and spectators to feel like they are apart of the powwow and community.

Greg Boissoneau was the Fire Keeper who maintained the sacred fire throughout the ceremony

This year **Bnaaswi Biaaswah** was the head veteran.

Tobacco was offered to **Barbara Nolan** to speak and share stories of the Residential Schools related the theme. Her gracious words were well received by the guests at the powwow. A moment of silence, special prayer and honor song was provided in recognition of all former students, survivors, descendants, and those who passed away while at the schools. The heart felt moments was a touch of healing that the community needs.

Miigwetch to all the **Staff** and **Flag Carriers** for each grand entry and the retiring of the flags. Their participation during those events brings a strong sense of pride.

Planning/Organizing

The Powwow committee regularly met weekly to plan and organize the 2021 powwow. Many hours were spent with fine detail getting everything prepared. The committee and departments spent lots of time preparing the baseball fields with gravel, cutting grass, grading the road, cleaning the bathrooms, and moving bleachers. A workplan was developed that was reviewed and updated weekly. There were 7 food vendors, 13 craft vendors, 2 information booths and over 150 dancers for the committee to register. The dedication and commitment from the committee was astonishing. An excellent team made an excellent powwow!

COVID-19 Safety Measures

Although the First Nation was faced with the challenge of a pandemic, the committee worked diligently with Tanya Boissoneau, the Pandemic Response Coordinator to ensure all the Covid safety measures and protocols were in place. The committee is happy to report that there were no COVID-19 cases reported or linked to the Garden River Powwow. The assistance from Tanya provided great support to the powwow and ensuring the safety of people was the top priority. Upon entry, all guests were contact traced and received a bag containing a brochure with spectator guidelines, hand sanitizer, and masks. There was also a Covid Vaccine Clinic provided by the Wellness Centre. There were 11 vaccines given. Thank you to the Wellness Team for providing this service. Safety first is key to success, health, and happiness!



Contest Winners

There were more than 150 dancers at the powwow this year however not everyone registered for the contests. Congratulations to all our contest winners. See below the list of the 2021 contest winners:

Category	#	Name
Junior Boys		
1 st	042	Nolan Fox
Junior Girls		
1 st	103	Nizzh Wemigwans
2 nd	130	Waaskone Cleland
3 rd	121	Niimin Hupfield
Teen Boys		
1 st	101	Kallan Pheasant
2 nd	114	Wiingashk Shawana
3 rd	041	Avery Ense
Teen Girls		
1 st	002	Suzy Buring
2 nd	082	Nev Morriseau
3 rd	012	Neveah Pine
Woman's Traditional		
1 st	135	Nicole Eshkakogan
2 nd	132	Viola Recollet
3 rd	127	Angel Recollet
Woman's Fancy		
1 st	061	Deanne Hapfield
2 nd	166	Sarah McGregor
3 rd	167	Tracy Cleland
Woman's Jingle		
1 st	143	Heather Syrette
2 nd	149	Cara Miller
3 rd	160	Daynelle Pyawasit
Men's Traditional		
1 st	184	Joe Syrette
2 nd	180	McKenzie Ottereyes-Eagle
3 rd	185	Steve Achneepineskum
Men's Fancy		
1 st	223	Wassnoden Recollet
2 nd	221	Bnaaswi Biiswah
Men's Grass		
1 st	202	Jeffrey Skyler
2 nd	123	John Hupfield
3 rd	224	Nanook Gordon
Hand Drum Contest		
1 st		Mike Starr
2 nd		Dion Syrette
3 rd		Brock Lewis



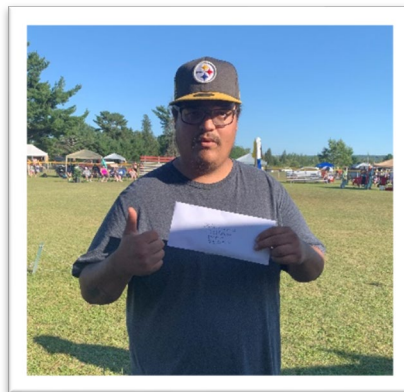
Ogichidaa and Ogichidaa Kwe

Kelvin Boissoneau and Brook-Lynn Boissoneau were the successful candidates for the GRFN 2021-2022 Ogichidaa and Ogichidaa Kwe. Miigwetch to Brooke-Lynn Boissoneau for her time served as Ogichidaa Kwe and passing on the role to Neveah Pine. Kelvin Boissoneau was reappointed as the Ogichidaa. These two young role models are full of energy, respect, and leadership skills.



50/50 Draw

The committee had a 50/50 draw as a fundraiser to help offset powwow expenses. The draw started August 1st, 2021. Overall, we raised \$11,000 with \$5,500 going to the winner. The 50/50 tickets were definitely a huge success. Chi-Miigwetch to everyone who purchased tickets. The winner of the draw was the Pine/Hill Gang (Morley Pine and Marlene Pine). We congratulate the Pine/Hill Gang on their winnings of \$5,500. The picture is the grandson collecting the cash on behalf of the family.



Powwow Committee/Volunteer/Students

A big thumbs up goes out to the Powwow Committee. This year's committee consisted of Kristen Jones (coordinator/chair), Kailyn Boissoneau, Gary Boissoneau, Amanda Cress, Cindy Belleau-Jones, Steve Nolan, Richard Pine, Tyler Pine and Trevor Solomon. The success of the powwow shows the committee did an excellent job. All the hard work and dedication is greatly appreciated!

The volunteers and students all ensured that everyone enjoyed the ceremony. They assisted at various locations and areas of the powwow. A thank you is extended to all those people working behind the scenes at the Powwow and to those we may have forgotten to mention. All support from departments such as the Fire Hall, Public Works, and Wellness Centre and to all the summer students and volunteers is tremendously appreciated. Miigwetch to Tyia McKenzie, Zac Zeppa, Tia Wynne, Ronald Clark, Wayne Jones-Reid, Steve Day-Nolan, Dwayne Boissoneau, Dakota Cress, Xander Cress, Grant Syrette, Hailee Jones, Destinee Bailey, Meaghan Syrette and Brandi Nolan. The volunteers ensured the powwow ran smoothly and efficiently.

Sponsorships

Chi-Miigwetch goes out to the sponsors who helped the powwow be as successful as it could. Chi-Miigwetch to Nogdawindamin, Nahwegahbow, Corbiere, Tulloch Engineering and Algoma Power. These sponsorships allowed the powwow to flourish.



Evaluation/Recommendations

Overall, the 2021 Powwow was a huge hit. Some recommendations to review for next year's powwow are items such as sound system set up location, parking, and registration. The powwow received lots of praise for the location, accessibility, and Covid-19 safety plans in place. All these factors played a huge role in the turn out for the Powwow. The powwow committee will be taking in all the recommendations to help make the 2022 Powwow even more successful.



