

# QUARTER 4 NEWS



Quarterly Newsletter

www.mattagamiaki.ca



Freshly installed ice at the Mattagami First Nation community rink, preparing the arena for the 2025–2026 winter season.

## Community Infrastructure Upgrade at the Odamino Centre

By: Trentin Thomas

### Odamino Centre Ice Cooling System Upgrade

The Odamino Centre marked a significant step forward with the installation of a new ice cooling system beneath the concrete floor of the rink. This investment was made to ensure reliable ice conditions following challenges during the previous winter season, when warmer-than-usual temperatures prevented the ice from freezing consistently. As climate patterns continue to shift, the community recognized the need for a long-term solution.

In recent years, the rink was upgraded from an outdoor structure with a roof to a fully enclosed indoor arena. While this improvement expanded opportunities for year-round use and better protection from the elements, it also highlighted

new operational challenges. Without sustained freezing temperatures, the facility could not open reliably for public use, limiting access for youth programs, recreation, and community events.

The new cooling system allows the rink to maintain stable ice regardless of outdoor temperatures, removing dependence on cold weather conditions. By installing the system beneath the concrete floor, the Odamino Centre can now offer safer, higher-quality ice and a longer, more predictable skating season. This upgrade strengthens the rink's role as a central gathering place for the community.

Looking ahead, this investment reflects Mattagami First Nation's commitment to adapting to climate change while protecting community infrastructure.



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From the progress on the Odamino Centre arena and ice cooling system to the sneak peek of the Young Drivers program and updates on the Miikogi Food Sovereignty Project, this quarter is full of momentum. We also highlight the nearing completion of the new Youth Centre.

trent.thomas@mattagami.com

705-894-2072

# Odamino Centre Re-Grand Opening

By: Trentin Thomas

Celebrating the reopening of the fully enclosed arena following major upgrades and the installation of a new ice cooling system.

The Odamino Centre arena officially reopened this fall, welcoming community members back to a space that plays an important role in winter life at Mattagami First Nation. The reopening marks the return of a reliable, accessible arena where families, youth, and Elders can gather, skate, and take part in seasonal activities.



**ODAMINO CENTRE  
HOLIDAY ARENA HOURS**

**DECEMBER 20:** 12:00 – 9:00PM  
**DECEMBER 21:** 12:00 – 6:00PM  
**DECEMBER 22:** 12:00 – 9:00PM  
**DECEMBER 23:** 12:00 – 9:00PM  
**DECEMBER 24:** CLOSED  
**DECEMBER 25:** CLOSED  
**DECEMBER 26:** 12:00 – 9:00PM  
**DECEMBER 27:** 12:00 – 9:00PM  
**DECEMBER 28:** 12:00 – 6:00PM  
**DECEMBER 29:** 12:00 – 9:00PM  
**DECEMBER 30:** 12:00 – 9:00PM  
**DECEMBER 31:** CLOSED  
**JANUARY 1:** CLOSED  
**JANUARY 2:** 12:00 – 9:00PM



The arena has long been a hub for recreation and connection, supporting youth sports, casual skating, and community events. With the facility now able to operate consistently throughout the winter, community members can once again enjoy a dependable schedule for programs and open use. The reopening restores an important outlet for physical activity and social interaction during the colder months.

Community use of the arena extends beyond sport. The space encourages togetherness, promotes wellness, and provides opportunities for youth engagement and leadership through organized activities and volunteer involvement. These experiences help strengthen relationships and create lasting memories for families and participants.



We're thrilled to see the Odamino Centre arena open again. It's a space where we can connect, be active, and take part in programs that bring our community together.

- Mattagami FN Youth Council

The re-grand opening of the Odamino Centre arena represents renewed momentum for community recreation and shared spaces. Mattagami First Nation remains committed to supporting facilities that bring people together, foster healthy lifestyles, and contribute to a strong sense of community pride throughout the winter season.



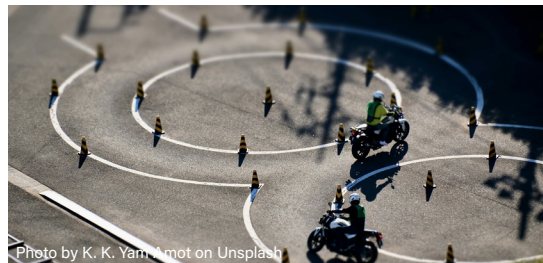
# Young Drivers Program Coming to Mattagami

By: Trentin Thomas

Exploring opportunities to bring driver education to support youth skills and safe driving knowledge.

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Mattagami Aki is exploring ways to bring driver education through Young Drivers to the community. Plans are still being finalized, and the program will move forward once there are enough participants and logistics are confirmed. This initiative is aimed at supporting youth development, confidence, and future opportunities, while providing a local option for learning safe driving skills.



# Miikogi Food Sovereignty Project Update

By: Trentin Thomas



Preparing hydroponic units, a geothermal dome, and a freeze dryer to support fresh and exotic produce for the community.

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The Miikogi Food Sovereignty Project continues to take shape in the community. While the hydroponic units in the C-can are not yet fully operational, they will become the main source for growing fresh produce for the community once everything is in place.

# Youth Centre Nearing Completion

By: Trentin Thomas

The new facility is fully assembled and equipped, bringing the community closer to opening a dedicated space for youth programs and engagement.

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The new Youth Centre is nearing completion, with the assembled trailers now forming a fully functional building. The space is equipped with heat, electricity, and water, marking a major milestone in the project and bringing the community closer to opening the facility for youth use.



## PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography : Trentin Thomas

## WRITERS

Senior Editor : Trentin Thomas

## CREATIVE

Designer : Trentin Thomas

## Mattagami Aki L.P.

HEAD OFFICE  
Band Office, 75 Helen,  
Mattagami FN, Canada  
(+705) 894 2072

## Arena Sponsorship Available

Get your company logo featured under the ice and in front of the community all season long.

Contact us to secure your spot!

## Own a Business?

Complete the Business Registry Form to connect with contracts, training, and future partnership opportunities.

<https://forms.gle/Ub9vGwru28M82vir7>



## Reflections from Aki Staff

By Trentin Thomas, Administrative Assistant

As we close out the final quarter of the year, I am proud of the progress made across our community. From investments in infrastructure to planning initiatives that support youth skills and food sovereignty, this season has been about laying the groundwork for long-term growth.

Economic development is not only about projects and partnerships. It is about creating opportunities that reflect the values of Mattagami First Nation and support our people now and into the future. Each step forward, whether large or small, contributes to a stronger and more resilient community.



Thank you to everyone who continues to support this work.

I look forward to building on this momentum as we move into the new year.