The excitement has barely died down following the Métis Nation of Ontario’s (MNO) 17th Annual General Assembly (AGA). Several attendees have said it was one of the best assemblies to date. This year’s AGA was held in Thunder Bay at the Fort William Historical Park (FWHP), one of the most recognized cultural and historical landmarks of the Métis Nation in Ontario. It was at Old Fort William in 1816 that the Métis declared themselves a “nation” and were presented with their flag by Alexander McDonnell of the Northwest Company. The infinity symbol emblazoned on the flag symbolized the eternal joining of First Nations’ and European cultures.

The AGA, which ran from August 21st to the 23rd, attracted over 300 Métis citizens from across the province to participate in two days of business meetings and a day of cultural exploration and celebration. This year’s assembly was especially memorable because of the Province of Ontario’s and the federal government’s declaration of 2010 as “the Year of the Métis Nation.”

**Changes for Education & Training branch**

Jennifer St. Germain, Director of Education and Training, is pleased to introduce Jo-Anne Parent as the ‘Acting Regional Employment and Training Co-ordinator’ for Region Seven. Jo-Anne has been working with the Métis Nation of Ontario Education and Training (MNOET) since June 30, 2008, and has gained a vast knowledge of employment and training. Jo-Anne has extensive experience in working with community and continues to be a valuable member of the MNOET team.

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**Jo-Anne Parent / Acting Regional Employment and Training Co-ordinator (Region 7)**

355 Cranston Crescent, Box 621
Midland, ON L4R 4L3
Tel: 705-527-1228
jo-anne2@metisnation.org

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Many of you have had the pleasure of working with Tammy Webb in her capacity as “Branch Supervisor”. Tammy has been with MNOET for many years and has continually proven herself to be a valuable asset in policy development and program management. We are very pleased to announce that Tammy has accepted the permanent position as the Manager of Labour Market.

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**Tammy Webb / Manager of Labour Market**

26 Queen St. East
Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 1Y3
Tel: 705-254-1768
tammyw@metisnation.org

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MNOET is pleased to announce two contract positions that will be working on developing and implementing the new “Employment in Energy” initiative established in collaboration with Georgian College.

Scott Carpenter has been hired as the “Employment in Energy Project Director” and Bart Caughey as the “Job Developer” for the project. Scott has been with the MNOET Branch for many years. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience on labour market issues and project management and is passionate about the culture and history of Métis in Ontario. Scott has much to offer in this new role and we are thrilled to have him on board.

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**Scott Carpenter / Project Director - Employment in Energy**

355 Cranston Crescent, Box 621
Midland, ON L4R 4L3
Tel: 705-527-1228
scotts@metisnation.org

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Bart Caughey brings with him a valuable background in working with Aboriginal peoples and a solid network within the local community. Bart will be a great asset to the Technology Foundation’s Employment in Energy Project.

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**Bart Caughey / Job Developer - Employment in Energy**

355 Cranston Crescent, Box 621
Midland, ON L4R 4L3
Tel: 705-527-1228
bartc@metisnation.org

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**New Staff**

New well-qualified MNO staff members

By Doug Wilson  
Chief Operating Officer

As of August 9, Erin Tomkins is replacing Katie-Sue Derejko who was MNO’s Senior Policy Analyst. Katie-Sue is off to New York University where she accepted an unsolicited scholarship in Health Research. We are blessed to have found such talented replacements but we will certainly miss both Janet and Katie-Sue’s dedication and talents which they shared so freely with us over the last couple of years. We wish them all the success in their future endeavors.

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**CORRECTION (sort o –––**  Alright you aviation buffs, the picture on page 13 of the last Voyageur of Métis aviators, Michelle Goodove, and an airplane was not a picture of the plane in the story. I’m sorry! The picture was of Michelle’s own plane, not the Jackaroo. This is the Jackaroo. (Cheers, Linda)

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**Knowledge & kindness will not be forgotten**

I would like to take this time to announce my departure from the Métis Nation of Ontario. I have accepted new employment and will be leaving the MNO shortly.

During my employment with the MNO, I have met very wonderful people and feel like we’re all part of one big family. We have grown so much throughout the years and I can honestly say we have gone through a lot of good times and trying times together. I will cherish every single moment that I’ve had from all you. It makes me sad that I can’t just take you all with me. At this time, I realize it is time to move on and will miss all of you deeply. I am very proud of our workers who dedicate so much of their time and hearts to what they do, and without them, some people would have no one to care for them. It was a privilege working with you all.

Thank you to all our special Senators and Elders who have mentored me throughout the years. Your knowledge and kindness will not be forgotten.

For now, I must say “goodbye” and look forward to seeing you again soon. Take good care of yourselves and each other.

Your friend and citizen,

Monique Raymond-Lefèvre

Monique was formerly the Manager of Family and Child Services in Thunder Bay.

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**Fight the good fight**

Hello Everyone,

As some of you may have heard, I will be leaving the MNO on July 30th, 2010 to further pursue my career aspirations and education in the area of Global Public Health. This announcement is bitter sweet because I have truly enjoyed my time at the MNO, the people I have been privileged to work with and the opportunities this organization has afforded me; in short I am not ready to leave.

With that said however, I have been offered what family and friends keep telling me is a “once in a lifetime opportunity” that I cannot let pass. Thus, after much agonizing deliberation, I have decided to seize this opportunity and say a premature good bye to the MNO and the wonderful people who work tirelessly day in and day out for the Métis community.

I hope to remain closely tied to the Métis community in Ontario and wish the organization the greatest success in the future; perhaps one day you will let me come back!

I thank all of you, my co-workers, for making my time here so enjoyable. I will truly miss you all. Keep fighting the good fight.

Katie-Sue Derejko
Minister Clement’s e-mail is: Clement.T@parl.gc.ca.

The mailing addresses and e-mail addresses for Members of Parliament can be found at the following site: http://webinfo.parl.gc.ca

If you are interested in other efforts to oppose changes to the census, more info here: http://eaves.ca/save-the-census-coalition

RESOLUTION 4
Reinstatement of the Statistics-Canada Census Long Form

BE IT RESOLVED that the 2010 MNO Annual General Assembly direct the PCMNO to raise opposition to the Short Form Census documents pending in the fall of 2010, and lobby the federal government to reintroduce the Long Form Census document.

Moved by: Ralph Brown Seconded by: Marlene Davidson

MNO supports Long-Form Census

by Gary Lipinski
MNO President

A t our Annual General Assembly, August 21-23, 2010, in Thunder Bay, the Assembly passed the resolution below, opposing the Government of Canada’s plans to eliminate the mandatory long-form census and replace it with a voluntary form.

The long-form census is especially important for Métis because it is used in many ways to make our voices heard in dealing with government and industry. The article below describes some of the efforts being undertaken to convince the government it should reverse its decision.

We would like to urge you to add your voice to the growing chorus of opposition to the census changes by sending a letter to the Honourable Tony Clement, Minister of Industry and/or to your own Member of Parliament. Sample letters are available online at www.metisnation.org.

Minister Clement’s e-mail is: Clement.T@parl.gc.ca.

The mailing addresses and e-mail addresses for Members of Parliament can be found at the following site: http://webinfo.parl.gc.ca

If you are interested in other efforts to oppose changes to the census, more info here: http://eaves.ca/save-the-census-coalition

Métis supports Long-Form Census

by Gary Lipinski
MNO President

O n September 15th, 2010, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) released the findings from a first-of-its-kind traditional knowledge study titled, “Southern Ontario Métis Traditional Plant Use Study.” The study highlights some of the unique traditional and medicinal practices of Métis in relation to plants and vegetation in southern Ontario, which differ from First Nations. It also documents notable changes to the environment in southern Ontario over the past few decades and the impact those changes have had on Métis plant and vegetation use, as identified by Métis Elders and traditional resource users.

The survey was supported by Ontario Power Generation (OPG), as a part of its engagement of Aboriginal groups who may be potentially impacted by the Darlington New Nuclear Build project. Over the last year, OPG has engaged with the MNO’s Community Councils in Northumberland, Oshawa and Durham Regions, as well as the MNO’s Lands, Resources and Environment (MNR) in ensuring the collective rights of Métis to harvest are preserved through responsible management of the Métis harvest in Ontario.

The work ahead of us is great and the battle will be long and hard fought.

In the meantime, I look forward to seeing many of you this fall at our harvest gatherings and observances as we celebrate our culture together.

Métis-specific plant use study a first in Canada

Study highlights unique traditional and medicinal practices of Métis in relation to plants and vegetation in southern Ontario

Métis Harvesting Rights which are recognized by the Province of Ontario and across the Métis Homeland. Especially important at this time of the year are the Métis Harvesting Rights which are now recognized by the Province of Ontario through our harvesting agreement.

Throughout Ontario many MNO Community Councils hold fall harvests or feasts. I, along with many MNO citizens, attended the Sixth Annual Métis Rendezvous on September 19th, held this year at Port Severn. Regardless of where you are, I hope you can attend one of the many harvest celebrations that take place throughout the fall. I also encourage you to take a moment to reflect on how the Powley decision has raised the profile of the Métis, and contributed to the recognition of our rights as a distinct Aboriginal people. The right of the right to harvest is a component critical to the already rich fabric that defines Métis culture.

Remember Steve, Rodney and the Powley family for their personal sacrifice and commitment to the ongoing struggle for Métis rights. Take time to reflect on the pride that each of us feels when we look at what has been accomplished. Take time to enjoy and participate in organized events, and be proud to be Métis, especially in this, the Year of the Métis! It is far to say that in spite of a tremendous amount of hard work and sacrifice on the part of many Métis, our pursuit of full recognition of Métis rights continues. There is still much work to be done with the province, and especially with the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) in ensuring the acceptance of those rights when they are asserted.

We will continue to push forward on the priority issues that you have raised with your Captains of the Hunt, your PCMNO representatives or me. We will continue to report progress and movement as it occurs. However, each of us must do all we can to ensure that the collective rights of Métis to harvest are preserved.
Across the Homeland

125th Anniversary Back to Batoche Celebration

A crowd of thousands gathered in Batoche, SK for the opening ceremonies of the 2010 “Back to Batoche” celebration. Métis Nation citizens from across the land, leaders, elders, veterans and guests were on hand for the official kick-off of the 125 days of Métis cultural events.

The much anticipated highlight of 2010—“Year of the Métis”—was the largest Back to Batoche ever. During the eight-day event, 75,000 and 80,000 people attended to mark the 125th anniversary of the Northwest Resistance.

Métis National Council (MNC) President, Clément Chartier, joined host Métis Nation – Saskatchewan President, Robert Doucette; the MNC Board of Governors; Leader of the Official Opposition, Michael Ignatieff; and other dignitaries for the opening ceremonies, held Sun-
day, July 10, 2010.

“This celebration is an enduring testament to the Métis who fought to defend their people at the battles of Duck Lake, Fish Creek, and Batoche 125 years ago,” said President Chartier. “Their determination and sacrifices allowed for our culture and heritage to survive and help the Métis Nation become an integral part of Canada.”

The opening ceremonies were the first of the day’s events at Back to Batoche, which was dedicated to veterans. A “Métis Nation Veterans’ Garden” was unveiled, the newest addition to the Back to Batoche site. The garden is the future location of a permanent memorial to Métis Nation veterans.

Later in the day, a reconciliation ceremony took place for descendants of the Métis, First Nation and Canadian soldiers of the Northwest Resistance. Well over 1500 people heard the names of each person who fought and died read out in front of the Batoche cemetery.

The Powlay Legacy: Mapping the History of Métis Nation Rights

The MNC hosted a two-day conference on the pivotal role research plays in the recognition and exercise of Métis Nation rights. “The Powlay Legacy: Mapping the History of Métis Nation Rights” was held July 16th and 17th in Saskatchewan, SK. It brought together Métis Nation leaders, community members, policy makers, legal experts, academics and representatives from the federal and provincial governments. The conference featured a variety of speakers and panel discussions pivotal in advancing the rights of the Métis Nation.

“The conference was an excellent opportunity to reflect on the Métis Nation’s past successes in having our rights recognized,” said MNC President Chartier. “It was also a chance to share experiences and expertise, and prepare for the work still ahead in securing the Métis Nation’s rightful place in Canada.”

Metis land claim dismissed in Manitoba superior court

The 2010 decision upholds the decision of a lower court made in 2007, which said that the Métis who lived in Manitoba in the late 1800s were not Indians and had no treaty rights. Meanwhile, the MMF contends that this land was promised to Métis in the Manitoba Act to allow Manitoba’s entry into Confederation. It was negotiated by Louis Riel’s Provisional Government. The Métis National Council (MNC) has announced that it will intervene in the appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada. “This decision must be appealed to ensure Métis receive their justice in the Canadian courts,” said MNC President Chartier. “The Métis Nation will not allow this decision to stand and the MNC will be taking active measures to prepare its intervenor application.”

President Chartier did note, however, that the decision had a number of positive findings that can be built upon in the appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada. “The decision overturned the lower courts finding that Métis do not have Aboriginal title and it recognized that there is a fiduciary relationship between the Crown and Métis people.”

Charter also pointed out that the decision clearly recognized there was a great delay with respect to the implementation of allocations of land to the Métis and mistakes were made in the allocation of lands to Métis children. “We will build upon these findings on the facts in our substantial cases on Métis rights. They included Professor Keith Carlson, University of Saskatchewan; and Dr. Prank Tough, University of Alberta. Métis leaders, including Manitoba Métis Federation President, David Chartrand, and Métis Nation of Ontario President, Gary Lipinski, each moderated a panel discussion.

Jim Brady monument unveiled in La Ronge

A monument to Métis Nation leader, Jim Brady, was unveiled on July 11, 2010, in La Ronge, SK. MNC President Clément Chartier joined friends and family of the late Mr. Brady for the ceremony.

A World War II veteran, Jim Brady, was a prominent figure in the Métis movement. He helped found the Métis Association of Alberta—now known as the Métis Nation of Alberta—and was instrumental in establishing the Métis Settlements. He helped found the Métis Association of Saskatchewan, now well known as the Métis Nation–Saskatchewan. Mr. Brady and Abby Halkett disappeared in January 1944 while on a prospecting trip in northern Saskatchewan.

His contributions are remembered for generations to come, the new monument includes a description of his life and work on behalf of the Métis Nation.

The Church at Batoche.

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by Joanne Meyer
Director, Intergovernmental Relations
TORONTO

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) can extend an offer of connection to an historic Métis nation. The Government of Ontario for continuing its support for the New Relationship Fund (NRF) and appreciates the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs role in implementing Métis harvesting rights.

Over the last two years, this important program has given the MNO and its community councils the opportunity to build the capacity necessary to ensure the active engagement of Métis in ability to consult activities across the province. The continuation of the NRF funding will ensure that Métis are able to engage with government and participate in meaningful consultation as development activities around the province ramp up.

The MNO is pleased to announce that its multi-year (four-year) application to the (NRF) on behalf of MNO’s 31 Community Councils has been successful. As a result, the MNO has been awarded $2.1 million annually for a total of $8.4 million over a four year period. The MNO, on behalf of its community councils, will be receiving the maximum amount of funding available to any applicant applying on behalf of more than one community. This will allow the MNO and its community councils to continue the implementation of the MNO’s Multi-Year Plan for Building Core Consultation Capacity.

The MNO has implemented a unique Métis consultation process for engagement which was developed after extensive consultations with Métis citizens across the province. This has resulted in the development of a “Consultation Policy” which will serve Métis citizens well into the future.

Over the past 16 months, the MNO has received well over 450 notices from proponents, and Métis have effectively participated in many consultation processes that have yielded and will continue to yield results in the future. To date, the MNO has signed a “General Relationship Agreement” with Great Lakes Power Transmission. “Memoranda of Understanding” and “Work Plans” have been negotiated with several proponents on environmental and other matters.

It is expected that the MNO will receive its first installment of funding for the 2010-11 fiscal year (April – August, 2010) by the end of August, 2010. Once that funding is received we will be able to proceed with the deliverables identified in this year’s “Contribution Agreement” and “Work Plan” including ongoing work with and support of councils.

If you require additional information, contact Joanne Meyer at joanne.meyer@metsnation.org.

A distinct Métis history & harvesting

President Gary Lipinski comments on the Métis Nation of Alberta’s Harvesting Rights’ Case and mobility issues

D espite Lipinski’s comments that his case and others Métis Nation governments benefitted from the MNO’s pursuit and success of the Powley case, the MNO stands to benefit from this case because it deals with the important issue of Métis mobility within the Métis Nation. The entire Métis Nation has confidence in the MNA trial took a lot of time, energy and resources.

There were 42 days of trial, 30 witnesses, six experts and over 10,000 historical documents put before the court. It was the largest Métis harvesting rights’ trial to date.

As well, our MNO lawyers—Jean Teillet and Jason Madden—represented the Métis harvesters and the MNA in this case. As most of you know, Jean and Jason have been the lawyers for all of the Métis harvesting rights’ victories in Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and we hope, soon in Alberta. The entire Métis Nation has confidence in their work in defending these harvesting rights.

“We HAVE A DISTINCT HISTORY, COMMUNITIES AND CULTURE AS A PEOPLE.”

“...the evidence and arguments in this case stress the important fact that the Métis Nation has an historic homeland and we are not just mixed ancestry individu- als... We have a distinct history, distinct communities and distinct culture. As well, the importance of the MNA’s objectively verifiable registry was key to the Métis harvesters’ defence that they are members of the rights-bearing Métis Nation.”

The president said that this case further refines the importance of the MNO’s Registry as well as our connections to the larger Métis Nation, and defending Métis rights and we know these important issues for the entire Métis Nation are in good hands.

“...we all hope that the MNA will be successful in this case. A positive decision will allow the MNO to look to change its Har- vesters’ Policy in order to begin addressing mobility issues. This is why I wanted all MNO citizens to be aware of this case and its importance for us. The MNO will continue to keep our citizens updated on this important case.”

President Lipinski’s
decision is expected in Octo- ber.

MÉTIS TRAPPERS

The MNO’s Lands, Resources and Consultation Branch (“LRC Branch”) is in the process of completing a list of Métis citizens with trap lines in Ontario. This information is important in showing ongoing Métis use of lands throughout Ontario and ensuring the interests of Métis trappers are being considered in consultation and accommodation processes. The LRC Branch hopes to eventually compile a map of Métis trap lines in the province.

As well, the LRC Branch is in the process of completing a list of Métis citizens who would be interested in obtaining trap lines when they become available. The MNO is fighting to ensure that Métis citizens, like First Nations people, have the first right of refusal when trap lines become available in Ontario. This information on potential Métis trappers will be helpful in the MNO’s negotiations with the Ontario Government.

Register your trap line, or your interest in obtaining a trap line, with MNO in order to ensure that the MNO’s information is complete and includes you.

CONTACT:
Brian Tucker
807-274-1386 ext. 5
brianT@metsnation.org

MÉTIS FISHERIES

The MNO’s Lands, Resources and Consultation Branch (“LRC Branch”) is in the process of compiling a list of Métis citizens with commercial fishing licenses in Ontario. Commercial fishing has been and continues to be integral to Métis identity and way of life in Ontario. Collecting this information is important in the MNO’s ongoing efforts to protect Métis participation in this industry.

As well, the LRC Branch would like to identify Métis citi- zens and families who have been engaged in the fishing industry by government policies as well as those Métis citizens and families who remain inter- ested in participating in commer- cial fishing if opportunities become available.

CULTURE

Native Circle shares Indigenous culture with OPG employees

Métis fiddler and dancers demonstrate traditional jig

On July 21st, just one month after the rest of us celebrated National Aboriginal Day, the “Native Circle”, an Ontario Power Generation (OPG) group that works to share Indigenous culture with all employees, held their own celebration at Darlington Nuclear. The Native Circle is open to all OPG employees of self-identified Aboriginal or First Nations decent.

The ceremony began with a prayer offered by Dr. Helene Sanard, interim Presi- dent of the new Peterbor- ough Métis Council. There was an arts and crafts sale, and a sampling of Aboriginal cuisine. Three members of the Olivine Bouquet Métis Dance troupe were joined by fiddler Alicia Biore as they presented some traditional Métis jig.

This is the 10th year the Native Circle has celebrated National Aboriginal Day with OPG employees. OPG spon- sors scholarships for indige- nous youth, participates in the Thunder Bay Aboriginal Career Fair and partnered with an Indigenous group to operate a hydro dam.

New Relationship Funding

Attention Métis Trappers & Fishers

FALL 2010 | UPDATE

MNO successful in bid for New Relationship Funding

HARVESTING RIGHTS | ALBERTA UPDATE

A distinct Métis history & harvesting

President Gary Lipinski comments on the Métis Nation of Alberta’s Harvesting Rights’ Case and mobility issues

Quick Facts

New Relationship Funding

• The MNO has received approval for multi-year NRF funding (4 years: from 2010-1 to 2013-14).
• The MNO will receive, on behalf of its 31 community councils, $2.1 million annually for 4 years commencing April 1, 2010.
• Revised NRF work plans must be submitted annually prior to the beginning of each new fiscal year.
• Year-end reporting includes: A Final Project Report on the year’s deliv- erables, Final Expenditure Report and Audited Financial Statements.

Métis Harvesters

| UPDATE

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MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

Housing Opportunities

Building Systems Technical Advisor Internship Program

The MNO Building Systems Technical Advisor Internship Program (BSTAIP) is moving many Métis citizens as well as First Nations, Inuit and urban and rural communities across Ontario.

Financial assistance is moving many Métis citizens as well as First Nations, Inuit and urban and rural communities across Ontario.

Funding is moving many Métis citizens as well as First Nations, Inuit and urban and rural communities across Ontario.

Promoting the MNO Building Systems Technical Advisor Internship Program (BSTAIP) at local trade fairs.

Theory was and is an ongoing learning process for the students and will continue into the next semester. As part of their Energy Advisor course, MNO BSTAIP students fabricated a blown door display and presentation table to promote the MNO BSTAIP at local and surrounding area trade fairs.

Currently, the MNO BSTAIP is accepting applications for the next cohort which is scheduled to start in January 2011. If you have a background in construction, have completed grade 12, or obtained post-secondary education and are interested in being part of a dynamic program, then contact:

Leafy Shaw
Leafy@metisnation.org
Tel: 1-800-991-5882

Agawa hired as MNO Housing Policy Analyst

In May, 2010, Carrianne Agawa was hired by MNO for the position of Housing Policy Analyst. Her office is in the MNO Housing Branch located in Thunder Bay. In the late fall and winter, she will be arranging visits with the MNO councils and community members to deliver information regarding mortgages and to gather data regarding housing gaps and the needs of the Métis citizens and their communities.

CONTACT: Carrianne Agawa
Carrianne@metisnation.org
Tel: 807-626-9200

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- traveling?
- working with diverse people?
- energy efficiency?

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CONTACT:
Métis Nation of Ontario Housing Branch - 226 South May St., Thunder Bay, ON
Carrianne Agawa or Leafy Shaw - Tel: 1-800-991-5882

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Mediation of Ontario Housing Services (OAMS), the OAH report has made quite an impact. OAMS announced that the First Nation, Inuit and Métis Urban & Rural (FIMUR) Assisted Housing Program is projected to deliver 255 units, and that the FIMUR Rental Component Program is projected to deliver 417 units. The last Request for Proposals through the FIMUR Rental Component Program closed in May, 2010, and resulted in the allocation of 17.4 million dollars for 199 rental units.

This is great news, not only because of these facilities will be open to Métis citizens to live in, but also because the construction and management of these buildings may present job opportunities for Métis communities. The framework of FIMUR Housing Programs specifies that the design, construction, maintenance, ownership and administration of these units must go to Aboriginal people living off-reserve in urban and rural communities across Ontario.

FIMUR Housing Program funding is moving many Métis citizens, as well as First Nations, and Inuit people closer to obtaining affordable and safe housing in their communities. This has been a long process, but many of our Métis citizens are now taking big steps forward, and this is something we can truly celebrate.

In the Ontario March 2007 budget, the provincial government announced 80 million dollars in funding for off-reserve Aboriginal housing units. Twenty million dollars were allocated for the Greater Toronto Area and 40 million dollars for the rest of the province. Following the announcement, the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres (OFIFC), the Ontario Native Women’s Association (ONWA), and the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) partnered to prepare the Ontario Off-Reserve Aboriginal Housing Trust (OAH) report, which was completed in September, 2008, and revised in February 2009. The OAH report made recommendations that, if implemented, would provide First Nations, Métis and Inuit people with safe, affordable, quality and culturally appropriate housing.

As indicated by a recent media release from the Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services (OAHS), the OAH report has made quite an impact. OAHS announced that the First Nation, Inuit and Métis Urban & Rural (FIMUR) Assisted Housing Program is projected to deliver 255 units, and that the FIMUR Rental Component Program is projected to deliver 417 units. The last Request for Proposals through the FIMUR Rental Component Program closed in May, 2010, and resulted in the allocation of 17.4 million dollars for 199 rental units.

This is great news, not only because of these facilities will be open to Métis citizens to live in, but also because the construction and management of these buildings may present job opportunities for Métis communities. The framework of FIMUR Housing Programs specifies that the design, construction, maintenance, ownership and administration of these units must go to Aboriginal people living off-reserve in urban and rural communities across Ontario.

FIMUR Housing Program funding is moving many Métis citizens, as well as First Nations, and Inuit people closer to obtaining affordable and safe housing in their communities. This has been a long process, but many of our Métis citizens are now taking big steps forward, and this is something we can truly celebrate.
**Oshawa & Durham Métis Council | Celebrating the Year of the Métis, 2010**

## Métis Heritage Festival

**by Rob Pilon**

President
Oshawa & Durham Métis Council

With visitors and participants from across Ontario as well as the Maritimes, Quebec, Manitoba and British Columbia, the Oshawa & Durham Region Métis Council hosted the 4th Annual Métis Heritage Celebration on June 26th and 27th at Memorial Park in downtown Oshawa. The day started with rain, but by early afternoon the clouds parted and the crowds filled the park with close to 5000 people attending over the two days.

The celebration included a full suite of great Métis entertainment, anchored by the amazing JJ Lavallee and hand (nominee for a 2010 People’s Choice Aboriginal Music Award) from St. Amboise, Manitoba. But the entertainment didn’t stop there – in addition there were the Olivine Bousquet Métis Dancers, Alicia Blore on her fiddle, along with a new young fiddler, Rajan Anderson. John Sarnos with his drum, the All Our Relations Drumming Circle and the Métis Fiddler Quartet among others. We were also very honoured with the fiddling of James Cheechoo, one of the legendary James Bay fiddlers, along with his wife Daisy and daughter Trina. What an amazing line-up!

Complementing the wide array of entertainment, the park was filled with a varied group of vendors and presenters. Visitors could learn about sash-weaving or drum-making, purchase beautiful jewellery, leather work or handmade soap, and see interesting displays of Métis artefacts. Bringing further ambiance to the park were a number of teepees— including the new one commissioned by the council and decorated with the beautiful paintings of renowned Métis artist Dennis Weber—the voyageur canoe on loan from the MNO, and a brand new Red River cart, built by Métis craftman Armand Jerome from Manitoba. Together with the musicians and dancers, artisans and experts, these iconic symbols of Métis heritage delivered a wonderful experience to the many people who attended our event.

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With the risk of overlooking presenters to the many volunteers, organizers and helpers, the Métis people, their families and friends worked together to pull off what we can proudly say is the largest Métis event in Ontario.

With the risk of overlooking someone, I’ll keep my appreciation at the community level, because I really believe it is the community that makes this work. So whether you played a small part or a large part, I would like to sincerely thank you for being an important part of this collective effort. In a way the combined effort of our community is similar to the Métis sash—a colourful combination of individual threads intertwined and woven together to make something much stronger and substantial than the individual threads.

Again, thanks to everyone who participated in our 4th Annual Métis Heritage Celebration. It was a fantastic weekend due to everyone’s enthusiasm, creativity and hard work!

If you haven’t checked out the web site be sure to click and see the great photos: www.oshawametiscouncil.piczo.com

So many people pitched in to help—from organizing, to setting up and taking down, assisting with vendors and participants, helping out in the various tents, managing the stage and hosting, communications and marketing, and more. My sincere thanks and gratitude to all who participated in helping us make this, our 4th Annual Métis Heritage Celebration, a resounding success!

## Honouring our Elders by investing in our youth

**by Rob Pilon**

President
Oshawa & Durham Métis Council

Earlier this year the Oshawa & Durham Region Métis Council (ODRMC) formed a partnership with the Abbekaylawn Manor in Pickering. The goal of this partnership was twofold:

1. to create an event on the grounds of Abbekaylawn Manor that would showcase Métis culture to residents and their families, as well as the surrounding community and;

2. to work together to establish a bursary fund for Métis youth.

Within a couple short months both objectives were met with a resounding success! With volunteers from both the Abbekaylawn Manor as well as the ODRMC led by Joseph Poitras, the community pulled together to host yet another Métis event in the Durham region. On May 29th hundreds of people gathered on the lawns of the Abbekaylawn Manor to learn more about our rich Métis heritage. The crowd was able to check out numerous vendors and presenters, listen to the fiddling of Alicia Blore and cheer on the jigging of the Olivine Bousquet Métis Dance Troupe.

Senator Joseph Poitras and Robert Pilon.

The event was capped off with the announcement of the “Joseph Poitras and Abbekaylawn Manor Bursary.” A total of $3200 was raised to start the fund which will be used to help support Métis youth with their secondary education costs. Surrounded by his family, Joe was presented with a plaque that will have the names of future recipients of the bursary. It was a very proud moment for both Joe and our council in initiating a program that will help our youth in the future.

Further details regarding criteria and the application process will be posted on the ODRMC website early in 2011.
journey. The journey is the whole reason we did this. As I receive
am honoured that she will indeed keep our council updated on the
journey. The journey is the whole reason we did this. As I receive
updates I will write a little bit on what those two are up to.

— Barbara Rusk, Grand River Métis Council

Boozhoo,
It took a little doing but we have found a temporary spot in the
living room for both of them. If I arrive at home on the water
Niimki & Inouk back
Niimki and Inouk have found a temporary spot in
have a child and I was invited to visit and take a look at Niimki and Inouk.

Niimki's story has certainly
This is the very first time.

The winner of the canoe, paddle,
Niimki, and paddle, Inouk, is
LUCI RICE
of Parry Sound

The Grand River Community
hold the draw on Saturday, June 5, 2010, in Guelph. The ceremo-

niial launch took place on Saturday June 5, 2010, at the West Montrose
Family camp.
Beginning at noon, canoe builder Marcel Labelle, performed a
smoke ceremony. The maiden voyage was fur-

ther celebrated with great music, a pot luck feast, and traditional sto-
ries. Micheline Boisvert, the paddle creator, was on hand to meet the
Grand River Council for the very first time.

Left] Luci Rice, winner of
Niimki (the canoe) and
Inouk (a paddle
hand painted by
Micheline Boisvert),
canoe-builder Marcel
Labelle on the water.

THE JOURNEY CONTINUES | THE LAUNCH OF NIIMKI & INOUK

By Bradley Rusk
I have been around the Métis world for a few years now. I am
not Métis, however, through my wife, Barbara Rusk, I have been introduced into this sphere:
Niimki, the canoe, first came into my life as a large, bark like thing in my garage. Resting on
two wood horses, it spent the better part of a year there.
When my friends would come over I would always go over the list
of materials that went into build-
ing the canoe: birch bark, cedar, ash, pine gum and bear grease.
"Where does he get the bear grease?" they would ask. "Bears, I assume", would come the reply.
The world of bears is a distant memory in most city minds.
Niimki, like an urban legend, seemed to grow with time. Marcel Labelle, Niimki's creator, and his
essence are alive in this vessel. Then, the paddle, Inouk, gifted by
Micheline Boisvert, accentuated an already magnificent craft. And, as it turns out, these two people
were long lost cousins—reunited by acts of charity and talent.
I've heard the story of the cousins told many times. It seems
to touch people openly to the spirit, people who are willing to listen to the
trees and wind. It brought one man to tears that had come to our
public meeting to meet Inouk and Niimki. He held a regatta each year in
Ontario and invited the children down to my mom's beach to
tell them the story about Niimki and Inouk and how they came to be, as well as give them a short
ride.
My landlord is an avid canoeist and he came Friday morning to
take a look at Niimki and Inouk. He holds a regatta each year in
September and invited us out on that weekend.

Paddy and I will be quite busy
with things once they get started but we are quite content to be
a part of this adventure.

Have a kind day both of you
and I will give another update in a couple of weeks.

— Luci and Paddy

Métis at heart

By Bradley Rusk
I have been around the Métis world for a few years now. I am
not Métis, however, through my wife, Barbara Rusk, I have been introduced into this sphere:
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I've heard the story of the cousins told many times. It seems
to touch people openly to the spirit, people who are willing to listen to the
trees and wind. It brought one man to tears that had come to our
door to buy a ticket one evening. It was a good evening.
However, Niimki seemed des-
tined to remain in the garage or travel to the odd cultural event. As Niimki remained silent, Barb
spent countless hours getting a raffle together, telling the story and discovering her own identity.
The entire range of human emo-
tion ebbed and flowed. Just when it
seemed like this was never going to take off, it came together.
Niimki is no longer in our
garage.
I attended the launch with 30
or so other souls, who braved the heavy rain to see Niimki and Inouk take the next step in what we
all hope is a long journey. As usual I watched from the shad-
ows. I'm always welcome at Métis events but I still feel like a ghost clings to me. It is difficult to
explain. The eyes of the Métis people tell me I belong, but, I feel
as if my blood prevents it. How-
ever, on this occasion that all
dardware broke down. I'm not sure if it was the
Obijawy words and ceremony or the complete grace exhibited by Luci, Niimki's new caretaker.
the event pulled me in and
The event pulled me in and
attended the launch with 30
and Inouk, seemed
to remove our-Métis-eyes from behind corporate eyes.
As Luci, Marcel, and Niimki cut
through the swifter than antici-
pated Grand River, I felt a sense of

THE CONTINUING STORY OF A CANOE & A PADDLE

THE CONTINUING STORY OF A CANOE & A PADDLE

Niimki is not a canoe. She is a vessel that lives in Ottawa.
She lives in Ottawa. He agreed

Micheline Boisvert, the paddle creator, was
canoe builder Marcel Labelle on the water.
MNO Council and Health staff organize ‘Métis Day’ in Dryden

by Don McDonald
Long Term Care Coordinator

O
n June 25, 2010, as a show of hospitality typi-
cal to the time-honoured Métis way, the Northwest Métis Nation of Ontario Community Council and local Health Branch Program Coordinators organized a “Métis Day”. Although circumstances required the local council to celebrate the event later in the week, it celebrated both National Aboriginal Day and the fact that 2010 is the “Year of the Métis Nation.”

This special day provided an opportunity to showcase the community, culture, and charm of the Métis in the Dryden area. The event also highlighted the role of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) in representing its citizens and planning for future growth. It further gave reason to share the optimism that MNO President, Gary Lipinski, had expressed regarding the recognition of the Métis by the government’s designation of 2010 as the “Year of the Métis Nation”. As he said, “most of all, I felt optimism…that the best and brightest days of the Métis Nation are still ahead of us!” Those in attendance were empowered by the opening prayer. The Long Term Care Workshop was a welcome addition acknowledging the importance of the occasion by both his sincere speech and his warm and caring approach while mingling with those in attendance. A presentation was made to the local council president acknowledging the important role of the community council and exceptional effort of President Cimon herself, in extending the MNO Health Branch Staff. An exceptional feature of the Long Term Care Workshop was the presence of the Dryden Area Family Health Team, who provided glucose testing and blood pressure checks along with excellent self-care approach to health and wellness. In addition, there were activities for children and youth and our older adults and seniors were welcomed with a warm embrace as we cherished our time together.

Adding to the true spirit of a Métis celebration a remarkable live performance of Métis music was provided by Ken and Jeanette Denby and Marshall Raine. The colourful presentation outside the office, the music echoing along the downtown streets, the people crowded around throughout the duration of the event and the light lunch and refreshments were a definite display of Métis hospitality.

As council and staff reflected on some of the conversations and experiences of the day we concluded that it was a genuine show of Métis community, culture and charm and an excellent way to acknowledge 2010 as the “Year of the Métis”.

W e have to be grateful because plants are very powerful things, not something to be toyed with. And when we pull a plant, we have to be careful because essentially we are ending that life. So when we are yanking that life from the earth, it better be with good intentions.”

Métis Elder Joe Paquette
MNO Traditional Plant Knowledge Study, Spring 2010

Contact Nicholas Fraser / MacDonald or Laura Taylor, Nicholas.fraser.macdonald@acom.com or laura.taylor@acom.com 519-763-7781

FALL 2010
Great Lakes Métis Council

by Senator Leora Wilson
Great Lakes Métis Council
leoraw@greatlakesvoyageurs.com

New Council Name: The Grey Owen Sound Métis are now officially known as the Great Lakes Métis, after the community vote at the annual council meeting in April.

Former president Ray Racicot was interviewed by MNO and hired as the new office coordinator, so come out and encourage him, as he takes on new challenges.

Métis Appreciation Dinner

The first ever Métis Appreciation Dinner, held at the Best Western Inn on the Bay this past April, was an unqualified success. All those invited were past and present council members, as well as dedicated volunteers.

Special music was presented by Piyak Ootihi (One Heart) Métis Drummers. Dinner speakers were MNO President, Gary Liponski; Manager of Community Relations, Hank Rowlinson; and, Land, Resources and Consultation Director, Melanie Paradis.

This unique event was planned and organized by Peter Couture, as well as Great Lakes Métis office coordinator, Melanie Hamilton. A good time was had by all, with lots of stories about the humble origins of the modern Métis of Owen Sound and area being shared. Many attendees commented on how strong and in how brief a time, the Métis identity has been re-established in this area.

All the best, Melanie!

Great Lakes Rendezvous

Great Lakes Métis Council of Owen Sound held a summer rendezvous on July 17th at Durham Saugene Conservation Park. A Grand Entry proceeded to the picnic area over the dam at the McGowan Falls south access.

The rest of the day was filled with activities and entertainment: canoe races; fish fry; barbeque; horsehoe tournament; bingo games; children and youth activities; vendors’ tables; penny table; fishing; swimming; horse and buggy rides; a music jam-boree; campfire; and, drumming.

A good time was had by all. If you missed it, plan to join us next year.

Moon River’s Métis Soirée

In celebration of National Aboriginal Day and the “Year of the Métis”, the Moon River Métis Council held a Métis Soirée on June 24th at the Gravenhurst Opera House.

This evening of fiddling and jigging featured Métis jigger Jamie Koebel and the Métis Fiddler Quartet. The Métis Fiddler Quartet specializes in performing and interpreting Canadian Aboriginal fiddle music. This bilingual French/English family group continues to discover and present the old-style fiddle tunes passed down by elders from across Canada.

The group’s mandate is to expose audiences to the unique diversity of Canadian Métis and Native fiddle and to educate through participation. This is accomplished by means of musical performances, educational presentations, and interactive workshops for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal audiences.

Professional Métis jigger, Jamie Koebel, whose fancy foot work sets the standards for jiggers, also appeared. As a solo dancer, Jamie has won several Métis jigging competitions across Canada and the US. In 2009 she won first place at the only international Métis festival held on the Northwest Dakota and Manitoba border.

Melanie, once again, is the Governor General of Canada to accompany her on an official state visit to the United States, Guatemala and Costa Rica to share her experiences as a performing artist. Ms. Koebel believes that having a positive outlook while dancing is one way to show the pride that you have in your culture.

“The Year of the Métis will be celebrated in Ontario along the water routes of the province, around the Great Lakes and throughout the historic north-west,” said Gary Liponski, President of the Métis Nation of Ontario. “In Ontario, it is in places like Moon River that Métis history comes to life, and the Métis Soirée, is the perfect way to celebrate the rich history and the proud traditions of our vibrant and colourful culture.”

Moon River’s Métis Soirée

Great Lakes councillor Peter Couture, (left) is showing presenting Linda Boyle (right) with a certificate of appreciation for her volunteerism and service to local Métis.

Shiki-Miikan (New Roads)
One-year Certificate Program
Developed in partnership with the Anishnabe Education and Training Circle, Shiki-Miikan foundation year is designed to enhance the Aboriginal student’s sense of cultural identity, develop a solid academic base, assess education/career options and develop self-management skills. Students can receive a one-year certificate or continue on to the Aboriginal Education - Community and Social Development (ACSD) program. Both programs have a common first year.

Aboriginal Education - Community and Social Development
Two-year Co-op Diploma Program
This program is focused on the planning, development, evaluation and administration of social/health care services within the Aboriginal community. This program includes business and community development studies with an emphasis on integrating cultural, social and health issues relevant to Aboriginal people in Canada. Graduates will find employment in a wide range of health/social settings in community health centres, social services organizations, healing lodges, mental health services, school boards and other human services areas.

Cooperative Education
Co-operative education is a mandatory component of the two-year Aboriginal Education - Community and Social Development program. Two co-op work terms are needed: May to August.

Watch for more information about our upcoming Traditional Pow Wow on Saturday, March 12th, 2011.

Anishnabe
EDUCATION & TRAINING CIRCLE
helping you reach higher

Program Co-ordinator
(705) 728.1968, ext. 1326
Community Liaison Worker
(705) 728.1968, ext. 1317
www.georgian.on.ca/aboriginal

GEORGIAN
Y O U R C O L L E G E - Y O U R F U T U R E
Second Chance canoe

by Rick Paquette
Niagara Region Métis Council

T his past July in the Niagara Peninsula was a hot one; so hot in fact that the gov-
ernment had to issue heat advi-
sories for four days because the humidity was over 50C. This was just before our annual summer picnic which was extra special as we would also be host-
ing the official launch of our new birch bark canoe. The organizing committee was worried about the people and all the food. With temper-
atures like that it wasn’t going to be easy. Two days before the launch it started to rain and con-
tinued until Friday afternoon when it finally stopped. By Satur-
day morning it was beautiful—about 27C with no humidity and gorgeous powder blue skies. The work party arrived around 7:30 to get things ready for the day which would include full of activities such as snow shoe races, hanoock making and canoe races.

We had almost 100 people there to take part in the day; watch the canoe ceremony and witness its historic launch. Marcel Labelle arrived with his wife, Joanne and their grandson Alexandre, and of course our new birch bark canoe. When it was time to start the cere-
mony, I opened by thanking all the MNO staff, community volunteers, and the NRMC for their hard work to make the day happen. I also welcomed all of the citizens and out of town guests as well as two members of the District School Board of Niagara, Shirley Scott and Maureen Aklderise, who made it possible for Marcel to build the canoe at Fort Erie Secondary School. This was unheard of until now and especially nice because it gave Marcel a chance to share his wisdom and our Metis culture with students in the community. On behalf of council, I presented Mar-
el with two hand carved decoys made by Bernard Paquette as a thank you for the canoe.

Then it was Marcel’s turn to address the crowd. He started by speaking about our country’s his-
tory and how vital the wilowas chi-
man (birch bark canoe) was to the people back then. Life was hard as there were no roads and no stores, yet people survived. They were able to survive because they respected the land, and they worked together. As Marcel put it, the waterways were the highways and the wilowas chiman was something that his Anishinabec grandparents shared with his European grandparents. That is a nice feeling and one that we as Metis can all share. He also spoke about how all that sharing and working together changed when government and business saw Canada as a way to make money. It became a very dark time for the First Nations people and I know that they suffered a great deal, as did the Metis. In some ways, I think we had it worse. It became a time of mistrust between the First Nations and the Europeans and that spelled disaster for the Metis. In most cases we just hid, blended in, vanished, or went under-
ground. It was a dark and sad cou-
hundred years. Our people concealed our identity in public, and only spoke of it at home or with our community, and in many cases, not at all.

When I see Metis Elders like Marcel Labelle and others like Joe Paquette, sharing, teaching, and showing respect, not only in our community but in the First Nations community, and the non-aborig-
iunal community, I know that there is still hope. In Marcel’s speech he talks about reconciliation and Prime Minister Steven Harper’s apology to the Aboriginal people. This is how the name of our canoe came to him. He told the crowd of almost 100 people, ‘I am very optimi-
ic, as a result of this process, that the residents of Canada, even though its culture is merely one defined by a large geographical territory under one government, seems for the moment to be embracing its ‘Second Chance’ to treat the original people of this land fairly—as equals. So, just as many generations ago, the people of this land are starting to get the recognition they so rightfully deserve. Again, much through the same gift of the Wilowas Chi-
tman, this is why the name ‘second chance’ came to me. Let’s get it right this time.’

This was a proud moment for our community and a great time to join together to honour the land and celebrate our culture. This is a wonderful gift that Marcel has given us through the grant that he received from The Ontario Arts Council, and we are honoured to receive it.

With the work that President Gary Lipiński, the PCMNO and the MNO staff are doing on our behalf, combined with the teachings of our Metis elders and local events like this one which are taking place in communities all across Ontario, and the rest of Canada, I am certain that ‘2010 the Year of the Metis’ is only the beginning.

Red River cart beats the rain

by Kelly Paquette
Niagara Region Métis Council

O n June 6, 2010, the Niagara Region Métis Council partic-
ipated in the annual spring fair hosted by the Parks and Recreation Department of the City of Niagara Falls. The event was held at the Willoughby His-
torical Museum a few steps from the beautiful Niagara River.

The theme of this year’s event was “The Importance of wheels throughout our Lives”. The NRMC’s Youth Representa-
itive, Andrea Paquette, was doing a high school co-op at the museum. When she heard of the theme, she told the project coordinator that we had a Red River cart. The coordinator sent us an invitation asking us to attend.

Red River cart is a very special occasion—Family Day and Canoe Launch on Mer-ritt Island, Welland, Ontario. Great fun was had by all!

There were games; a snow-

snow race; hanoock baken over an open fire; canoe races (and yes, as a result Sandy and I partnerred and came in first). I could not have done it without you, Andre Bosse.

Marcel Labelle brought his family and the canoe called Sec-
ced Chance canoe. The Niagara Region Métis Council was very fortunate and grateful to receive it. Thank you, Marcel! It means a lot to the citizens, of this region. Everyone deserves a second chance.

Canoe launch and family day in Welland

by Barbaranne Wright
Niagara Region Métis Council

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Canoe-maker Marcel Labelle with “Second Chance”

We also want to thank Senator Andre Bosse, and his wife Brenda from Northumberland for attend-
ing the event, and Virginia Barber and her husband Sandy, who attended on behalf of the Métis Artists’ Collective in Toronto.

The health team was on hand to make sure the food was ready for all the citizens who came out to celebrate this day together. We are truly thankful for the wonder-
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ful Métis family we are a part of here in Niagara.
Finding Family

By Donn Fowler

In pursuit of information concerning our family roots it becomes obvious that we are amateur family genealogists soon exhaust our resources. We experience so many problems searching for our ancestors that we become mired in the huge mists of first and last names to which we are exposed. Often, the initial names are well known to us because we are more closely related. Genealogists refer to these as our known “Most Recent Common Ancestor” (MRCA). Accordingly, we can go on so far in the process of genealogically digging for gold. When we take the plunge into researching our families, we usually begin with our own birth surrogates, then those of our parents, grandparents, and so on. What finally stops us cold is the magnitude of the doublings that occur: two parents from four grandparents, four grandparents from eight great-grandparents, eight great-grandparents from sixteen great-great-grandparents, sixteen great-great-grandparents from thirty-two great-great-great-grandparents, and so on into a brick wall. It becomes necessary for us to concentrate on those names which are most likely to keep the chain of ancestors reasonably accurate as we make newer discoveries.

We can also run into hyphenated names such as, “Jedore-Dadie”, or spelling changes. These names tend to compound the process of identifying our true ancestors. We immediately recognise our genealogical limitations. At that point we could turn to determining our own genetic information (DNA), a process already described in previous issues of the Voyageur.

In the search for verification of our ancestors, the contemporary use of genealogy combined with genetics has given us a new means of identifying formerly unknown “cousins”, those with whom we share some yDNA or mtDNA (male and female chromosomes). With this genetic information we can distinguish “cousins” who have our exact haplotype, from those who may have a few markers which are different from our own.

I have only one last genetic bit of information to obtain. It is called “Family Finder”. However, it is limited at present because it can only go back a few short generations. The science is fairly new, more expensive, and only recently available to those who have completed full genetic sequencing (FGS)—those who have completed the 67 markers (as distinct from, say, the 12 marker test). The new Family Finder is the Family Tree DNA’s new test to determine closest family relationship.

“What finally stops us cold is the magnitude of the doublings that occur.”

The Family Finder, which will be coming to me in the next several weeks, will end my quest for genetic ancestral information and my search for our Métis and Indian roots. I expect to learn more about the haplogroups to which each belongs in addition to their respective specific haplotypes that are, like my own, Métis and Indian yDNA and mtDNA to complete my own final search, thanks to the PT-DNAs genetic team, the National Geographic’s National Genographic Project and IBM’s initiatives in providing this public service, including Ysearch.org and Mitosearch.org.

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The PT-DNA can be found on the reader’s computer browser if desired, just type PT-DNA and you’re there. It’s easy to become so embroiled in the search that we lose sight of what inspired it—the birth of our first Métis ancestor.

The FT-DNA can be found on Ysearch.org and Mitosearch.org.

MÉTIS CRAFTSMAN | SENATOR TRIES HAND AT METALWORK

Beautiful birds -- but they will never fly

by Senator Jacques Leroux

Bruce Mines

I would like to show our younger Métis citizens that when one retires one can do many things to fill up the days and weeks. I always wanted to try my hand at metal art. I was a welder for many years and I admired other people’s metal sculptures. Now I have the time and I thought I would give it a try to see what I could put out there.

These are my first three pieces. The two geese are my rendition and tribute to Benjamin Cheechoo’s great work. The silver bird (far right) was named “Larry” by my wife, after Larry Bird the basketball player.

By Jacques Leroux

On June 19, 2010, the Leroux family, after a long search, found the burial place of our ancestors, Jean Roux and his wife Judith Amard, at Chateauguay Quebec. As it turns out, they were one of the founding families of the town and church. We found out that their headstones had deteriorated, so we decided to have one made of granite for them. It seemed like the right thing to do. Now we have a marker to visit. It’s a nice thing when we can do something for our ancestors.

The PDAC Convention

March 6-9, 2011

PDAC 2011 international convention, trade show and investors exchange – where the world’s mineral industry meets!

The PDAC convention is a major opportunity to enhance industry awareness of Aboriginal affairs and to showcase success stories of partnerships between Aboriginal communities and exploration and mining companies.

The Aboriginal Program at the convention includes:
- Short course: Aboriginal awareness training seminar
- Skookum Jim award presentation
- Technical program
- Aboriginal presentation room

For more information on PDAC 2011: www.pdac.ca
**NORTH BAY MÉTIS COUNCIL**

**Around Blue Sky**

Glowing camp fires warm the cusp between summer and fall

by Brian Cockburn
North Bay Métis Council

September 25th, 2010, the North Bay Métis Council enjoys the Feast of the Harvest Moon at Datriscott Cottages in Sturgeon Falls. Wood ducks pass overhead as this annual harvest gathering serves up a dinner of fish and corn, the glowing camp fires warm the cusp between summer and fall.

It’s the end of a very busy summer, looking back to the start with tears in the rain, a very personal day.

Roger Labelle hauls a birch bark canoe from Mattawa, the softness of the sheared beaver pelt being the most surprising to the passing youth. Behind us, Lorraine Montreuil can be heard doing her drumming workshop as the ecology team, dressed in their sashes, demonstrate a number of Métis games.

**RELAY FOR LIFE**
The “Relay for life” attracted a Métis team to Sturgeon Falls—an over-night walk from 7:00 PM to 7:00 AM for the Cancer Society, thousands of flickering candles, tears in the rain, a very personal walk for loved ones lost, a witness to a huge parade of those who survived.

On the same day as the Relay, Senator Marlene Greenwood represented the Métis, as our Elder, at a cultural gathering put together by the North Bay Friendship Centre.

The North Bay Métis Council unveiled the new logo (see below), with a visit from MPP Monique Smith, part of the Cultural Approach Research and Mapping project sponsored by the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Around the office Linda Krause, MNOET, had the summer youth program up and running. Katelwyn Pepinrocke and Allison Smith kept a group of five to twelve year olds entertained with a multitude of events from July 6th to August 12th.

**FUN IN THE SUN**
A number of the toddlers also joined in the summer “Fun in the Sun” day at Lee Park on July 16th. The annual Métis family picnic put on by the health and education program drew a good crowd as it did indeed turn out to be very sunny, but somehow very wet. Water balloons were out for the whole day, anyone in t-shirt and shorts volunteered themselves as targets. The North Bay Métis Council even managed to have a short meeting surrounded by 6 to 60 year olds unloading every sort of water pistol. Good times and a nice lunch as well.

**WELCOME BACK, AMANDA!**
September saw Amanda Desbien returning to Healthy Babies and Healthy Children at 101 Worthington St. East (Tel: 705-476-2539). Onyx Reath Maksoud was born August 19th, 2009, and it’s hard to believe a year has passed, but Amanda was going over her plans for her office in July.

**INTERIM MATTAWA COMMUNITY COUNCIL**
A birth of a different variety—Mattawa has formed a new interim community council. Nelson Montreuil previously of the North Bay Métis Council is the acting president until the first election. A good group in Mattawa means another council for Blue Sky Region 5. Congratulations! I would also like to congratula- tion Jason Jamieson as he moves into his new position as MNO Health Branch Supervisor for Community Wellness, one of my favourite pieces of Blue Sky.
That elusive peace

By Donn Fowler

In the 1930s, while living in Kingston, Ontario, then a military city, we elementary school children had neither the knowledge nor a clear understanding of what the “Eleventh hour of the Eleventh Day” of each November really meant, except that it seemed to be a very important event in time, and one that our teachers called, “Our Armistice Day”. I had thought then that everybody in the whole world had to stand and be quiet for two long minutes (with our heads properly bowed in the long silence)—until the principal rang the school bell and we could all sit down again, but none the wiser.

However, in September of 1929, I had been registered in King Edward Public School in Peterborough, Ontario, two months short of being age five. Already, as a small child, I had been badly frightened by a very tall, uniformed man who had walked boldly up and onto the porch of our home on Prince Street in Peterborough and then warmly greeted my parents. Only much later did I learn that that man was my father’s oldest brother, Arthur, and therefore my “uncle” from Kingston who was a career Canadian Army non-commissioned officer and soldier. Both that distinguished looking man, and his own father, Alfred—my paternal grandfather—had returned, almost unscathed, from France following the war to end all wars in 1918. Some years later I learned that my paternal great grandfather, Samuel, also had been a decorated Canadian soldier in an earlier action to thwart a threatened incursion into Canada from the United States, by an Irish motley congregation of “Fenian Raiders”, near Brockville, Ontario.

In retrospect, the French and Indian War of 1754-1763, and the War of 1812-1814 against the United States, by an Irish motley congregation of “Fenian Raiders”, near Brockville, Ontario, had been badly frightened by a very tall, uniformed man who had walked boldly up and onto the porch of our home on Prince Street in Peterborough and then warmly greeted my parents. Only much later did I learn that that man was my father’s oldest brother, Arthur, and therefore my “uncle” from Kingston who was a career Canadian Army non-commissioned officer and soldier. Both that distinguished looking man, and his own father, Alfred—my paternal grandfather—had returned, almost unscathed, from France following the war to end all wars in 1918. Some years later I learned that my paternal great grandfather, Samuel, also had been a decorated Canadian soldier in an earlier action to thwart a threatened incursion into Canada from the United States, by an Irish motley congregation of “Fenian Raiders”, near Brockville, Ontario.

In the long silence—until the line in order to defend against any potential threat to our rural or urban homestead—those places which we all respect and love. Moreover, we’ll likely continue to do the “right thing” whenever we’re called upon to make a just and rightful stand to keep that elusive peace in sight, but what price will lasting peace demand?

Donald (Donn) Fowler enlisted as a 14-year-old in the Canadian army in June 1940. As a member of the Glengarry Highlanders, he landed in Normandy, France with a wave of D-Day reinforcements in 1944.

Contact the Aboriginal Apprenticeship Centre:
Sault Ste. Marie (Sault College office) 705-759-2544 ext 2587
Blind River (Employment Solutions office) 705-993-3187
www.aboriginalapprenticeship.ca
In addition to the three day assembly, citizens participated in proponent consultations; youth bunked together and embraced their individual identities at FWHP’s Bell House. Métis Veterans, Senators, Women, Presidents and Youth met to assess their accomplishments of the past year, and to define paths for the year ahead. Resolutions were put forward and suggestions made to keep the MNO advancing, and everyone was given the opportunity to experience the lifestyle of their ancestors as it existed centuries ago in the nation’s infancy at Old Fort William. Old acquaintances laughed and reminisced; new friendships blossomed as fresh faces were introduced, and lasting memories were made. Métis are known to work hard and play hard, but at the AGA work had to come first. Pre-AGA activities included proponent meetings with the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) and the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO). OPA informed citizens about grants and programs available to the MNO and its community councils. Thanks to MNO’s extensive lobbying, the MNO and its community councils were included in the legislation as one of the groups eligible to apply for these project opportunities. NWMO gave attendees an overview of their site-selection process and encouraged interested communities to request further information sessions. Citizens were also able to participate in the Woodland Caribou Workshop which discussed the traditional knowledge involved with the caribou harvest. Speakers for all three presentations provided listeners with both pertinent information and the opportunity to make a difference in the future.

The importance of proponent meetings was stressed later in the AGA by Métis lawyer, Jason Madden, who said, “These meetings are more than just an intake of information. These meetings help to keep Métis on the map. They are evidence that we do exist in the same way that our ancestors made their presence known a hundred years ago.”

MNO President, Gary Lipinski, spoke to attendees at the consultations about his hope that they would “turn these opportunities into realities,” in the near and long-term future.

A presentation of $25,000 from Hydro One was made to the MNO during the OPA proponent sessions.

from page 1

To all the staff who were not able to attend, that had to hold the (other) “fort” down to speak—keep the other offices and programs going—I know you were with us in spirit and we wish you could have been there. Your contributions are equally appreciated; thank you.

All staff, you are doing an amazing job that has been reflected in the growth of the MNO and its positive momentum. Once again, thank you for all that you do.

On behalf of all MNO citizens, leaders, PCMNO and others, well done.

by GARY LIPINSKI
Métis Nation of Ontario
PRESIDENT
Annual General Assembly

"It is time that we, the Métis People, are recognized in this province and country," said President Lipinski.

"We have been here since before Canada was Canada." - Special to The Daily Press

Left to right: Métis Nation of Alberta President, Audrey Poitras; Ontario Minister of Tourism and Culture, Michael Chan; Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, Chris Bentley; Métis National Council President, Clément Chartier; MP for Toronto-Centre, Bob Rae.

From page 13

The MNO will continue to grow. Through positive relationships we will move our agenda forward," said President Lipinski.

Following each presentation, the floor was opened up to questions and comments by citizens eager to have their say. The majority of the concerns surrounded how Métis traditional land would be preserved with the implementation of these projects and what considerations had been made in regard to long-term management.

"Having your voice heard is part of your legacy to the Métis people," said Director of Lands, Resources and Consultations, Melanie Paradis, in response to several citizens who asked questions and put forward comments following the consultations.

"Are we open-minded and presented well thought out responses to the presenters as well as their fellow citizens. Many youth said that they felt more familiar with the topics for having been present during the consultations.

After all their hard work, citizens were ready to kick off their mocassins and put on their dancing shoes. When Friday night’s Provincial Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Meet & Greet by the campfire was rained out, the Thunder Bay Métis Council invited citizens to gather in their Community Centre. It turned out to be a great night—a very large crowd, snacks, beverages, good music and a chance to catch up with one another.

The AGA officially got under way bright and early on Saturday morning, August 21st. Evoking memories of the fur trade era, the emotional opening ceremony began with the voyage of three canoes filled with honoured dignitaries. FWHP staff steered the canoes from shore to the wharf where they were greeted by eager citizens and park staff who welcomed the AGA to Thunder Bay and to the park. "[The entire opening ceremony] made the hair stand up on the back of your neck," said President Lapinskas, who was particularly moved.

Canoe occupants included: MNO President, Gary Lipinski; former MNO President, Dr. Tony Belcourt; Thunder Bay Métis Council President, Wendy Landry; Métis National Council President, Clément Chartier; Métis Nation of Alberta President, Audrey Poitras; the Hon. Michael Gravelle, Minister of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry, the Hon. Chris Bentley; Minister of Aboriginal Affairs; PCMNO Vice-Chair, Sharon McRiddle; PCMNO Chair, France Picotte; Senator Bob McKay of the Thunder Bay Métis Council; Anna Gibson, Aboriginal Liaison with the City of Thunder Bay; Peter Rivers, Theresa Steinlund, Anita Tackler, Senator Gerry Bedard, JoAnne Wass, and Joseph Poitras.

Once out of the canoes, dignitaries joined in a procession that included Métis Veterans, Women, Senators, Youth and Olympic Torchbearers. Youth in the procession were outfitted with traditional Métis dress. As the procession entered FWHP, citizens standing-by joined in as they wound their way through the park. The sight of citizens in traditional dress and colourful sashes filled everyone with pride as they celebrated their Métis ancestry.

Then it was down to business. Government Ministers, local MPs and MPPs also spoke, offering greetings and speaking to the MNO’s success in the past year and the strength of Métis-govern-ment relationships at the federal, provincial and municipal levels. Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, the Honourable Chris Bentley, congratulated the MNO for its initiatives in the fields of education and training, housing and health.

State of the Nation

In his State of the Nation address, President Lapinskas thanked all in attendance for their presence and dedication, for coming from all parts of the province to share in celebrating the AGA. and this, the Year of the Métis. “It is time that we, the Métis people, are recognized in this province and country,” said President Lapinskas.

"We have been here since before Canada was Canada.” As part of his speech the president spoke passionately about Métis involvement and historic sites which have contributed to the growth of Ontario and Canada itself.

Michael Chan, Minister of Tourism and Culture and the Minister responsible for Fort William Historical Park, highlighted growing opportunities for NNO citizens in the travel and tourism industry and also congratulated the MNO for its work in preserving Métis history and culture.

Following the speeches, an historic Memorandum of Under-standing (MOU) was signed between the Métis Nation of Ontario and the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA), the first MOU of its kind between two provincial
Métis governments. The MOU was signed by President Lipinski and MNA President, Audrey Poitras, to help strengthen ties and as a formal commitment to work together, to learn from one another, and, to create a more unified Métis Nation in Canada.

In addition, John Bonin, Manager of Government and Aboriginal Affairs with Union Gas, presented $10,000 to support Métis youth.

Tony Belcourt Gala

Saturday evening was all about recognizing and honouring the many, many contributions of MNO’s former and founding president, Dr. Tony Belcourt. Tony was accompanied by his partner Danielle Choquette who is a member of the Canadian Association of Conference Interpreters (CACI). Over 350 people attended the sold out dinner at the Best Western Nor’Wester. The cozy atmosphere was accented by a slideshow of old photos of Past-President Belcourt and his MNO family. During their meal, attendees were treated to a performance by the Métis Fiddler Quartet and entertained afterwards with the toe tapping music of Roger and Aline Giroux.

The evening continued as several of Dr. Belcourt’s former colleagues and friends, including President Lipinski, Chair France Picotte, Secretary Treasurer Tim Pile, and Métis lawyers Jean Toille and Jason Madden, toasted—Dr. Belcourt. They reminded Tony of some of their more humorous times together, and most important, spoke of his dedication and generosity to the Métis people, his strong historical impact on the Nation as its founding president, and his ongoing battle to ensure that Métis rights are recognized and respected. Many also commended his ability to seemingly be in more than one place at any given time—even if it meant risking a speeding ticket.

Dr. Belcourt received a number of honours following the speeches, including the announcement of the establishment of the Dr. Tony Belcourt Endowment Fund for Métis in the Arts. The endowment, chosen by Tony, was created in partnership with the Ontario College of Arts & Design University (OCADU), which committed to matching the amount of $20,000. Dr. Belcourt plans to oversee fundraising to aid the growth of the fund.

In a very emotional presentation, Senator Earl Scofield, on behalf of Métis veterans, honoured Tony with a rare white...
MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

Annual General Assembly

eagle feather that recognized his leadership. Métis Nation of Alberta President, Audrey Poitras, surprised the former MNO President with a framed reproduction of his family’s genealogy. Dr. Belcourt was born in the historic Métis community of Lac Ste. Anne, Alberta, and served as Vice-President of the Métis Association of Alberta in 1969. Former Ontario Regional Chief, Charles Fox, and his wife Meladina, honoured Dr. Belcourt with the presentation of a First Nations’ name: Mákwa Káh Ni Gáh Niich, which very suitably translates to “the bear that leads”.

Volunteer of the Year

The 2010 Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to a very deserving PCMNO Region 7 Councillor, Pauline Saulnier. Pauline, who is a member of MNO’s Development Corporation and Finance and Audit Committee, has co-facilitated Duty to Consult meetings across the province. She was nominated for the award because of her hard work and support of the MNO. Pauline was very moved by the recognition as she accepted the award in front of her fellow citizens. Past winners of the award include Deputy Chief Captain of the Hunt, Louise Goulding; Sudbury Métis Council President, Richard Sarrazin; PCMNO Senator, Reta Gordon and the award’s name-sake, the much loved, late, Suzanne Rochon-Burnett.

The youth agenda was full with over 30 young Métis in attendance. Activities included the Métis Boot Camp Workshop led by Bonny Cann and the Ispayin Project Workshop in partnership with the Métis Centre at the National Aboriginal Health Organization (NAHO). Both focused on encouraging youth to discover and embrace their Métis identity. More information about the Ispayin Project can be found on the back page and at www.metisyouthexpressions.ca.

“It is great to see so many inspired and ambitious youth at these events,” said youth attendee Benny Michaud, who co-facilitated the Ispayin Workshop with Ginny Gonneau. “When I heard they were holding the Métis Boot Camp, I thought it would be a great way to get a bunch of youth together in one room who were already engaged in a discussion about identity – and it went really well. Youth representatives from several regions met and discussed ways in which youth across the province can communicate with one another (i.e. tele-conferencing). The need for a more comprehensive governance structure within the youth council; a better method for ensuring that youth council issues and concerns are brought to the PCMNO and MNO executives on a regular basis. “I was impressed and happy to see as many youth at this AGA as there are this year,” said Region 2 Youth Representative, Janine Landry. “At the first AGA I attended, I was the only youth. In following years the attendance has grown and will hopefully continue to grow as more youth...”
become interested and involved.”

Amanda Strong, Chris McLeod, Ginny Gonnreau, and Jeremy Brown who participated in past Métis canoe expeditions were also in attendance and made a presentation on their individual hardships, lessons learned and the strong camaraderie developed during their voyage. Youth were also treated to a presentation by Angelica Laurin, one of NAHO’s 2010 National Aboriginal Youth Role Models (see page 30). Bonnie Caron and Dr. Chris Paci facilitated a discussion surrounding the possibility of a future Métis Youth Role Model award. Youth sat in on the two days of consultation meetings as well as the Saturday morning business meeting under the tent.

Within FWHP, it felt much like history itself had come alive. The park staff was dressed in traditional Métis regalia and portrayed voyageurs and young Métis women with the utmost authenticity. Attendees were also able to enjoy and participate in cultural activities throughout the grounds—such as smoking delicious fish, mixing and taking their own homemade bannock, and creating intricate beadwork, much like their ancestors had done. Citizens were also enthusiastic to learn the traditional Métis dance form of jiggling, participate in a mock casino facilitated and run by the Health Branch using “Métis money” as currency, and take part in the ever-popular Voyageur Games which consisted of traditional Métis activities such as hatchet throwing, riding, and slingshot competitions.

Other activities throughout the park included a sash weaving workshop held by Ruth Quesnelle and a nature walk led by Joseph Paquette. As well, visitors were welcome to browse the MNO trade show where they could purchase handmade jewelry, MNO merchandise and fine art. Representatives from Service Canada, Lakehead and Laurentian universities, and several MNO branches were available to provide interested visitors with information and literature on their services.

Sponsored by the Thunder Bay Community Council, Sunday evening’s pig roast was, in a word, “fabulous”? Region 4 Coun- cilor, Art Bennett, who brought his roaster all the way from Sault Ste. Marie, actually started roasting the pig on Saturday evening because it was too big to be stored in a refrigerator. Citizens savoured a hearty meal at FWHP while enjoying outdoor entertainment. “The Dream CarsVet” cover band got the audience’s toes tapping with a great mixture of classic rock and country hits. “Scott van Teeffelen and the Backroads Band” kept the crowd moving past dark with their unique country-pop melodies.

Citizens then stuck around FWHP for a cozy campfire to say “farewell” to the 17th AGA. The AGA concluded the following morning with financial reports and resolutions. A report by the MNO’s Finance Department showed that the organization is more financially stable than in previous years. This great achievement can be credited to improved financial management and new, more rigorous financial policies and procedures.

Resolutions passed during the business meeting, included the MNO’s decision to oppose the Government of Canada’s plan to eliminate the mandatory long-form census. This resolution was especially significant to Métis people as the long-form census has been used to give our Nation the opportunity to offer input when dealing with government and industry. Liberal MP for Toronto-Centre, Bob Rae, spoke about the importance of the mandatory long-form census and how it has helped to ensure that there is “full recognition of a Métis Nation in Ontario and in Canada!” More information about the MNO’s support for the long-form census can be found on our website.

A resolution was also passed on a proposed “Métis Act.” Through such legislation the Government of Ontario would recognize the MNO’s unique governance structure at local, regional and provincial levels. It was appropriate for this resolution to be passed at this year’s assembly as the Métis received recognition as a people through the proclamation of 2010 as the “Year of the Métis.”

Furthermore, a resolution regarding the MNO Registry was passed: “that the MNO initiate a province-wide, multi-phased consultation process on Métis identification and registration issues in order to develop consensus-based solutions to move the MNO forward, based on its Statement of Prime Purpose and ultimate goals of advancing Métis rights and self-governance in Ontario.” Further information regarding the consultations will be forthcoming.

A “Historic Sites” committee presented a draft proposal that included research into the identification of possible Métis historic sites in Ontario, including a memorial at Queen’s Park. This research will eventually translate into showcasing and preserving our unique Métis stories, reiterating President Lipinski’s comment that “our story needs to be told more often.”

Overall, the AGA was a smashing success among Métis citizens and members of the general public who attended. It received generous coverage on several Thunder Bay radio stations, a local television station, as well as making the front page of Thunder Bay’s most-read newspaper, where a headline described the assembly as a “Métis homecoming.”

Visit www.metisnation.org to browse the AGA Photo Gallery and find more information about the MNO’s 17th AGA.
A feeling of a family and festive spirit

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he feeling I had when I came back from the Annual General Assembly (AGA) was that, like grandma’s favourite recipe, we have to write down all the ingredients in our cookbook so we can refer to it over and over again. But like any old family recipes, it’s not so much the ingredients, it’s the pinch of this and the dash of that, and if you don’t have it, or if you add a handful of another.

Comparing our AGA to a recipe, there is an overwhelming amount that one thing is for sure; the feeling of a family reunion and the festive spirit, coupled with the importance of the affairs of our Nation make for an important and historic event amongst our people.

There are so many to thank for their contribution to the success of our AGA I could go on forever. Their efforts are gratefully acknowledged, without their talent, dedication, and spirit, it would have been just another meeting of the Nation. Individuals amongst us have gone well beyond the norm in promoting, nourishing, fostering and guiding our Nation through some pretty traumatic times. Their foresight and downright stubbornness have brought us to where we are today. Some of those leaders who have stepped forward in the past are still active in the affairs of the Métis people. Thankfully, over the years, new leaders have stepped forward to take up the torch. Our Place within Canada and within the Province of Ontario has finally been recognized and we now enjoy an unprecedented and earned position, but we must not let our guard down. We must be ever-singular that our place within Canadian society is neither eroded nor diminished. As one of Canada’s three Aboriginal peoples we must strive to maintain and establish upon our Constitutional Rights.

As always, I was so pleased to see many of our Métis from across the Ontario Homeland and was comforted to know that those who could not be there in body were definitely there in spirit. I welcome our new Senators and reflect on those beloved Senators who have passed on. Their efforts will not be forgotten and their guidance and dedication sets the standard for all the Senators to follow.

Our leaders, building on the strong foundation that was laid by those who preceded them, have raised our Nation to a solid position within Ontario.

A feeling of a family and festive spirit

by Don McDonald

Long Term Care Coordinator

DRYDEN

A

s the 17th Annual General Assembly (AGA) of the Métis Nation of Ontario quickly approached many of those preparing to attend finalized their plans. Anticipation was high, as it represented a unique point in time to personally share in a meaningful event that involved Métis individuals and as a community. People of all ages and from various places would mingle with one another to strengthen the bonds of unity, purpose and knowledge through a significant moment in time it had taken decades to achieve this event and its many purposes. Traditional ties had taken the time and energy of those past and present to ensure an outstanding presentation and representation of the Métis Nation of Ontario.

At this time it would be good to reflect on the past efforts of those who, for many years, generated interest, attended, and participated at the AGA. With the passage of time some have passed away and others, due to circumstances, are unable to attend. Everyone is to be commended for respectfully recalling the efforts of those who have passed away. Moreover, everyone is to be appreciated for taking time to reminisce with those unable to attend or who had a limited attendance. All events, past and present, of us can benefit from what they share with us.

I had the opportunity to visit and listen to some of those from the Northwest Métis Nation of Ontario Community who were unable to attend. It is a privilege to share some of their thoughts and recollections from times past with you in this issue of the Métis Voyager.

Bertha Masacar said, “The AGAs are just wonderful! Those are the times we all felt close and proud to be Métis. Said to be Métis.” She continued, “When people find out what’s going on, wherever it was, they would learn something about the Métis. Even if it was just that we have a good sense of humour. And we do!” When asked if I could mention her age she replied, “You can if you know it. I don’t want to think about my age.” So I am pleased to inform you that she is 90 years young with a remarkable joie de vivre.

“You just can’t beat that feeling of everyone being together. Family, friends, and people you’ve known for years sharing something unique. Enjoying the fact that we are Métis.”

“You just can’t beat that feeling of everyone being together. Family, friends, and people you’ve known for years sharing something unique. Enjoying the fact that we are Métis.”

by Danielle Denceu

Community Wellness Coordinator

WINNIPEG

T

he excitement rose as the sight of the ‘Thunder Bay’ sign came into view. It was the beginning of a beautiful and educational journey.

Fort William was not just an attraction, but rich with history and elegance. Walking into the fort to the sound of cannons going off while the canoes came in, one couldn’t help but wonder what it was like to live during that time. I was brought back to reality by the procession that included the President of the MNO, elders, veterans, senators, PCMNO, and council members. Withiddle music, bagpipes and even authentic dress, history was now reality.

I met a youth who was generous enough to take time to show and explain feather weaving to me. I was taught the difference between machine-woven and finger-woven—traditional to Métis culture—and the technique of how to do it. The youth, only just learning feather weaving himself, was on his third sash and had already mastered one technique, and was well on his way to mastering another.

On cultural day, not only was there an educational casino simulation, a bingo, hatchet throw- ing, guitar lessons, and a dance around the fire, but I had the pleasure of being a part of the singalong and hat throwing. Although I didn’t test my expertise this year, a lot of my co-workers did and there definitely were some bull-eyes.

Way to go gals!

Being my first AGA with the MNO, being a part of the slingshot and the sound of the whirling sound of the hatchet, I realized the MNO is like one big family and although we all have our own opinions, we all have the same want in the end. I listened to the passion of the veterans and the wisdom of the elders and I left wondering, “How can I continue to extend the voice of the MNO and continue to reach out for respect, recognition and knowledge of the Métis Nation of Ontario and continue to participate in the culture?”

A fiddler at Historic Old Fort William in Thunder Bay.

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A fiddler at Historic Old Fort William in Thunder Bay.
Delegates canoe the Kaministiquia River to arrive at Historic Old Fort William in Thunder Bay for the 17th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario.

Métis youth in regalia at Historic Old Fort William in Thunder Bay.

Katelyn Stenlund takes part in a beading workshop.

who have had the opportunity to visit Saskatchewan know why it is called the “land of the living skies”. I have never seen anything like it, having come from Ontario where there is an abundance of hills, valleys and trees. I felt as though I could touch the puffy white clouds. The sky seemed to surround the earth, wrapping its blue arms around me. It was breathtaking!

I had the pleasure of attending “Back to Batoche 2010”, the 125th anniversary of the Battle of Batoche this past July. It was the most incredible event I have ever been a part of.

I flew out of Ottawa on Saturday, July 17th, to represent the Métis Nation of Ontario as a “youth ambassador” in Back to Batoche’s opening ceremonies on July 17th. I was so excited to be a part of this wonderful event. I was greeted in Batoche on July 18, 2010, by Jenn Altenberg, the youth representative on the Back to Batoche planning committee. She then introduced me to the youth ambassadors from the other provinces. We all gathered together: Métis Nation Presidents, Veterans, Elders and Youth from across the Homeland to sing both the national and Métis anthems. Presidential speeches and opening remarks from government dignitaries followed.

The youth then made their way over to the Batoche National Historic Site to help set up chairs for the Commemoration & Reconciliation ceremony and the unveiling of a Commemorative Gate to honour the fallen of Batoche. The gate had the inscription: “In spirit we reconcile on this day of July 18, 2010, as we honour those who lost their lives in the 1885 North-West Resistance. We, the Métis, died for our home and our land. We, the soldiers, died for Canada. We, the First Nations, died for our Métis brothers and sisters. We are now forever free,” in English, French and Michif. I can’t even begin to describe the powerful feelings that rushed through my body. I thought to myself, “WOW, I’m actually standing on ground once stained with the blood of Métis fighters.”

The reconciliation ceremony began with fiddling, a drum song and an RCMP bugler as spectators watched, proudly wearing their Métis sashes and T-shirts. While the names of those who had fallen in the battle were read aloud, youth were given a handful of small signs with names and information about the combatants. Family members stood to acknowledge the service, dedication and sacrifices the soldiers had made for our country. It was a very moving ceremony.

Following the ceremony, I was honoured to be able to speak to various Métis families who told me wonderful stories and shared memories they had of their deceased ancestor. The ceremony concluded with a song by Andrea Menard dedicated to the veterans while the youth went around and handed out reconciliation medals to all those in attendance. It was remarkable to see the bullet holes in the church and the rifle pits that were once part of the fighting grounds of the 1885 Resistance.

July 18th, was Ontario Day and I had the pleasure, along with Tim Pile, of hosting and introducing a wide range of Métis artists as well as keeping spectators informed of activities happening on-site. The Ontario pavilion, one of five provincial pavilions, was beautiful and very rich in Métis culture and history. Scott Carpenter had brought his extensive collection of Métis artefacts which were greatly appreciated by all who stopped by for a visit. For the next two days, I stayed in the pavilion alongside some of my coworkers and spoke with the many Métis people about the various programs and services that the Métis Nation of Ontario has to offer. I enjoyed meeting my fellow Métis from across Canada and sharing our unique stories and life experiences. I gained a stronger understanding of the Métis way of life and how it varies from province to province.

This experience was life-altering for me and given the chance, I would definitely participate again next year. I hope all of you will one day have the opportunity to join in the culturally enriching festivities at Back to Batoche.
COMMUNITY GARDEN

**In full bloom**

by Lianne Dumais

Long Term Care Coordinator

TORONTO

I would like to take the time to thank our Métis gardener, Ralph Chernenko, for taking care of the community garden in the west end of Toronto. Community gardens encourage an urban community’s food security, allowing citizens to grow their own food and/or for others to donate what they have grown.

Community gardens afford access to fresh produce and plants as well as providing satisfying work to those who participate. A garden restores neighbourhood improvement and promotes a sense of community and connection to the environment. The MNO’s Aboriginal Healthy Babies Healthy Children (ABHBC) program run by Sarah Parr contributed seeds and tools to help make this garden achievable.

Community gardens can be as diverse as community gardeners. Our gardener chose to grow vegetables, herbs and flowers. I attended a SOADI frontline workshop at the beginning of March. The elder was talking about traditional foods and how we’ve come from our traditional ways. Something she said really stuck with me. She strongly believed that you can’t lose love in our food but we’ve lost that connection; everything is processed and done quickly now. She explained that in the past, families took the day to prepare a meal together and you could feel the love and hard work put into every meal. As the elder said, “you got that tingly feeling in your tummy”; it was so good you didn’t want to waste one bite. Now there is a whole new meaning to food. It is called “fast food”; we drive up to a window and pick up our meals within minutes. Our ancestors used to call it “fast food” as they had to chase the food so they could eat that night. We need to go back to our traditional ways and find our ancestors’ recipes to help us all remember where we came from! It is all about balance, learning to encourage our families to be active and connected. Be proud of what you’ve created; encourage those around you to garden as it is never too late to learn!

I strongly believe community gardens improve the health of the gardener by providing an increased sense of pride in what you’ve created, and an outlet for exercise. The garden also battle two forms of alienation that plague modern urban life by bringing urban gardeners in touch with the source of their food, and by breaking down isolation and creating a social network.

The greatest wealth is health. Therefore, enjoy every day for what it has to offer!

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

**Two-weeks on the job and my first Rendezvous**

by David I.M. Clark

Community Wellness Coordinator

Owen Sound

Just two weeks into the job, I had the honour of attending the Great Lakes Métis Council’s 2010 Summer Rendezvous at the beautiful Durham Conservation Authority Park on July 17th. The conference is located on the Saugewin River in the town of Durham, Grey County.

As a new Community Wellness Coordinator, the experience was, I thought, going to be a little overwhelming—just not knowing what to expect. I had, after two weeks, met most members of council, and a few citizens, but had not met most of the citizens who live scattered across Grey and Bruce Counties. I really shouldn’t have worried, it was as if I were attending a family reunion. Of course I was! I had prepared a “Gambling IQ Quiz” along with my table of brochures. The quiz attracted many people. Each was asked a question or two about gambling, and received a gift. I was challenged a few times that the activity was promoting gambling as it was written “gambling”. Ha ha! I thought a chance to educate! But, I explained, a gift was given for both correct and incorrect answers and no one was risking anything of value. Okay, maybe a little pride if the answer was wrong, especially if they were sure of their answer and answered correctly! I had questions for children and adults covering dice, pool balls, and pool table. Many were on probabilistic choice, with choices of true/false and multiple-choice.

This event also allowed me to consult with people about program ideas, and hand out a brief survey. Attending the BBQ lunch and fish fry allowed me to meet more citizens. After 10 days on the job, and meeting few people in that time, the Rendezvous seemed like “baptism by fire” but, in hind-sight, was the best orientation that wasn’t planned! Great event.

We heard the fruit was a big hit, and much appreciated. We also had a Problem Gambling Awareness game set up, where participants spun the wheel then were asked a question pertaining to gambling issues. If the question was answered correctly there was a prize.

Together with a handful of eager helpers we cut and filled 350 small cups with mixed fruit and ice cream sold at the canteen. Due to the hot weather there was a lot of ice cream sold at the canteen. Participants were invited to a feast of moose meat, mashed potatoes and various salads with pies for dessert at the Indian Friendship Centre. The evening was spent enjoying Aboriginal dance exhibitions followed by a music jamboce. Thanks to my wonderful colleagues I have learned a lot and look forward to future events.

**SAULT STE MARIE | ABORIGINAL DAY**

**Métis celebrate in the Soo**

by Heather Moss

Community Wellness Coordinator

SAULT STE. MARIE

On Monday, June 21, 2010, I had the pleasure of being involved as a “community partner” at our local Aboriginal Day celebration. A powwow was held at Bellevue Park in Sault Ste. Marie. The Métis Nation of Ontario’s Sault Ste. Marie office partnered with the Indian Friendship Centre and other organizations to celebrate Aboriginal Day. It was a great success.

The Health Branch participated by having a display table to promote the Long Term Care program, Aboriginal Healthy Babies Program and the Community Wellness Program. Our display table offered various types of information for all ages to read and enjoy. We also had a Problem Gambling Awareness game set up, where participants spun the wheel then were asked a question pertaining to gambling issues. If the question was answered correctly there was a prize.

Together with a handful of eager helpers we cut and filled 350 small cups with mixed fruit and ice cream sold at the canteen. Due to the heat weather there was a lot of ice cream sold at the canteen. Participants were invited to a feast of moose meat, mashed potatoes and various salads with pies for dessert at the Indian Friendship Centre. The evening was spent enjoying Aboriginal dance exhibitions followed by a music jamboce. Thanks to my wonderful colleagues I have learned a lot and look forward to future events.
Osteoporosis: The Silent Thief
by David I.M. Clark
Community Wellness Coordinator
Owen Sound

While making my rounds as a new Community Wellness Coordinator, introducing and re-introducing myself to former colleagues in the health and social service sectors, I had a chat with the area manager for Osteoporosis Canada. I asked if there were any studies of osteoporosis specifically relating to Aboriginal peoples; there were none that she was aware of. However, during that discussion, Judy Porteous did note that there was a connection between osteoporosis and diabetes. The obvious happened; next I arranged a workshop on diabetes. The obvious happened; “bone friendly” lunch.

Judy’s informative presentation covered what osteoporosis is, risk factors (major and minor), who is affected, and causes. One test for risk is the bone mineral density (BMD) test, which can be done by your doctor. As well, she covered healthy eating as it relates to maintaining healthy bones, drug treatments for osteoporosis, and the importance of physical exercise.

Did you know one in four women, and one in eight men, over the age of 50 has osteoporosis? Neither did I! The term “silent thief” refers to the process of the body slowly robbing the bones of strength (reducing their density), often with no symptoms until a fracture occurs (source: Osteoporosis Canada brochure “Are you at risk?”). There is some research related to the osteoporosis-diabetes link, although little of it is specific to Aboriginal peoples. One published study (2004) looked at fracture risk among First Nations people in Manitoba. “Diabetes is a significant risk factor for fractures” evidenced by the study’s finding that First Nations people have “significantly higher fracture rates than the control subjects (general population)”. Particularly, there are higher fracture rates for hip and spine; almost double! One unpublished study (undated) indicated that people with Type 1 diabetes tend to have lower bone mass, and women with Type 1 are 12-times more likely to report having a fracture. Clearly more research is needed for both First Nations and Métis related to both osteoporosis and the diabetes connection. Given the recent Métis Nation of Ontario study about diabetes rates of MNO registrants (lower than First Nations, higher than the general population), future research should consider Métis separately from First Nations, so that we are able to develop Métis-specific strategies for health and wellness education, awareness, and prevention.

Oh, by the way—if you are aged 19 to 50 you need at least 1000mg of calcium and 400 IU (international units) of Vitamin D (which helps the body absorb calcium). If you are over the age of 50, you’ll need at least 1500mg of calcium and 800 IU of Vitamin D. (New guidelines with higher rates were due out sometime in mid-September – watch for them.)

Preparing for the autumn harvest
by Desneige Taylor
Community Wellness Coordinator
Sudbury

Over the summer we were busy at the office. We had a successful year with the Youth Program thanks to our youth employees and volunteer parents and children who gave the program a chance—a chance to re-engage with culture and activity and a chance to learn about the Métis culture. We enjoyed a successful Annual General Assembly once again as the Métis Nation of Ontario embraced the culture as well as the politics that are necessary to be recognized as a people and as a Nation.

As you know, this year the AGA was held in Thunder Bay at Fort William Historic Park. Fort William is important to the Métis people because many Métis ancestors were voyageurs or Nor’Westers. In their pursuit of fur, the Nor’Westers established an ambitious transportation network spanning the entire country. Located on Lake Superior, Fort William became the key midway transhipment point. Some events that the Sudbury office is planning to share with the community will focus on proper nutrition, diabetes, family violence and some cultural fun as well. Enjoy the outdoors, the crisp air, the hunting and fishing. Enjoy the children as they await the first snow fall.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Métis Cheer

On Friday, December 3rd, MNO staff and the Georgian Bay Métis Council will be hosting their annual Métis Cheer.

Each year we invite our partners, community members, clients, and local dignitaries to drop in and join us in some holiday cheer. There is always a great amount of food, traditional items, sweet treats, and our famous moose milk. The event is held at our offices from 1:00-4:00 PM.

Please come by and join us!

For information contact:
Tel: 705-526-6335
355 Cranston Crescent
Midland ON

Goldcorp is proud to support and celebrate the history and culture of the Métis Nation of Ontario.

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GOLDCORP

New LTC Staff in Kenora

Kathleen Tarlai has joined the Long Term Care Team. LTC is pleased to announce that our Kenora site now has its Long Term Care program up and running again. Kathleen is Métis herself and glad to be a part of our team. She comes with some extensive experience and will be an asset to the community of Kenora and the MNO.

Please welcome Kathleen to the MNO. She can reached at kathleenr@metisnation.org or 1-807-467-2555.
MINOJINGEWIN: Healthy eating cooking classes

by Harley Hodges
Community Wellness Coordinator
KENORA

We live in a time where convenience is a priority and nutrition tends to take a backseat. Chef Ryan Parish of Seven Generations Institute is trying to change that with “Minojingewin”, his cooking and healthy eating classes. Having enjoyed success in other communities in north-western Ontario, Lauri-Ann Marshall of Northern Diabetes Network approached me with the idea of presenting this program to Kenora, via the Community Wellness Program and Kenora Métis Health Services. The Community Wellness Program’s prime goal is to promote health, nutrition, and diabetes prevention, so this seemed like a perfect fit for all parties. With enough space for 24 participants, advertising was done throughout the community. Parish and his team from Seven Generations arrived in Kenora with an arsenal of tools to help them attack “convenience cooking”. With a full set of convection ovens, hotplates, casseroles, dishes, knives, cutting boards, bowls, pans, and other utensils for each table, Minojingewin explained the most basic to the more skilled culinary aspects of developing a meal from start to finish. Over two days of classes participants learned how to prepare the foods they love using healthier ingredients.

Parish discussed ways to make a nutritious meal both economically and efficiently, even for the fast food lovers. From proper cooking time and temperature, baking, boiling and poaching techniques, canning procedures, recipe revision and ingredient substitution, locally available products, and an example of how to cook healthy traditional and family favourite dishes, all attendees from amateur to expert were able to take home new knowledge to their family kitchens. While learning the practical tools and tips to assist in developing healthy meals, diabetes educator, Lauri-Ann Marshall, highlighted nutrition as a preventive tool to attendees. According to Parish, this session of his workshop was the most successful yet. The knowledge that the participants received will stay with them for the rest of their cooking years and can be shared through healthy family meals.

Ingridients:

- 1½ tbsp olive oil
- 1 cup whole wheat flour
- 1 cup all purpose flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp salt
- 1 cup water
- 1 egg white
- Pinch of salt

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 400 F (200 C)
2. In a large bowl, mix together flour, baking powder, salt.
3. In a separate bowl mix together egg white, oil, and water.
4. Make a well in middle of flour mixture; add wet ingredients.
5. Slowly mix all wet ingredients together with all dry ingredients.
6. Once all is mixed together, turn dough out onto a well floured board, and knead dough for 5-6 min.
7. Place dough on a cookie sheet, and spread dough out to 1 inch in thickness.
8. Poke holes in dough with a fork.
9. Bake for 30 minutes in a preheated oven, until bannock has risen, and the top is golden brown.

Minojingewin Bannock Recipe:

TIMMINS MÉTIS COUNCIL | THANKS TO UNION GAS

Métis Family Day at Moonbeam

by Richard Aubin
AHBHC Coordinator
TIMMINS

The Métis Nation of Ontario – Timmins employees would like to thank Union Gas Ltd. for their generous donation in support of a summer family event. Lynne Mangan, Supervisor of Child and Family Initiatives accepted a $500.00 donation from Union Gas presented by Andreanne Aubin the Administrative Assistant for Union Gas Distribution Operations - North West.

Fifty-three participants ages 2 to 93 went to the Twin Lakes Campground in Moonbeam. A great fun-filled day of wading in the man-made lake and the use of the water slides was enjoyed by everyone.

The older adults in the meantime played various games and relaxed on the beautiful campground. This was an opportunity for the Métis to raise awareness on healthy lifestyle choices in our great outdoors.

Once again thank you on behalf of the staff and all participants in helping us make this event a reality.

ROLLER SKATING RINKS

Toronto Aboriginal orgs partner for picnic

by Lianne Dumais
Long Term Care Coordinator
TORONTO

2010 is the Year of the Métis. What better way to celebrate with our communities than by hosting an Aboriginal Day picnic in the park? On June 17, 2010, the Toronto Long Term Care program in conjunction with SOADI and the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto’s seniors program organized such a picnic; there was an excellent turnout.

We enjoyed a nutritious lunch that provided healthy choices. Lunch was followed by Bingo, summer crosswords and word searches. Practical prizes such as diabetic meters, step counter meters and resource materials, medical foot creams and diabetic socks were provided to ensure the participants knew the importance of taking care of one’s feet. The children who attended were kept busy with blow-up balloons, tennis rackets, and a ball and bat to play with. We had a beautiful day in the sun and a good turn out. It was great to see the seniors participate in a day devoted to an outdoor social gathering. One of the seniors said, “I enjoyed the togetherness and the pleasant manner of the event planners,” and many others commented about enjoying their outing.

Thanks to Amanda Lipinski (SOADI) who helped make this picnic possible by ensuring we had a proper park permit and appropriate items for all the participants. Amanda also did a great job calling “Nutritional Bingo” food items. I would also like to thank Caroline Francis and Helen Parker for helping with food cost and ensuring everyone made it there safely from their seniors’ program. Thank you for all your support.

WINDSOR | SWEET SUMMERTIME SWEETNESS

Summer is gone, but dessert is all year long

by Danielle Deneau
Community Wellness Coordinator
WINDSOR

Ahhhh summertime, it’s the time of the year when you drive down the street with your windows open and smell the BBQ and say “mmmnn”. This is the time of the year when the kids are playing outside and you can sit out with friends and family. It’s the time of the year when you hear the music of the ice cream truck coming around the neighborhood. It’s the time of the year when you indulge in your favourite eats. Are you hungry yet?

Well, summer may be just a sweet memory, but here’s a dessert that my mom introduced to me and I would like to introduce it to you. If you’re anything like me, you have a sweet tooth that never goes away. So, fellow sweet lovers who can’t seem to get enough, fear no more! Treat your friends and family to a great dessert.

INGREDIENTS:

- can of low fat/no fat cooking cherries
- container of low fat/no fat cool whip
- angel food cake

Directions: Take the angel food cake out of the container and cut it in half horizontally, in order to have two layers. Put the smaller layer in the bottom of the bowl. Put a layer of cool whip on top of the angel food cake. Now put a layer of the cooking cherries on top of the cool whip. You should have angel food cake, cool whip and cooking cherries.

Place the other layer of angel food cake on top. Repeat the process and place in the fridge until it’s cool.

You can vary the amount of cool whip and cherries according to taste. My suggestion is two cans of cooking cherries and one container of cool whip. Any leftover cherries and cool whip make a nice snack another day. Enjoy!

WINDSOR | SWEET SUMMERTIME SWEETNESS

Minojingewin Bannock Recipe:
A Sombre, proud moment
by Terryl Lyn Longpre
Community Wellness Coordinator
WELLAND

The very prospect of having a missing loved one is something we hope you and your family never have to experience. We can only imagine what a parent or grandparent must feel when they realize someone close to them is missing. We have heard that this process can be very isolating and emotionally overwhelming and we want you to know that Native Women’s Association of Canada and our Sisters in Spirit initiatives are here for you. We work in the best interest of the woman or girl who has gone missing. To add your loved one to the Missing Alerts page, please contact the NWAC. By phone: 1-800-461-4043 By mail: Sisters In Spirit, Native Women’s Association of Canada 1 Nicholas Street, 9th Floor, Ottawa, ON K1N 7B7

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MISSING ALERTS - EVERY VICTIM MATTERS

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Amanda Sophia BARTLETT has been missing since the summer of 1997 from Winnipeg, MB. Amanda was 17-years-old at the time of her disappearance and lived in the Pas, MB before moving to Winnipeg in 1996. She was last seen leaving a family member’s home in Winnipeg. She promised to return but has not been seen or heard from since.

Claudette OSBORNE has been missing since July 30th, 2008 from Winnipeg, MB. Claudette was 22-years-old at the time of her disappearance. Family members and Winnipeg Police Service have been searching for the young mother of four children who was last seen at the Lincoln Motor Hotel at 1030 McPhilips Street around 2:00 AM. Suffering from health issues, drug issues, and a history of custody battles, her 2-year-old baby, the family is extremely worried about her well-being.

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Bea Kwaronihawi BARNES has been missing since January 5th, 2010, from the Chatsagay area, QC. Bea was 17-years-old at the time of her disappearance and requires medication that she does not have with her.

Amanda Sophia BARTLETT has been missing since the summer of 1997 from Winnipeg, MB. Amanda was 17-years-old at the time of her disappearance and lived in the Pas, MB before moving to Winnipeg in 1996. She was last seen leaving a family member’s home in Winnipeg. She promised to return but has not been seen or heard from since.

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VIOLENCE AGAINST ABORIGINAL WOMEN IN CANADA

Did you know that over the past 20 years approximately 500 Aboriginal women have gone missing in communities across Canada?

Facts to Consider:

• The mortality rate of Aboriginal women as a result of violence is three times the rate experienced by all other Canadian women. Aboriginal women aged 25 - 44 are five times more likely to die from acts of violence. (Health Canada, 2002)

• Eight in ten Aboriginal women in Ontario reported having personally experienced violence. (Women’s Health Surveillance Report 1999)

• 42.5% of Aboriginal women experienced partner violence (Physical, sexual, financial or emotional) compared to 20.6% of non-Aboriginal women. (Women’s Health Surveillance report, 1999)

• Rates of spousal homicide among Aboriginal women are more than eight times higher than for non-Aboriginal women. (Statistics Canada, 2001.)

Emily OSMOND (LAPLANTE) has been missing since September 9, 2007 from Kawaskinac First Nation, SK. Emily was 78-years-old at the time of her disappearance. Her disappearance is very unusual. Her vehicle and personal belongings, including medication, were left at her residence. Searches of the area have failed to locate any sign of Emily.

Lisa Marie YOUNG has been missing since June 30th, 2002, from Nanaimo, BC. Lisa Marie was 21-years-old at the time of her disappearance. She was last seen in a burgundy Jaguar in the Jingle Pot area of Nanaimo. More than anything, the family wants to keep Lisa in people’s minds. They do not want people to forget about Lisa Marie.

Maycy ODJICK has been missing since September 6th, 2008, from Maniwaki, QC. Maycy was 16-years-old at the time of her disappearance and is believed to be with her friend Shannon Alexander who has also been missing since September 6th, 2008. Please visit the Find Maycy and Shannon website at www.findmaycyandshannon.com.

Mary KREISER (NÉE SAINT SAVEL) has been missing since the fall of 1987 from Westlock, AB. Mary was 49-years-old at the time of her disappearance. Mary was born in Wabasca, AB to Pierre Saint Saviour and Adelade Crow. Pierre was of Métis descent and Adelade was a member of the Bigstone Cree Nation. As a girl, Mary attended St. Martin’s Residential School located on the Bigstone Cree Nation. Mary last resided in Slave Lake. Mary is the mother of Sharon, Arlene, Lorna, Brian and Gail.

Pamela Holopainen has been missing since December 14th, 2003 from Timmins, ON. Pamela was 22-years-old at the time of her disappearance. Pamela was last seen leaving a party in the early hours of December 14th. Pamela’s family says she left accompanied by her common-law spouse. Pamela has not been in contact with any of her family members or her two small children. This is completely out of character, and police strongly suspect foul play in her disappearance.

Shannonen ALEXANDER has been missing since September 6th, 2008, from Maniwaki, QC. Shannonen was 17-years-old at the time of her disappearance and is believed to be with her friend Maycy Odjick who has also been missing since September 6th, 2008. Please visit the Find Maycy and Shannon website at www.findmaycyandshannon.com.
Almost every Voyager contains at least one of "our stories." We have had quite a variety over the years: the adventures of Métis pilot, Michelle Goodeve; building hitch Bark canoes, the seemingly end- less quest for our roots and so many more. We are indeed a diverse people. I am especially pleased to bring you this story.

A few weeks ago I received an email from MNO citizen Paul Gauthier of Waterdown ON. Paul began by saying, "I'm the proud father of Garrett Gauthier...." He then told me why he was proud, and he certainly has good reason. Since then, I have been corres- ponding with both Paul and his son Garrett. Here's the story.

Garrett is an environmental scientist, who recently graduated from the University of Guelph. Along with four friends, he left Guelph, Ontario, to bicycle south through the U.S., Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica. They will stay in Costa Rica at Durika, a nature reserve and organic farm, for the next eight years at the University of Guelph, I befriended a number of engaged citizens and community activists. They show an honest, open compassion for the individ- uals around them, human and otherwise, and I've found that relationships with such people are mutually reinforcing. We sup- port and encourage each other in appreciation of the work we do.

"I used the word "activist" there because it's a good blanket term, but it's not a word I'm terri- bly fond of. To me, activist seems to imply that you're headed out, into the outside world," apart from your own concerns and considerations, and then acting in a way that's novel or unique in order to achieve something ben- eficial. This can be a fantastically worthwhile thing, and sometimes it's the best way to accomplish something good, but I don't like the notion of an "outside world." I try to simply live in the world, without the perception that my life is separate from the lives of others (this might not be entirely possible, but it's the goal). I try to be consistent in my actions, and act in a manner that pro- motes well-being in the world around me—from seemingly mundane things like communicating honestly to seemingly exciting things like biking for a year.

"I suppose, though, that something must have drawn me to the peers I mentioned. I was already interested in environ- mental and animal welfare issues before going to Guelph. Some of the greatest credit probably belongs to my parents, who took me on hikes along trails in Hamil- ton and Burlington ever since I was very young. During high school I lived near a dead-end road next to a meadow and forest, and I still consider that to be one of the world's most beautiful places—not because it is necessarily so, but because I developed a relation- ship with it. I think that's where I developed an appreciation of places—habitats—where more than just humans reside. I have a lot of vivid memories of misty daybreaks, soft rainy days, cool breezes, warm-grass-smells, and the sounds of birds and insects—nothing you can't find at the edge of most any southern Ontario town or city, really.

"In my final year of high school, I took a class with a name that was something along the lines of Challenge and Change in Society." It was a collection of social, psychological, and anthro- pological studies. Near the end of the semester, we gave presenta- tions on a variety of issues, and I remember being most struck by the presentations given on indus- trial-scale agriculture. I had never had any exposure to the notion of an unsustainable food system, of petroleum-derived pesticides or fertilizers, of animal exploitation. That was the first I had ever heard of genetic modifi- cation. Of course, now these issues are quite visible, but they were completely off my radar until I took that class. I had already been thinking about health—healthy eating, a healthy lifestyle—and had come to the conclusion that the health of an individual is entirely dependent on the health of that individual's habitat (not terribly insightful, but I was just figuring it out at the time). My interest in healthy eat- ing, then, was thrown full-force against this new information about our food system. I think that's when I started to become an engaged citizen; I wanted to learn as much as possible about the world around me, and I quickly discovered that because there are a despairingly large number of problems all around us, there are an empoweringly large number of opportunities to do good things for the world, for each other.

"It was probably that motiva- tion that led me to my peers at Guelph, and they provided more opportunities for growth." This bicycle excursion is not an isolated act of courage on behalf of the environment. Gar- rett has been involved with Greenpeace, and is one of the environ- mental activists who climb buildings, bridges, etc., to hang banners related to environ- mental issues. He is one of the two young persons who hung the banners on the Alexandra Bridge in Ottawa that read "Welcome to HOP ON A BICYCLE AND GO FOR A 16,000 KM SPIN?"

Like so many well inten- tioned and earnest efforts to save the environment, Garrett and his friends are not out to tell you what you can't do. In fact, this is all about what you can do.

"Through this tour we resolve to illustrate that sustainability is accessible to everyone and that people living in a variety of condi- tions can make meaningful contri- butions to planetary health. We aim to weave a network along our route connecting what we call "sustainability models": those indi- viduals, families, communities, and organizations that develop and demonstrate successful sus- tainable and socially conscious liv- ing initiatives. The intent is to empower the public at large in transiting to sustainable lifestyles, and to facilitate the sharing of relevant resources and information. Ultimately, we intend to aid others in their jour- neys toward sustainability by pub- licizing what we learn on people across the continent can take strides towards forming a sustain- able society."

I think Paul realized just how committed his son was when he "handed back a BMW" and gave him the money that's fundraised will be donated to the sustainability models we're working with and documenting."
Métis Arts

Artist represents Muskoka and Métis community at G20

by Nathalie Berin

In June, 2010, Muskoka Tourism and the Huntsville-Take of Bays Chamber of Commerce approached the various arts organizations in Muskoka and Parry Sound to name artists to represent Muskoka at the G20’s Media Centre. Out of sixteen artists who were nominated, I was one of the final eight selected to participate at the Northern Ontario pavilion of the Experience Canada event. The excitement of being selected for such an important event was incredible! I knew there would be more than 2500 media there from around the world but other than that, I didn’t know what to expect. After all, the only news that seemed to be circulating in public was about the “fake lake”. When the day finally came for my “shift”, I ended up having a truly unforgettable experience!

My volunteer job as “Artist Ambassador” was to display, demonstrate and discuss my art with the media and government representatives from around the world. I was filmed and photographed, was interviewed and had conversations with journalists from Canada, India, Spain, the US and Russia. Since art is a common thread among all people and all cultures, this wasn’t just a great opportunity to show my art to the world, it was also a great opportunity to tell people about the distinct Métis art form.

A good portion of my art includes my interpretation of traditional flower patterns like the ones Métis women embroider or bead onto clothing, shoes and other textile or animal skin items. I like to include my own signature flower designs on my art to add special significance to the subject matter, or sometimes simply for embellishment, just as the Métis women of the past would embellish clothing. Animals are also common central figures in my art. I often deal with subjects such as hunting and trapping, but especially I use the Métis beadwork tool. Watching the effect of the “fake lake” on our visitors, I realized just how much we take for granted in Canada and how important it is to preserve our natural heritage. As a Métis citizen, I am glad to know that we have the power of art but the cultural relevance of Métis art!

As for the “fake lake”, I wish the general public had been able to see it so they could understand what went on inside the G20 Media Centre. It’s one of the reasons why I chose to share my experience here. It really is a shame the “fake lake” was blown out of proportion to become the centre of attention at another otherwise significant event. Yes, by our Canadian standards, it was small – a water feature really – but it was never meant to reproduce the fantastic imagery that was being displayed on this massive screen as they sat in total comfort and immersed in the Muskoka feeling. So many people from around the world who didn’t know what Muskoka was (or who had never come to Canada) were in awe of the traditional knowledge handed down from generation to generation. My own personal side-mission as a Métis artist is to honour this art form.

Because our Métis ancestors never signed their embroidered and beaded arwork, the art of the “Flower Beadwork People” would have become totally lost were it not for traditional knowledge handed down from generation to generation. My own personal side-mission as a Métis artist is to honour this art form and I am always happy to discuss Métis art history with anyone! A good portion of my art includes my interpretation of traditional flower patterns like the ones Métis women embroider or bead onto clothing, shoes and other textile or animal skin items. The combination of my French and Aboriginal heritage. It is neither European in style, nor First Nations in style, but rather a mix of the two. Like being Métis!

But because our Métis ancestors never signed their embroidered and beaded arwork, the art of the “Flower Beadwork People” would have become totally lost were it not for traditional knowledge handed down from generation to generation.

Recreational activities near hydro stations and dams are dangerous

For your own safety obey all warnings at hydroelectric stations, dams and their surrounding reservoirs and waterways. These facilities operate year-round, affecting water flows. Water that looks safe can become treacherous in minutes and ice forming near, or even several kilometres away, can become dangerous. Symptoms, signs, and safety becomes are there to warn you, but if you take water (even a gentle river) for granted, you are not aware of the dangers that exist until it is too late.

OFC is proud to support The Métis Nation of Ontario’s 2010 Annual General Assembly.

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Family, culture & Métis identity

by Chris Paci

OTTAWA

BOOK REVIEW | MÉTIS HISTORY

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is the first book by Brenda Macdougall, written as part of her doctoral the-
sis and completed while she was teaching and serv-
ing as Acting Chair of Native Stud-
ies, University of Saskatchewan.

One of the Family. Métis Culture in Nineteenth-Century North-
western Saskatchewan is a fasci-
nating read. In it, Macdougall (12) offers instructive method-
ological considerations for histor-
ical research, "not to quantify the
demographic characteristics of
this community, to reveal or ana-
lyze such things as birth rates,
marital ages, or mortality. Instead,
the methodology used here draws
from the qualitative methodolo-
gies...What can the genealogical
reconstruction of family structures tell us about
larger historical issues of Métis identity
across western Canada and the
northern plains, and what can it tell us about the intel-
lectual process that went into the
establishment of a new society?"

This work represents a deep
understanding of Métis social
relations and speaks to econom-
ics and geography, as well as envi-
ronmental relationships that shape
culture over time.

I use both spellings for “Métis”
in talking about the book.

The accent is used in Ontario and it
denotes a respect for Aboriginal and
French origins that many
Métis families in Ontario and else-
where place great importance in
talking about the book. The
accent is used in Ontario and it
denotes a respect for Aboriginal and
French origins that many
Métis families in Ontario and else-
where place great importance in
talking about the book. The

While there are complex personal
reasons why Métis choose one
spelling over the other, in north-
western Saskatchewan most Métis
choose to write it without the
accent. In this review I use both
to speak specifically about Métis
in Ontario and Métis in north-
western Saskatchewan, both of whom are part of
the larger Métis Nation. Métis/Metis are like other Indigenous peoples
in other parts of the world; they
share much in common and have
differential influences, one nation
but with a lot of diversity. As Mac-
dougall notes (8), “how a people
names themselves and inserts
their narrative into a landscape
reveals a great deal about their
self-conceptions.”

Dr. Macdougall is now at the
University of Ottawa where she
has taken up the first Research
Chair in Métis Studies. The
research chair is unlike any other
in Canada, funded to a sustain-
able level by the Government of
Ontario and the University of
Ottawa. It is a significant policy
and political shift from the dark
days when the government issued a bounty on the head of
Louis Riel. The idea of the chair
came out of discussions between
the Métis Nation of Ontario and
then leader of the opposition,
Dalton McGuinty.

Relationships between people
and places are core features of
Métis protohistory, genealogy
and resilience over time. Mac-
dougall notes: “the region was
transformed into a Métis home-
land not only by virtue of chil-
doners’ occupations of the terri-
tory, but also through their rela-
tionships with the Cree and Dene
women and the fur trader men
from whom they were descended: The Métis, like their
Indian and fur trader relations,
lived in a social world based on
reciprocal sharing, respectful
behaviour between family mem-
ers, and an understanding of
the differences between themselves
and outsiders.” Historians of the
past often treated Métis as mar-
ginal in their contributions to
the development of Canada Métis
began to surface in scholarship,
in particular fur trade history,
social history and women’s his-
tory in the late 1970s, but it is
only within the last decade that
governments in Canada have
addressed racist’s policies of
assimilation and acculturation
that contributed to the erasure of
Métis. Early Métis scholars
focused on the fur trade, Red
River (present day Winnipeg),
the establishment of a government
in Manitoba in 1689-1787, and the
resistance in Batoche in 1885.
There was until now, relatively
little scholarly attention paid to
temporary Métis in other
parts of Canada.

In one of the Family Mac-
dougall uses the Cree concept of
walkabout to present her
extensive genealogical research
of the Métis from the English
River district, ile à la Crosse, a
land the people call Sakitawak.
Macdougall (7) did not take the
concept from the historical
record. While outsiders knew
Aboriginal languages, they
learned those languages only to
advance their own agen-
das-expansion of the fur trade or
conversion to Christianity. These
outsiders were not nearly
interested in the cultural dynam-
ics of the community itself or in
understanding the philosophical
or religious meaning behind a
people’s action or behaviours." Since the late 1790s, the beauty
and uniqueness of the boreal for-
est region mixed with the rich
cultural heritage along the rivers
west of Lake Nelson and
South of Lake Athabasca. The
height of land between two major
basins: the Hudson’s Bay and
Athabasca linked the fur brigades
before the 1900s. European
goods were shipped inland by
cano and furs were exported to
the coast, bound for Europe. This
is the interzone between the
northern Cree and Dene, where
the Métis took on characteristics
of both mixed with their rich tra-
ditions of Scottish, French, and
English forefathers.

If the book has some weak-
ness it is that we are left as read-
ers, to wonder what became of
the many men and women, fami-
lies, who left the English River
District. We know that there were
relationships with people who
came in from other parts of west-
ern Canada, Ontario and Quebec,
that men and women came in
from the Northwest Territories
and from northern Alberta and
British Columbia. We can only
speculate about the changes to
Métis culture these different peo-
lies brought with them, that they
took the imprint of this place
with them on their travels and
across the nation, and how the
social landscape changed over
time. Moreover, we are left with-
out a clear idea of how Métis cul-
ture in Sakitawak, in the larger
nation across Canada and the
United States, will change in the
future? After all, history teaches
us where we come from. What
then will be the basis for renewal
in the future? Will it be based on
new relationships with the land and if
so will these resemble traditions of
the past or some dreamed
future? This is the challenge Mac-
dougall and all scholars leave for
future research.

Brenda Macdougall

Manager, MNOET

“This is the region transformed
into a Métis homeland not only by virtue
of the children’s occupations of the territory,
but also through their relationships with
the Cree and Dene women and the fur trader men
from whom they were descended...”
June 19, 2010, Angelica Laurin, a Métis from Sturgeon Falls Ontario, attended the National Aboriginal Role Model Awards ceremony at the National Arts Centre. She was one of 12 role models to receive the National Aboriginal Role Model award. Angelica received a crystal award with her name on it as well as a bronze “grandmother moon” necklace that is awarded to all role models.

To win this award Angelica was nominated by one of her peers, Danika Landry, who felt all of Angelica’s accomplishments were not go unnoticed. Angelica won because of how she leads her life in a healthy, positive way. At 15, she is bilingual, a swimmer, a singer for charity events, a writer working on a romantic thriller novel, and is an honour student. Angelica also has been a figure skater since the age of four, attending many competitions and winning several medals. She volunteers at the Verner Skating Club as a program assistant helping young people learn to skate.

National Aboriginal Role Model Program

The National Aboriginal Role Model Program celebrates the accomplishments of First Nations, Inuit and Métis youth aged 15 to 30. “Lead Your Way” inspires Aboriginal youth to strive to reach their goals. Each year 12 Aboriginal Role Models are nominated by peers for their achievements, leadership and innovation. Throughout the year, role models visit First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities to share their stories with other Aboriginal youth.

The National Aboriginal Role Model Program, administered by the National Aboriginal Health Organization, is funded by Health Canada.

by David Shuttleworth

Ever since I was in elementary school I had wanted to go into the automotive or electrical field. During high school, my career choice became clear. I would either be an auto mechanic or an electrician; I would be a heating and cooling technician. In my mind this field incorporated the best of both my previous choices—mechanics and electricity.

As my high school career was coming to an end, I realized that my financial situation was not adequate to cover the $8,000 in tuition, books, and supplies and even gave me a travel allowance. On top of that, last year they were able to secure a summer job for me when I was having trouble finding one for myself. For all of this I am extremely grateful to the MNO.

So here I am two years after having applied to St. Clair College and been accepted into the Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Technician course. As I write this, I don’t quite have my diploma in hand but as the graduation ceremony takes place in a couple of weeks, I know that I passed with marks that made both my family and me proud. I am now a licensed Heating Technician browsing the job market for employment. Hopefully it won’t be too hard since everyone wants to feel warm in the winter and cool in the summer.

MNO Citizen called to the Bar of Ontario

Joshua David Sutherland was called to the Bar of Ontario at a ceremony held in Toronto on June 15. Originally from Nipigon, Joshua is of Ojibway descent and a citizen of the Métis Nation of Ontario. While studying law in Toronto, Sutherland founded The Diversity Pipeline Initiative—Aboriginal Outreach Project, which took him on a solo cycling journey of 1,900 kilometres from Vancouver to Sault Ste. Marie. Throughout his trip, he stopped to talk about the benefits of post-secondary education with First Nations’ children living on reserves. He is actively pursuing a career in criminal law.
The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), in partnership with the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM), is thrilled to announce the establishment of the Dr. Tony Belcourt Endowment Fund for Métis in the Arts.

“It is an honour to be in partnership with such a successful and acclaimed university. Because of the introduction of this fund, Métis students will have greater opportunities for future careers in the arts,” said MNO President Gary Lipinski. “It is important that we encourage our youth to grow and learn and to support them in all their endeavors.”

The award will be established in recognition of the Métis Nation of Ontario’s founding president, Tony Belcourt’s more than 40 years of service to the Nation and Métis people. It will serve as acknowledgement of Dr. Belcourt’s invaluable role within the Nation and his continued leadership.

“OCAD University is strongly committed to building an Aboriginal Visual Culture Program,” said Dr. Sara Diamond, President of OCAD University. “We’re honored that the Métis Nation of Ontario has chosen to support OCADU students of Métis descent in recognition of their founder. The Dr. Tony Belcourt Endowment Fund for Métis in the Arts will provide support for a Métis student to undertake research and creation that is rooted in their culture. The Endowment Fund is a welcome addition to our existing student funding, and aligns with OCADU’s deep commitment to Aboriginal culture and diversity.”

Once established, the bursary will be open to Métis students residing in Ontario who are pursuing arts and design related careers through OCADU’s superior programs. Belcourt would like to see the endowment fund not only have enough revenue to support bursaries for Métis artists but also enough to support a scholarship, especially for further studies on Métis history and Métis art in history.

The MNO’s contribution has been the building block to help the fund grow. My hope is to give back by holding fundraising events,” said Belcourt. “I’m very grateful to MNO for making this possible. It’s truly an honour to me personally but it is going to be a tremendous benefit to Métis people who want to consider art as a career.”

Belcourt’s three children are all involved in arts careers and were part of the reason that OCADU was chosen for the bursary. “President Lipinski brought the idea to my attention several months ago and after considering other institutions, my kids all said, ‘it’s gotta be at OCADU, dad.’”

Belcourt hopes that the introduction of the endowment fund will create a greater profile of Métis art at OCADU. Details about the Dr. Tony Belcourt Endowment Fund for Métis in the Arts, including when bursaries will become available and how students can apply will be forthcoming.

MNO citizens among students at Northern Ontario School of Medicine

Two Métis Nation of Ontario citizens and one Métis Nation of Alberta citizen are among 64 new medical students at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM). The students are MNO citizens Catherine Maguire and Amanda Bates and MNA citizen Jordan Ducharme.

NOSM’s mandate is to deliver innovative education and research for a healthier north. Students are taught using state-of-the-art smart classrooms and community-based placements across northern Ontario. Each of these elements helps to ensure that NOSM graduates high-quality physicians with an appreciation for the unique healthcare needs of northern Ontario. Eighty percent of NOSM students are self-identified as Aboriginal. Like students in all medical schools, these students have been selected from a very competitive field and are extremely academically able as reflected by a mean grade point average (GPA) of 3.66 on a four point scale.

Prior to the start of classes, the NOSM students participated in a unique orientation week. They traveled to several northern Ontario communities, participated in working sessions, and became acquainted with their new lives as medical students. As part of orientation, the students enjoyed a dinner on Monday, August 23, in Louis Riel Hall at the Thunder Bay Métis Council Centre. The meal was co-hosted by the Thunder Bay Métis Council and the NOSM’s Aboriginal Reference Group. MG2 for the event were Tim Pile, the Secretary-Treasurer of the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) and Ian Pelletier, the Acting Director of Aboriginal Affairs for NOSM. “We are very proud to be associated with NOSM,” said Pile, “and are very pleased that some of our citizens are students in the program.”

The support of Wendy Landry, the President of the Thunder Bay Métis Council and her council in organizing the dinner was greatly appreciated. On the day following the dinner, the students embarked on a week-long bus excursion to Sudbury with stops in Geraldton, Constance Lake, Hearst, Kapuskasing, and Timmins. Students participated in meals and activities, and experienced a warm welcome from physicians, community leaders, and dignitaries.
A special ceremony featuring traditional native drummers was held at Queen’s University to honour the first four graduates of Ontario’s only program for graduate studies in indigenous public administration and policy. The four graduates are: Brant, Francis Cadeau, Tracy Maracle and Russell Roundpoint—each recently awarded a Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree. The program started in 2007 and was developed by the Queen’s School of Policy Studies and the First Nations Technical Institute, located on the Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory.

“This is a historic day. On behalf of all members of the School of Policy Studies, I congratulate the graduating students on their great achievement. I am confident that they will be an important asset to the communities throughout Canada.”

The program involves a series of courses that are unique in Canada and integrate traditional knowledge and philosophies in indigenous policy, governance, and management. The development of policy leaders and senior administrators is essential to the capacity building and self-determination of First Nations, both for today and for future generations. It is hoped that graduates of the program will play key roles in Aboriginal organizations and community developments.

**Employment & Training Programs for Métis People Across Ontario**

Métis Nation of Ontario Employment & Training offers education, employment and training services and support to Métis people across Ontario.

For more information please contact:
500-220 King Street West
Ottawa, ON
Tel: 613-786-1481 or 1-800-383-8689
Fax: 613-722-4255

www.metisnation.org
**MÉTIS EDUCATION | ENGAGING THE SCHOOL SYSTEM**

**Teachable Métis moments**

by Chris McLeod  
Education Analyst, MNOET  
THUNDER BAY

Even as students were heading back to school, the Métis Nation of Ontario, Education and Training (MNOET) Branch was also preparing for the new school year with several new initiatives aimed at improving the quality of Métis education delivered at schools across Ontario.

This year, the branch will be visiting school boards, classrooms, and communities to deliver awareness presentations to all. These presentations highlight Métis culture and history in Ontario and the role the Métis have played in education in Ontario.

MNO developed the new position to improve services directed at K-12 education. Chris McLeod, MNOET’s Education Analyst/Officer in the Thunder Bay office, has been appointed as the new Education Analyst/Officer to oversee the implementation of the project which will run for one year.

The core of the project will include finalizing the Métis Education and Awareness Kits. The initial design of these school kits was completed last year. Chris’ job will be to ensure 200 are produced and distributed to regions and community councils.

Chris will work with Bonny Cann and Chris Paut to ensure other expeditions are organized for outreach. Chris will facilitate meetings between senior school board administration staff and trustees with our regional staff, community council representatives, and MNO. He may also get involved with the branch on self-identification outreach.

**Keep your eye out for student resources aimed at both elementary and secondary institutions.**

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**MÉTIS EDUCATION**

**EDUCATION | MNO DEVELOPS NEW POSITION TO IMPROVE SERVICES DIRECTED AT K-12 EDUCATION**

by Jennifer St. Germain  
Director, Education and Training  
OTTAWA

The Education and Training Branch is pleased to welcome its newest member Chris McLeod, previously Youth Coordinator with the City of Thunder Bay, is filling the newly created position as Education Analyst/Officer in the Thunder Bay office. Chris is a proud Métis citizen and a certified teacher.

For close to ten years, Chris has been a facilitator and educator, working with corporate, non-profit and youth groups across the country. His background is in recreation and athletic training, and he has trained and competed in gymnastics at the national level. You may recall that Chris was on the 2005 Métis Canoe Expedition that travelled from Thunder Bay to Batoche. His passion for travel and expedition training has led him to over 70 countries around the world where he has helped to train and organize other expeditions. We are excited to welcome Chris to the MNO to further the development of education initiatives reaching out to communities, schools, and boards across the province.

MNO developed the new position to improve services directed at K-12 education activities. Chris will support branch operations to regional community councils, partnerships with school boards, and regional Ministry of Education staff, and he will oversee the implementation of the project which will run for one year.

The core of the project will include finalizing the Métis Education and Awareness Kits. The initial design of these school kits was completed last year. Chris’ job will be to ensure 200 are produced and distributed to regions and community councils.

Chris will work, in collaboration with senior management and Ministry staff, on a comprehensive training plan for joint sessions that we anticipate hosting in the late fall-early winter with the Ministry of Education. He will work with Bonny Cann and Chris Paut on a number of planned training sessions in partnership with the Ministry for regional representatives, community councils, and trainers.

As the new Education Officer/Analyst, Chris will facilitate meetings between senior school board administration staff and trustees with our regional staff, community council representatives, and MNO. He may also get involved with the branch on self-identification outreach.

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**BEGIN YOUR JOURNEY.**  
Are you an Aboriginal student looking for a career in a skilled trade? If you are an Aboriginal person (including First Nations, Métis, and Inuit, Self-Identified and Status), then Aboriginal Apprenticeship can help you begin your journey towards a successful career in one of over 300 certified trades.

Whether you’re new to the trades or already on your way to becoming a tradesperson, we can help you.

To learn how to join:  
Aboriginal Apprenticeship.ca  
or call 759-2554 in Sault Ste. Marie  
or 894-3187 in Blind River.

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**FIND THE RIGHT APPRENTICE.**  
One of the fastest paths to growing a business can be finding qualified apprenticeship applicants.

The Aboriginal Apprenticeship Centre is here to help, providing employers with support to make the process easy and candidates who are trained, equipped and ready to work.

Additionally, there are financial incentives exclusively for employers who take on Aboriginal apprentices.

To learn how to apply:  
AboriginalApprenticeship.ca  
or call 759-2554 in Sault Ste. Marie  
or 894-3187 in Blind River.

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**OTTAWA**
Senator Helen Bradley, 1934-2010
A founder of Georgian Bay Métis Council and respected leader within MNO passes

Helen Bradley (nee Lepage) was the daughter of a commercial fisherman on Georgian Bay where she still lived. Over the years Helen volunteered in many capacities: as a genealogist, assisting people who needed help with a translation of documents from French or Michif, as a board member at the Enaahit Healing Lodge and Learning Centre; as a Métis Elder at a local correctional facility, as a family advocate for excellence and just about anywhere else that she could help.

Well known for her expertise in cooking and preparing wild meat, Helen was also a wonderful header and keeper of the craft. She quaffed and of course understood that these circles held in the centre she started so many years ago, were not about the crafts but about the sharing of history, coming together as a people and feeling good about companionship.

On January 31st, 2008, Senator Bradley and 12 other Ontarians were honoured with the 'Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship' at a ceremony at Queen’s Park. Hosted by the Honourable David C. Onley, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, and the Honourable Michael Chan, Ontario Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, the Good Citizenship Investiture ceremony took place on the grand staircase of Queen’s Park. Toronto’s Simcoe North MP, Garfield Dunlop, and his wife Jane were also in attendance congratulating Helen. In addition, she received a letter of congratulations hand delivered by Emily Bullock, Special Assistant to the Honourable Michael Bryant, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs.

“Those individuals demonstrate citizenship in action,” said the Honourable David C. Onley, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, who presented the awards at the ceremony.

“It was a memorable day I will never forget. Having my children (Larry and Linda) there wearing their sashes, made me really feel so proud to be their mother. I will be wearing my medal with pride,” said Helen.

And we will never forget her “Senator Bradley was well-known and well-loved throughout the Métis Nation,” said President Gary Lipinski. “I am very grateful that a few weeks ago I had the chance to visit her in her home in Penetanguishene. I visited her at that time because I could not attend a later event honouring her contributions to the MNO and Georgian Bay Métis Council, but I wanted to make sure she knew how much the MNO valued her contributions and dedication to our cause.”

“I cannot say enough about Senator Bradley. She was a founder of the Georgian Bay Métis Council, instrumental in the council getting its charter and a respected leader within the MNO. She continued to be involved in MNO committees and meetings right up to her passing and it had not been for an unfortunate fall, she would have attended this year’s AGA.”

Senator Helen Bradley OMC was born in Penetanguishene on September 25, 1954. She passed away on October 21, 2010. She was predeceased by her husband Helmut Schmidt and survived by her sisters, brother, two children, three grandchildren and one great grandchild, as well as numerous nieces, nephews and cherished friends.

A celebration of Senator Bradley’s life will take place in Penetanguishene.

Senator Gilbert Gervais, 1928-2010
A founding citizen and Senator of the MNO passes

Although his grandparents were of British descent from Aberdeenshire, his great-great-great-grandparents were part of the Golden Lake (Algonquin) and Nipissing bands. Gilbert Gervais was born and raised in Timmins.

Senator Gervais first became active with the Métis movement in 1989 as a member of Québec’s Native Alliance. Soon thereafter, striving to be recognized as Métis, he joined the Ontario Métis and Aboriginal Association (OMAA). Then, in 1993, Gilbert became one of the founding citizens and a Senator of the MNO. Gil was also the Region 5 Captain of the Hunt for many years. His dedication to the Métis cause was well-known and respected throughout the Métis Nation, as was his passion for advancing Métis rights. Gilbert Gervais was also a member of the Royal Canadian Legion.

After a period of self-education and working in mines and on railroads, Senator Gervais headed his own construction and trucking company for over 30 years. Then he switched careers and received a diesel engineering certificate and worked another 19 years for the Ministry of Natural Resources where he supervised the construction of forest access roads in northern Ontario.

Gilbert’s community activism included serving on the board of the Misway Inuinak Health Centre, as well as on the Timmins Métis Council as a Senator.

A man of many talents and diverse interests, Gil was also a poet. His book, Daily Prayer Poems and Words of Wisdom was published in 1982. His lifelong passions included playing guitar, body building, bowling, and wood-carving.

Senator Gil Gervais passed away on October 23, 2010, at the age of 82. He was predeceased by his wife Jeannette, his brother Don, his sister Doreen and by his son-in-law David Martin. He is survived by his companions Jeanneville, his siblings Edmore, Emery and Gail, his children Glenn and Brenda, his grand-children James, Jason and Jeffery, and his great grandchildren Jiskca, Madison and Hunter. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held October 27th followed by interment at the Timmins Memorial Cemetery. Remembrance donations made to the Canadian Cancer Society will be greatly appreciated. Online donations and condolences can be made at www.lessardstephens.com.

Gary Kowski

Gary Kowski, the husband of Denise Kowalski, a long-time Housing Branch staff member based in Thunder Bay, passed away in the Hospice Unit of St. Joseph’s Civic Campus in Thunder Bay on October 28th, 2010. Gary was born June 21st, 1955 in Fort William. He was predeceased by his father Edward. Gary is survived by his mother, Jean; brother, Jim; and sisters, Dawn and Brenda.

A funeral service for Gary took place November 1st at the Harvestview Funeral Centre in Thunder Bay. We extend our sympathy to Denise, as well as Gary’s family and friends.

Daryl Robert Boston

On October 22, 2010, a heart of gold stopped beating, two shining eyes at rest. God broke our hearts to prove, he only takes the best. Loving husband of Valerie (nee Houghton); hero to Tricia and Trevor; son of Donald and Mary Jane Boston (nee Bossard); son-in-law of Jim and Dorothy White; brother of Tracey, Terry (Jennifer) and Tim (Chico, Chavez); brother-in-law of Robert Houghton; uncle and friend to Steven (Oscar), Bryan (T-Slice), Tasha, Starr (Moonbeam), Justin, Jessica and Shannon; a lifelong friend of Roger and Karen Theberge; Daryl was surrounded by many loving and supportive aunts, uncles and cousins who will surely miss his unique sense of humour and care-free attitude.

A funeral service was held on October 27, 2010, followed by interment at Hillside Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, a trust fund has been set up for his children. Daryl was the 41 year old cousin of Tammy Webb (MNO Labour Market Manager) and the son of Mary Jane Boston who has been involved with the MNO since it was founded. Mary Jane was the Region Four Councillor until she took a position with Métis Nation of Ontario Training. Gil was also the Community Development Officer (CDO) and held that position until she suffered a stroke in 2000 and was unable to continue to work. Many in the Métis community including MNO staff will remember Mary Jane.

“We all know that the power of prayer is strong and our entire family would greatly appreciate it in our time of such sorrow,” said Tammy Webb.

Experiences of sympathy may be offered: www.arturfuneralhome.com.
Falling a brave battle with cancer, Earnie Elmer Lavallée passed away at Temiskaming Hospital in New Liskeard on August 3, 2010, at the age of 64 years with his loving wife Christine by his side.

He is predeceased by his parents Moise and Antoinette (Ranger) Lavallée and siblings Edward “Eddy” Lavallée, Marie Vangerven and Armand Lavallée. He is survived by his loving wife Christine Keith-Lavallée, and sadly missed by his children: Deborah (Glenn) Gutjahr of Beamsville, Loretta Lavallée (fiancé Donald Stringer) of South Poch pope and Sandra Sonson of Earville. Earline is fondly remembered by grandchildren: Dustin Desjardins, Kaylene Neron and Justin Neron, sister Florence Watson of Haileybury, Jeanette Lani of Edmonton and many more nieces and nephews.

In keeping with Earline’s wishes, cremation followed the decease. Interment will take place at the Cobalt Catholic Cemetery. Memorial contributions in Earline’s memory may be made to Commu nity Cancer Support. Arrangements entrusted to Buffam Leveille Funeral Home. Condolences, contributions and memorial cards may be left at www.buffamleeville.com.

It is with sadness that I write to inform all that Senator Earline Lavallée passed away on August 3rd. I had an opportunity to speak with Senator Earline Lavallée as she was in the hospital, even in his final days he remained strong and committed to the MNO looking forward to attending our AGA. He loved the land and harvesting and on a prior occasion had told me about one of his recent hunting trips where he harvested his moose and he was sadly missed in his local community, by the Temiskaming MNO Council, the MNO Senators, and throughout the MNO where he generously gave so much of himself. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Christine, family and friends.

God Bless, Gary Lipinski, MNO President

Valerie Stewart:
Former PCMNO Councillor and Senator

F ormer Community Council Senator and PCMNO Representative for Region 9, Valerie Stewart, passed away peacefully at home in Dunville, ON on August 3, 2010, with her husband Bill at her side. Valerie was 84 years of age.

Valerie was a lifelong participant in the early days of the MNO, proud of her ancestry and willing to share her valuable historic knowledge. Valerie came to the MNO in 1994 as one of our earliest citizens. Valerie served as Matron of her local Community Council and, as the PCMNO Councillor for Region 9, her portfolio was Veterans and Michif Language. Her contributions were indispensable as MNO原始people find safe, affordable homes across the entire region of north-eastern Ontario.

Kay was active in the Kenora Legion Ladies’ Auxiliary for many years. She was also a member of the Kenora Moose Lodge. In recent years Senator Kay worked on behalf of Métis veterans as she had supported the building of the Mëts‘ët Kenya Nation of Ontario, the Kenora Métis Council and the community as a whole. She was a strong woman who gave freely to assist and help so many others.

“I recently visited Kay in the hospital this past June 15th and even then her spirits were high about getting out and attending MNO’s AGA this August,” said President Lipinski. “She will be sadly missed by many of our thoughts and prayers go out to her family and friends.”

Ed Vanyperen and Armand Lavallée Sr. He is survived by his loving wife Christine by his side. Valerie Stewart is fondly remembered, and sadly missed.

President Lipinski spoke with her husband Bill and passed along our sympathies and thanked him for all the contributions Valerie has made to the MNO.

MEMORIAL

The goal of the FIMUR Housing Program is to help address housing needs for Aboriginal people in Ontario living off-reserve, designed and delivered based on community engagement processes. Proposal submissions were evaluated by an independent Proposal Review Committee who reported their recommendations to the OAHS Board of Directors for final review and approval. The Board granted conditional approval for the following:

• Hamilton-Wentworth Chapter of Native Women Inc., 10 units $1,700,000
• Fort Frances Native Urban Walchauigan Corporation, Fort Frances, 10 units $1,254,000
• Wespereong Lodge of Thunder Bay, 110 units $3,000,000

Due to community need, the Proposal Review Committee recommended and the OAHS Board of Directors also approved for OAHS to assist in the development of new housing units in the following communities:

• Dryden, 50 units $4,800,000
• Sioux Lookout, 15 units $2,534,700

OAHS will also deliver 24 new units based on a cost of $4,080,000 in under-served areas of north-eastern Ontario. OAHS is committed to delivering and operating safe, affordable housing for Aboriginal people.
Province-wide Consultations on Registry

In 1993, the MNO was founded on the collective will of Ontario Métis wanting to:

(1) support Métis individuals, families and communities culturally, socially and economically;
(2) ensure Métis rights were recognized and respected by governments; and,
(3) advance Métis self-determination and self-government.

These collective goals are set out in the MNO’s foundational document, The Statement of Prime Purpose. A fundamental part of the MNO’s strategy to advance Métis rights and self-government in Ontario was the creation of a credible system for the identification of Métis citizens and rights-holders in Ontario— the MNO Registry. The MNO Registry has been pivotal to the MNO’s rights-based successes over the last 17 years. More important, the MNO’s credibility and strength as a democratic Métis government—is grounded on its registry.

Over the last 17 years, there have been many changes that have affected the MNO Registry (i.e., limited funding for operations, directions from MNO Annual General Assemblies, the Powley case, etc.). There are also many current and upcoming issues that are affecting or will affect the MNO Registry (i.e., the McIvor case/Bill C-3, ongoing Métis litigation, etc.). Unfortunately, since its creation, the MNO has never had the funding or opportunity to undertake comprehensive community consultations on the MNO Registry in order to discuss past, present and future issues.

The 2010 MNO Annual General Assembly identified consultations on Métis identity and registration issues as a priority. In order to discuss these issues with all Métis citizens, a multi-year community consultation process is being implemented (subject to being able to secure adequate funding from government).

Phase One of this consultation process is set to begin this fall and continues into 2011. Community meetings will be scheduled for Akiskal, Fort Frances, Dryden, Kenora, Thunder Bay, Terrace Bay, Geraldton, Sault Ste. Marie, Wawa, Chapleau, Thessalon, Sudbury, Timmins, Cochrane, Kirkland Lake, Mattawa, North Bay, Windsor, Niagara Falls, Hamilton, Guelph, Brampton, Toronto, Owen Sound, Mactier, Midland, Orillia, Peterborough, North Bay and Ottawa. MNO citizens will have opportunities to provide their input through other opportunities, including an on-line questionnaire.

Additional information about the consultations and the community meeting dates will be provided via direct mail-outs to MNO citizens and on MNO’s website at www.metisorganization.org.

We look forward to seeing you at these important community meetings as we continue to build a stronger MNO and advance the Métis rights agenda in Ontario.

ISPAYIN (pronounced ISH-PY-IN) is a Manitoba Michif term that means ‘happening’. It was used as the title with the intent of articulating the focus of the project: “What’s happening” with Métis youth today.

by Ginny Gonneau, Benny Michaud and Rebeckah Wilson

Are you a proud Métis youth? Have you ever had your identity questioned by people who lack an understanding about Métis culture? Do you wish that more people had a better understanding of what it means to be Métis? Would you like the opportunity to speak with other Métis youth about how they express their Métis identity?

If you answered “yes” to any of the above questions then you may be interested in the ISPAYIN Métis Youth Express Yourself! Project recently launched by the Métis Centre of the National Aboriginal Health Organization (NAHO). Through workshops that facilitate dialogue among youth about what it means to be Métis, the ISPAYIN project is cultivating a more articulated sense of identity among Métis youth and helping non-Métis to better understand Métis culture.

What is the ISPAYIN Métis Youth Express Yourself Project? ISPAYIN is an exciting new project, led by the Métis Centre of the National Aboriginal Health Organization, to build awareness about Métis youth identity, health and well-being in a contemporary context. The ISPAYIN project sought out artistic submissions and sponsored regional gatherings of Métis youth across Canada in the summer of 2009. Youth were recorded singing, speaking, fiddling, jigging, rapping, and dancing at these events. They were also encouraged to submit videos or hard copies of artwork, music, stand-up comedy, poetry or any other form of artistic expression.

A DVD was built around these expressions of Métis youth identity in a contemporary context, where images were paired with intergenerational narratives, representing a collective Métis past, present, and future. An accompanying Discussion Guide was also developed.

The result was the creation of an interactive workshop resource intended for use in Métis communities, grade schools and secondary schools and within mainstream and Aboriginal organizations.

How youth can get involved! Go to the website above for links to the DVD segments on YouTube. Feel inspired! Deliver a workshop in your community! Not sure how? Go to the website and download the ready-made discussion guide that accompanies the DVD. You can order them (free) and get bookmarks, posters and prizes to promote your workshop and the project from the Métis Centre at the National Aboriginal Health Organization—just contact:

Jennifer Rankin
Tel: 613-237-9462 x800
Toll Free: 1-877-662-4445 x500
jrankin@naho.ca

Not a youth but want to be involved? Encourage a Métis youth to present (or co-present) this DVD and Discussion Guide in your community. Provide assistance and support. Order a package and post posters in your workplace or community to promote the ISPAYIN Métis youth organization (e.g. mainstream or Aboriginal organizations, schools, community centres, health centres, etc.).

Deliver your own workshop with a Métis youth in your workplace to increase cultural competency and make services more accessible and culturally relevant to Métis people.

What makes this project unique? It’s unique because of its ability to engage Métis youth in discussions about their identity in a contemporary context. Approximately 54 per cent of the Métis population is under the age of 25. This DVD and Discussion Guide has the ability to bring Métis youth in our communities together to explore what it means to be Métis and increase youth’s sense of belonging, pride and connection to their community.

Who will benefit from the workshops? The DVD and Discussion Guide can be used with adults and communities at large as a cultural competency tool. It can be used with organizations that want to make their workplace or community services more accessible or culturally relevant to Métis people. Through the expressions of Métis youth on the DVD and tailored discussion-based activities on breaking down stereotypes, social exclusion, and health impacts, workshop participants build awareness of Métis culture and identity.

I’m a youth. Why should I get involved? Be a leader in your community; promote pride in Métis identity and engage more Métis youth in your community!

As part of the ISPAYIN project, the Métis Centre also developed a youth web site at www.metisyouthexpressions.ca offering information about health, well-being and culture.

For more information, contact your Ontario Métis Youth ISPAYIN Project Representatives:

Benny Michaud and Ginny Gonneau at ispayin@gmail.com

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Benny Michaud and Ginny Gonneau at ispayin@gmail.com