

SRFN 25th anniversary powwow draws huge gathering

By **LESLIE KNIBBS**
For The Standard

With sunshine and a blue sky overhead, Serpent River First Nation celebrated the 25th Annual Genaabaajing Traditional Powwow Aug. 7 to 9. This year, those attending the event were treated to a spectacular fireworks display the evening of Aug. 8 in celebration of the quarter-century mark.

Throughout the powwow many people were taking pictures and videos with cameras and cellphones. On the powwow's Facebook site, Moonbaby M. Sego commented, "I've never seen anything like this before. The fireworks were spectacular! I loved it! Shared this evening with my daughter and enjoyed this powwow to remember, that's for sure!"

Anyone attending on Saturday and seeing the fireworks was certain to attend on the Sunday after witnessing such a show. And they were not let down. It's not often you see this many dancers and such detailed regalia at a traditional powwow on a relatively small First Nation.

Usually, it is a competitive powwow where big money is won in this province such as the Champion of Champions in Oshewakan, a village on the Six Nations of the Grand River or the Wikwemikong gathering on Manitoulin Island where you see such regalia. It was obvious the dancers went all out for the 25th anniversary.

Driving along the highway, many travelers and vacationers stopped to take part in the celebrations.



LESLIE KNIBBS/FOR THE STANDARD

Dancers were dressed in various types of colourful regalia at Serpent River First Nation's 25th Annual Genaabaajing Traditional Powwow over the weekend.

Others came from distant First Nations to take part in the powwow.

The theme this year was 'Hounouring Our Ancestors.' This year's host drum was Black Lodge with Bear Creek doing cohost duties. Also performing at the powwow was the Genaabaajing Jrz, a group of young men from SRFN.

One of the highlights

on the final day was the mid afternoon 'snake dance.' More than 100 dancers in full regalia performed in the circle. With encouragement from MC Joseph Owl, all of the dancers formed a snake then split into smaller groups of seven to 'do their own thing,' then crossed a symbolic line representing the river.

Both young and old participated in the

dance. If a standing ovation was possible at an event like this, by the response of the crowd after the 'snake dance,' the dancers would have received one and been asked for an encore. It was incredible.

According to one of the organizers, attendance was way up this year with more than 1,000 attending each day. Many participants and visitors camped out at the grounds for the weekend enjoying reunions and camaraderie with friends and family. Members of Serpent River First Nation were welcoming and gracious hosts to the hundreds of visitors making this silver anniversary for the event memorable for everyone.

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ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS OF UNION GAS LIMITED

Union Gas Limited has applied for approval to change its gas commodity, storage and transportation rates effective January 1, 2016.

Learn more. Have your say.

Union Gas Limited has applied to change its rates to better reflect how it supplies natural gas to its customers. The proposed changes include the following:

- A change in the reference price used to set rates on a quarterly basis for a majority of its customers; and
- A change to how it allocates costs to the different types of customers that it serves.

An average residential customer would see the following annual bill impact, but these impacts would only start in 2018:

Residential Customer – Service Area	Approximate Bill Impact
Southern Ontario (Windsor to Hamilton)	Decrease of \$20
Northern Delivery Area (North Bay to Kapuskasing)	Increase of \$26
All Other Delivery Areas	Decrease of \$1.50 – \$51.50

Other customers in Union Gas Limited's service area, including businesses, will also be affected.

THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD IS HOLDING A PUBLIC HEARING

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) will hold a public hearing to consider the application filed by Union Gas.

We will question Union Gas on the case. We will also hear arguments from individuals and from groups that represent the customers of Union Gas. At the end of this hearing, the OEB will decide whether to approve the changes that Union Gas has requested in this application.

The OEB is an independent and impartial public agency. We make decisions that serve the public interest. Our goal is to promote a financially viable and efficient energy sector that provides you with reliable energy services at a reasonable cost.

BE INFORMED AND HAVE YOUR SAY

You have the right to information regarding this application and to be involved in the process.

- You can review the application filed by Union Gas on the OEB's website now.
- You can file a letter with your comments, which will be considered during the hearing.
- You can become an active participant (called an intervenor). Apply by **August 25, 2015** or the hearing will go ahead without you and you will not receive any further notice of the proceeding.
- At the end of the process, you can review the OEB's decision and its reasons on our website.

LEARN MORE

Our file number for this case is **EB-2015-0181**. To learn more about this hearing, find instructions on how to file letters or become an intervenor, or to access any document related to this case, please select the file number **EB-2015-0181** from the list on the OEB website: www.ontarioenergyboard.ca/notice. You can also phone our Consumer Relations Centre at 1-877-632-2727 with any questions.

ORAL VS. WRITTEN HEARINGS

There are two types of OEB hearings – oral and written. The OEB will determine at a later date whether to proceed by way of a written or oral hearing. If you think an oral hearing is needed, you can write to the OEB to explain why by **August 25, 2015**.

PRIVACY

If you write a letter of comment, your name and the content of your letter will be put on the public record and the OEB website. However, your personal telephone number, home address and e-mail address will be removed. If you are a business, all your information will remain public. If you apply to become an intervenor, all information will be public.

This hearing will be held under section 36 of the Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998, S.O. 1998 c.15 (Schedule B).



Ontario Energy Board
Commission de l'énergie de l'Ontario