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Ahnee (Hello)!

A beautiful sunny day here in northern Michigan! I hope everyone has made their holiday plans and completed the necessary shopping. I know that for Christmas, my wife and I have a few more presents to buy so I may see of you fellow “procrastinators” on Friday!

2010 has been an extremely rewarding year for GTB, and myself personally. Looking back and knowing that 2009 with the economic downturn, really had a major affect on all governments, I look forward to a stronger market and the needed rebuilding of our economy. I look forward to working with Gov-Elect Snyder’s Administration on behalf of GTB, Michigan Tribal Nations and all citizens of our great State!

This month (12/11/10) marked my second year as Tribal Chairman, and I stand committed to working just as hard (or even more) through my term ending in May 2012. There is still more that needs to be accomplished and driven forward. I have met some incredible individuals so far, and what is exciting to me, is I know there are many more to meet in our area!

I am off next week on vacation, spending needed time with my family, and I will be back in the new year. On behalf of my family, GTB and as Tribal Chairman, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Please take time to be with family and friends and enjoy those precious moments. Until next year...



12.10.10 On Friday evening, I attended the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa’s “Family Holiday Party”. This dinner was held in Governor’s Hall and we had a great turn out! In the first picture, Donald Ponniah, GTRS President & General Manager) makes opening remarks and recognized the Resort’s excellent staffing and all the hard everyone does! The Tribal Council is also extremely pleased and proud of the commitment and dedication to the Resort property by Resort employees – Megwetch!



12.14.10 With Donald Ponniah (GTRS President & GM), presenting a \$1,000 check to David Abeel of the Father Fred Foundation. This money will go towards the food pantry and helping meet some of the food needs for northern MI citizens!



12.18.10 A very well-known GTB Elder and tribal citizen, Gerald Anderson, celebrated his 80th birthday on Saturday. Gerald, with many calling him “Uncle”, has touched numerous lives in the recovery world. Uncle, again, Happy Birthday! You are an amazing person. (He is pictured above with his granddaughter, Kim Anderson)



(Indian Country Today photo)

12.15.10 Prior to the Tribal Nations Conference, President Obama met with 12 Tribal Leaders for the 12 regions that make up Indian Country (GTB is in the Midwest Region). From our area, Fond du Lac Band Chairwoman Karen Diver (<http://www.fdlrez.com>), was selected by the White House to represent our area. I want to thank the MI leadership that nominated by name for possible selection for this event (each region could pick three, and then the WH selected from the three names put forth).



12.16.10 Tribal Leaders making their way into the Department of Interior building for the Tribal Nations Conference. It was a little cold this morning, but not that bad when compared to the weather in Michigan on this day



12.16.10 President Obama speaks to the Leadership attending the 2nd Tribal Nations Conference. To view his speech, and other information related to this event, please click here: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2009/11/05/white-house-tribal-nations-conference>



12.16.10 Part of the Tribal Nations Conference, break-out sessions were held for Leadership to attend. I attended the “Government-to-Government” session. After lunch, and more discussion, (2nd above picture) Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs Larry Echo Hawk and DOI Secretary Ken Salazar making closing comments (<http://www.doi.gov/index.cfm>).



12.16.10 Also attending the Tribal Nations Conference were: (1st picture) Kim Teehee (WH Senior Policy Advisor for Native American Affairs; and we are standing by GTB's Tribal Flag in the Sidney R. Yates Auditorium of the Department of Interior); 2nd picture - Dr. Yvette Robideaux (Indian Health Services, Director) and KBIC President Chris Swartz (Keweenaw Bay Indian Community; who is standing by his Nation's Tribal Flag in the Auditorium).



12.20.10 With the thoughtful invite, I attended GTB's Natural Resources Department's Holiday Luncheon. We definitely appreciate the hard work and dedicated commitment by our Natural Resources Department and Conservation Law Enforcement Department for their vigilance to upholding and protecting our treaty rights as defined through the signing of the Treaty of Washington; Treaty of 1836. Megwetch!!



12.21.10 I appreciated the visit and opportunity to meet with Doug Luciani (President & CEO) and Tino Breithaupt (Senior Vice President of Economic Development) from the Traverse Area Chamber of Commerce (www.tcchamber.org). These two inspiring individuals are focused on building our local Region and economy. I definitely look forward to further developing our working relationship through my term so that a strong cornerstone has been developed.



12.21.10 Kimberly Purdy, from Special Olympics Michigan (<http://www.somi.org>), visited with me regarding this year's Winter Games that are again being held at the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa this February (<http://www.somi.org/Upcoming-Events/2011-State-Winter-Games.html>). I was also asked to MC the Closing Ceremonies and what a great event this truly is. It is the purest form of competitive energy you will ever experience, with dedicated athletes and coaches!



12.21.10 I met with Sam Porter, of Porter House Productions (www.porterhouseproductions.com), at the Blue Tractor in Traverse City. I always get energized about possibilities for our Region when I speak with Sam. Please visit his website to learn more about his local promotions on exciting events!



12.22.10 This morning I met with Gary Schilkey (Branch Manager Northern Offices) and David Hood (Director of Sales & Marketing) of Engineered Protection Systems (EPS – www.EpsSecurity.com). GTB and EPS have enjoyed a 10-year working relationship, and GTB is one of the top 75 EPS customers (of 4,200 accounts; business and residential)! And, EPS is a Michigan-based and locally-owned and operated business.

GTB Staff Appreciation Holiday Luncheon (12/22/10):



HOUSING PROJECT UPDATE (PESHAWBESTOWN):



GTB Housing projects right on schedule! Tenants in spring!

TURTLE CREEK CASINO AND HOTEL

- aerial photo taken by Elmer's (showing all the roads, parking lots and landscaping that was completed):



Have a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and enjoy the Happy (and safe) Holiday Season!

Chairman Bailey



(Photo courtesy of the TC Record Eagle; Jan-Michael Stump)

www.gtbindians.org

“A Nation grows stronger when built upon shared visions.”