

Humbled and honored to serve tribal nation again



**CATHERINE HOLLOWELL,
DIRECTOR, UNIT II**

Chi miigwech for your support in my recent bid for re-election to the tribal council representing our beautiful Unit II region. I remain humbled and honored to serve my tribal nation again.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Joan Carr Anderson, D.J. Malloy and Debra Ann Pine for their service and sacrifice to our tribe. They share in the progress that we have made during these last four years.

Through good times and hard times, each of them gave from the bottom of their hearts. I am sincerely grateful for their leadership.

A special thank you my loves, Richard, Rob and Mike for standing tall and keeping me strong during a very difficult campaign — and all my relations for your prayers and support. And a special thank you to those who have always had faith in me to lead in a good way.

Congratulations to Denise Chase, Keith Massway, Kim Gravelle, DJ Hoffman and Rita Glyptis. I am excited and look forward to working with you on behalf of our tribal nation.

And so, election season 2014 is over. Thank goodness. It wasn't pretty. More "hair on fire" rhetoric, manufactured fibs and staged political theater than any meaningful discussion of policy or issues. I don't believe these tactics helped anyone's campaign and may have contributed to the low voter turnout. There is some truth in the Jim Morrison

quote, "Who controls the media, controls the mind." Surely, freedom of speech and liberty are sacred values. But so are truth, honesty, respect and "autonomy of thought." Access to accurate information, reliance on "good common sense" and resistance to letting others do our thinking for us — those principles will help us stay focused in the right direction. And I will do everything in my power to ensure we all collectively work together for what is in the best interest of the tribe.

There is much work to be done and I am grateful for the chance to get back down to business. I will be in Washington, D.C., at the end of the month for the semi-annual meeting of the National Tribal Operations Committee with EPA's American Indian Environmental Office. This position represents the 35 tribes in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota. I will be visiting tribal leaders throughout Region 5 later this summer. I think we all recognize how critically our culture and way of life depends

on healthy water, air and land. We have a formidable challenge ahead of us: to gain a strong unified voice among Great Lakes tribes, and to secure a meaningful role in the administrative and regulatory decisions that impact our continued existence as indigenous people and the traditional ecological knowledge we carry. I will do my very best to serve but could not do it without the tremendous contribution of the environmental and natural resource staff from all the tribes in Region 5, especially the Michigan Tribal Environmental Group. Chi miigwech to every one of you!

COMING EVENTS:

The YEA youth powwow is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 2, at the Rexton powwow grounds.

The 21st annual Gathering of Eagles Powwow in Hessel is on Aug. 15-17.

The seventh annual Honoring the Waters Powwow takes place in Newberry on Saturday, Sept. 6.

Please come out and support our youth, our drums and have fun together as we celebrate

another blessed season. I'm looking forward to seeing you there.

A reminder that language classes are held every Tuesday, 2-3:30 p.m., at the Newberry Tribal Community Center.

Elders' meals are provided on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at the Hessel Tribal Community Center at noon.

Hessel Elders Subcommittee meets after the noon lunch on the third Mondays of the month; Newberry Elders meet at 11 a.m. on the third Fridays of the month at Zellers; and Naubinway Elders meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum on the last Wednesdays of the month.

Summer is moving swiftly. Pretty soon we will notice our days growing shorter. Enjoy the family reunions, the great outdoors and your summer travels. Feel free to contact me anytime with your questions, ideas and concerns.

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