

NOTTAWASEPPI HURON BAND OF POTAWATOMI
2221 1 1/2 Mile Road
Fulton, MI 49052



Mr. Gil Holliday, Chairperson
Tribal Council
Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi (Bode'wadmi)
2221 1 1/2 Mile Rd. Fulton, MI 49052

Environmental Director is David Jones. Ph: 616-729-5151.

Currently David does not have a staff.

David Jones replaced Doug Craven in 2002, when Doug went back to his tribe (LTBB) in Petoskey as Director.

Dan Kesselring is the **NRCS Tribal Contact** in Marshall, MI. Ph: 616-781-4263, x44.

Official business title: **Huron Potawatomi, Inc.**

The Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi is one of three Potawatomi tribes that are federally recognized in Michigan. The other 2 being the Hannahville Indian Community in Wilson in the Upper Peninsula and the Pokagon Band in Dowagiac.

Regained the federal recognized tribe status **December 19, 1995.**

2000: Constructed a new **Tribal Operations Building** on the 120 acre **Pine Creek Reservation** near Athens in Calhoun County. Tribal operations were previously headquartered at the Reservation and then temporarily located in Battle Creek until the new building was ready.

Natural Resources work:

During the fall of 2001 the Tribe built the Chief Moguago Wetland Dock Project to provide access to the wetlands and Pine Creek at the Pine Creek Reservation. The purpose for the dock was educational and recreational. This was initiated as a BIA Circle of Flight project proposal. BIA provided \$8000 to get the project started. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provided funding (\$2500) and technical

assistance to help complete this project. Contact during that project was Doug Craven, Huron Potawatomi Inc. Environmental Director.

The USDA-NRCS Michigan State Conservationist, Mr. Ronald Williams, will be visiting Branch, Calhoun and Kalamazoo Counties on June 4th, 5th and 6th. He will meet with David Jones to visit the project site on June 5th and, if possible, meet with the Tribal Council Chairperson, another Council Member or a Tribal Council representative at that time.

The Nottawa Creek Watershed Project provided a copy of the Watershed Plan and a copy of the Athens Township Natural Resources Inventory to Doug Craven.

The Environmental Department has developed a nice GIS capability. They provided a public demonstration of the system on GIS Day 2000.

At Doug Craven's request, Dan Kesselring provided information on potential flood prone areas on the proposed Elder housing property in Athens Township. Athens Township does not have FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps. **This was done in what year:_____.**

The Calhoun Conservation District's Groundwater Technician helped the Tribe close 3 abandoned wells in 2000.

In 1999 Huron Potawatomi Inc. developed a Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance for tribal activities. NRCS provided a review of the draft ordinance.

On June 15, 1999, the NRCS State Forester, NRCS State Biologist, a Plant Materials Center representative and two Soil Scientists met at the Reservation to conduct a plants inventory.

Doug Craven attended the Calhoun Conservation District Board meeting on January 26, 1999.

During the January, 1998, Calhoun County contracted David Rusk, Urbanologist, to conduct a study regarding land use trends in Calhoun County. Part of that study was to interview various stakeholder groups about their concerns and issues regarding land use. Dan Kesselring worked with Doug Craven to arrange a meeting between Tribal Representatives and David Rusk

at the Reservation. The representatives included Elders, Tribal Council members and Tribal staff.

The Tribe entered into a Cooperative Agreement with the Calhoun Soil Conservation District in 1979.

Presently there are no gaming enterprises owned by tribe: **As of May 2002,** The Tribe is anticipating Federal approval very soon to start construction of the **Three Fires Casino** at I-94 and Eleven Mile Road between Marshall and Battle Creek.

Tribal Lands: The Tribe does not yet have any land held in Federal Trust. The Pine Creek Reservation has been held in State Trust since 1845. In 1833 the United States Government forcibly removed the Potawatomi west of the Mississippi River. Potawatomi resistance resulted in the formation of 6 distinct bands, one of which is the Nottawaseppi Huron Band. In 1845, William and Louise Booth, in conjunction with then Governor of Michigan John Barry, established a land trust (for 80 acres) on behalf to the band using the tribe's annuity money. In 1848, J.K. Lapham, Assistant Secretary under President James Polk, made a similar conveyance (of 40 acres) on behalf of the Tribe. The deeds are registered in Calhoun County. Since that time the 120 acres has been exempt from State taxation and the stipulated trusteeship has passed from Governor Barry to each of his successors.

Note on Education: Doug Craven is not Potawatomi, **but rather an Odawa and member of the Little Traverse Bay Band.** Doug attended Western Michigan University, so WMU might be a place for recruitment activities.

Departments of the tribe: The Tribe has Housing and Health Departments. The Tribe also has a second office in Grand Rapids.

Natural Resources concerns: The principle concerns of the tribe are to develop businesses to provide income and to provide housing for the elderly near the Pine Creek Reservation. Doug Craven was promoting wetland protection and water quality, but the land use decisions are actually made in other departments. **Doug was also very much involved in the plant materials program and was getting plants for the tribe from the PMC.**

The Tribe wants to preserve and protect the original 120 acres held in Trust and would like to develop a community around it. They are also interested in preserving

native plants, especially culturally important ones, and reintroducing cultural plants if needed. The Black Ash tree is particularly important to them. A recent 100 year history of the Calhoun County Fair had pictures of Potawatomi women bringing baskets made of Black Ash to the fair to sell.

Natural resource issues: There is a County Drain that passes through the Reservation west of the Tribal Operations Building. I've heard the claim that the drain is polluted with agricultural runoff and several people have been sickened by this.

As far as we know, there aren't any Tribal members involved in agriculture. However, gardening might be an area of interest. Doug Craven tried to set up a community garden in the past.

Annual Powwow: The Leonard Pamp Memorial Pow Wow is held each summer near Burlington.

The 1998 National Gathering of the Potawatomi Tribes was held at the Pine Creek Reservation.

A Historical overview from Potawatomi WebPages:

Huron Potawatomi

The Huron Band originally was located near Detroit, Michigan. They were not completely able to escape during the time of removal. The soldiers gathered some and sent them to Kansas in 1840. Some escaped and gradually got some of their land back. In 1845, they received about 40 acres from a bill signed by President Polk. In 1848, they added about 80 more acres. Later, some Potawatomi became U.S. citizens and bought their own land during the late 1800s. They lost their recognition by the federal government in 1902 and have been working to get that back since then. In 1995, the Bureau of Indian Affairs announced that the Huron Potawatomi were once again a federally recognized tribe.

Today, the band consists of about 600 members. In 1970, they made changes in the leadership of the band. Instead of having traditional chiefs lead the tribe, they now

have a chairman and a council elected by the people to lead them. They are beginning to make improvements in their way of life.

They are currently working to keep Potawatomi ceremonial grounds from being destroyed near Chelsea, Michigan. The grounds are believed to contain Indian artifacts and possibly were a burial ground. Developers want to build a new road in this area, but the Indians want to preserve the area.

Article: Possibly from 2000?

New Emmett Township Casino in Michigan is Planned by Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi

BATTLE CREEK, Mich., Dec. 14 /PRNewswire/ -- The Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi casino in Emmett Township near Battle Creek will be a major economic development boost for the entire county, Amos Day, chairman of the tribe, and Robert Vincent, vice president for business development of Dreamport, Inc., told reporters today.

The casino, to be located alongside I-94 at Exit 104, just east of Battle Creek, is expected to create about 600 direct jobs, have a payroll of more than \$18 million annually, and provide local and state governments with about \$10 million in new revenues, they told reporters.

Their comments came the day after tribal officials led by Chairman Day delivered to the Bureau of Indian Affairs the tribe's application to take property into trust for the tribe's use. That application seeks to have the federal government accept into trust about 350 acres of property, including land near Athens and Bradley, and the 79 acres of property to be used for gaming in Emmett Township.

"We are pleased to use the opportunity provided us by the federal and state government to create a casino that will benefit the Calhoun County area and our tribe. We will at last have revenues to provide the care for our oldest and youngest tribal members, ensure adequate health services for all, create jobs and help develop homes and services on the Pine Creek Reservation," said Day.

Vincent said the project will cost about \$60 million to build. Anticipated revenue for the facility will be about \$100 million to \$125 million a year, drawing customers from Indiana, Ohio and all over Michigan, including the metro Detroit area.

Vincent was representing Gaming Entertainment Michigan (GEM), a Michigan company formed by Dreamport, Inc. and Full House Resorts to work with the tribe to develop gaming opportunities and to construct and manage gaming facilities.

"We expect this will be a regional destination for tourists, helping to bring people to nearby hotels, restaurants and other attractions," said Vincent. "The tribe and GEM are committed to working with local tourism and economic development officials to

ensure that the entire area receives the maximum possible benefit from the new casino."

The new facility will be developed in two phases, covering about 200,000 square feet when completed. Construction will begin as soon as the federal government completes approval of the tribe's application to take land into trust, hopefully before the end of next year.

"We have much work to do," said Day. "But this announcement is a historic milestone for our tribe and all of Calhoun County."

The Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi gained federal recognition as a sovereign nation in 1995 by the federal government. The tribe has about 500 members, most living in western Michigan. The tribe has a historic reservation near Athens, but currently has no property held in trust for its use by the federal government. The tribe received state approval to build and operate a casino in Calhoun County when the Legislature in 1998 approved the compact the tribe had negotiated with Gov. Engler.

Dreamport, a wholly owned subsidiary of GTECH Corporation, provides gaming technology and a comprehensive array of management, development and strategic planning services to the gaming and entertainment market. Currently, Dreamport is involved with gaming programs in jurisdictions in the United States, Brazil, Switzerland, Spain and Canada.

Full House Resorts, Inc. is a developer of destination resorts and entertainment, gaming and commercial centers.