



FALL 2024

Rossbrook House Circle

Rossbrook House



"No child who does not want to be alone, should ever have to be" -Sister Geraldine MacNamara

Meet Mitchell: Indigenous Way of Life Coordinator

"Boozhoo, Waabi Mashkooz Inini Niindizhinikaaz, Mahkwa Niindoodum, Black River Niindoojibaa, Minogizhigad, Hello, my spirit name is White Elk Man and my name is Mitchell Boulette. I am Anishinaabe from Black River First Nation and Eddystone, MB."

Last month **Mitchell Boulette** joined Rossbrook House as the Indigenous Way of Life Coordinator. Mitchell will support programming, participants, staff, the community, and the students in the three Rossbrook House schools (in partnership with Winnipeg School Division).

"Mitchell comes to us with many experiences that will provide an impact for Rossbrook House," Executive Director, Patty Mainville, explains. "Mitchell has a connection to the late Dale Missyabit, who was a visionary in the early days of Rossbrook House. Dale dreamed of having a cultural person on staff to help immerse our youth with a strong sense of self, while exposing them to experiences to explore who they are as Indigenous peoples."

Rossbrook House is open 365 days a year and 24 hours on weekends and all school



holidays. Mitchell will work a variety of shifts throughout the week to connect with children and youth of all ages. He will plan outings to the sweat lodge, teach participants the significance of smudging and living a balance lifestyle utilizing the teachings of the medicine wheel, be a connection to the community, as well as provide resources to the many unhoused 18- to 24-year-olds who drop in to Rossbrook House during overnight shifts, looking for a meal and a safe place.

"Rossbrook House is a very important community resource, especially for youth and I am grateful and honored to be a part of the Rossbrook House Family," Mitchell says. "I am looking forward to working and learning alongside the youth and community relatives. It is very important to create a positive connection back to our Indigenous identity through traditions and ceremonies which can help promote healing and learning to our youth and community in a good way."

A large percentage of Rossbrook House participants are Indigenous. This newly created role will help to create regular cultural programs that will help to revitalize and preserve **Indigenous cultural knowledge** while instilling pride in the children and youth as they learn more about their **rich heritage**.



We'd love to see you at the
**ROSSBROOK HOUSE
OPEN HOUSE, Thursday,
November 7 at 11am.**
Everyone is welcome!

STAY IN TOUCH



rossbrookhouse.ca
204.949.4090

Meet the Staff

With memories of summer still fresh, Rossbrook House staff are planning fall and winter programming. The Young Mothers' program is running once a week thanks to Coordinator, Lori. Participants are getting help with spelling, reading, and math in Learning Always, thanks to Sheila and Autumn. There are drop-in music lessons, van rides, cultural programs, daily meals being made in the Rossbrook House kitchen, and safe rides home each night.

Kody Marsden is sharing his love of sports and teaching the participants basketball skills, engaging them with soccer games, swimming outings, and a variety of fun programs. Kody started this past July as the Energy Plus (ages 6 to 11) Coordinator but has been involved with Rossbrook House as a participant since he was six years old.

"Rossbrook House provides a lot of opportunities, employment/volunteering, programs, outings and fun activities and has a family-like environment", Kody said.

"Rossbrook House sets a valuable example of what it is to be a community centre that not only provides for the youth but serves the community around them", Kody added.

In September, **Justine Carandang** started in her new role as the Programs & Operations Manager. Since July 2020 Justine was the Management Support Coordinator but has a long history with Rossbrook House.

"As a past participant I was awarded many opportunities and experiences that I would have otherwise not had," Justine said. "Two programs that have stuck with me are Mini University, where I made lifelong friends, and the Basketball Program run by the late Carl Ridd, Sister Margaret, and my mom Sheila Chippastance."

Thank you to all Rossbrook House staff who welcome the children and youth each day, and help to ensure that Rossbrook House remains a safe place to belong, play, learn and become...

"I am excited for what the future holds for our new generation of Rossbrook House children and youth, and how we can provide a positive impact on their lives," Justine added.



Ways to Support Rossbrook House

Rossbrook House Foundation is constantly working to support Rossbrook House programs and operations through a variety of events including 50/50 raffles, the Fall Gathering luncheon, the No Child Alone Dinner, paint afternoons, and more. **You can help by spreading the word about Rossbrook House and the work being done for children and youth.** And join us at a future event. We'd love to see you.

In September, the Foundation ventured into the world of online merchandising and offered **orange t-shirts** in a variety of adult sizes. Sales went very well, and the plan is to have another version for 2025, with a contest for the children and youth at Rossbrook House to create the design for the front of the shirt.

"We know most people want to give back to the community when they purchase an orange shirt to wear on September 30 (or any other day)," said Larry McIntosh, Rossbrook House Foundation Chair. "The Rossbrook House Foundation is proudly selling orange shirts to raise funds and awareness for Rossbrook House. Proceeds go to a great organization that ensures children and youth have a safe place – 365 days a year."

The 2024 design was created by **Breanna**, who also designed the Rossbrook House necklace with Hilary Druxman. Breanna created a beautiful image with the colours of the four directions inside a heart with two youth in front. It is stunning and we thank her for sharing her talent with everyone.

Shirts are still available for \$25 plus tax online:

rossbrookhouse.ca/rossbrook-house-orange-t-shirt/

The **Rossbrook House necklace** is available through Hilary Druxman for \$40 with proceeds going to Rossbrook House programs.

rossbrookhouse.ca/rossbrook-house-necklace/

The final draw for the 'We All Win' raffle is **October 31**. If you don't have your tickets yet, go online:

www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/rossbrook-house

More information about the Foundation is available online:

rossbrookhouse.ca/foundation/

Thank you for your continued support.



Summer included 24-hour days all of July and August. The participants were kept busy with outings to parks, playgrounds and pools, Camp Maskwa, and daily playroom activities.

Camp Maskwa includes tubing, boating and fishing with **Warren Goulet** at the wheel. Warren was one of the original youth who helped create Rossbrook House decades ago with Sister Geraldine MacNamara. He retired this past summer, and we thank him for his guidance and wish him all the best!

Children and youth competed in indoor and outdoor sports and activities during the Summer Games, the last week of August. It's always a great way to cap off the summer.