Ontario Métis establish Development Fund

In June 20, 2011, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President, Gary Lipinski, joined the Honourable Chris Bentley, Ontario Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, in Toronto to formally announce the creation of the “Métis Voyageur Development Fund” and to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the MNO and the Ontario Government on Métis economic development.

The creation of the Métis Voyageur Development Fund is the result of years of effort and work by the MNO to create an economic development arm that will be able to support Métis entrepreneurs and businesses in Ontario in a similar manner to other successful funds and capital corporations operated by Métis in western Canada. The ultimate goal of the fund is to make strategic investments that will positively contribute to Métis individuals, families and communities as well as to Ontario’s overall economy.

In order to support the fund’s goal, the Ontario Government has committed $30 million over 10 years to support and enhance Métis business opportunities in Ontario. This commitment flows from discussions held under the MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement which was signed in November, 2008. In addition, as a part of the MOU that was signed, the MNO and the Ontario Government have committed to work together to attempt to secure additional contributions to the fund from the Government of Canada.

Today’s announcement represents a historic breakthrough for Ontario Métis. We will finally be able to provide much needed support and assistance to Métis entrepreneurs and businesses.

QUICK FACTS:

- The Government of Ontario has committed $3 million annually to the fund for 10 years.
- There are several successful Métis capital corporations and funds in Western Canada, including, the Louis Riel Capital Corporation (MB), Clarence Campeau Development Fund (SK) and Apeetogosan Capital Corporation (AB).
- In the 2006 Census, 73,605 Ontarians identified themselves as Métis.

continued on page 2
No bouquet of flowers or box of chocolates could compare to the sweet, wonderful Valentine’s gift Melissa Pilon and Joey Charron (former Youth representative for Region 5) received on Valentine’s Day. Their first child was born.

At approximately 5:30 PM, Joseph Charron Jr. (the 4th) was born, weighing in at 7 lbs. and 2 ounces. Proud parents are Melissa Pilon and Joey Charron. Cindy and Jim Pilon and Joe and Nicole Charron (Region 5, Employment & Training Officer) are the proud grandparents.

Ontario Métis establish Development Fund

from page 1

for Ontario Métis. We will finally be able to provide much needed support and assistance to Métis entrepreneurs and business in Ontario. In funding the economies of Métis communities, while also contributing to Ontario’s overall economic growth. On behalf of the Métis Nation, I would like to thank Minister Bentley and the Ontario Government for working with us to see this dream become a reality,” said President Lipinski.

The Ontario Government is pleased to support the Métis Voyageur Development Fund. This fund will provide Métis entrepreneurs and businesses in Ontario with the resources they need to develop and grow,” explained Aboriginal Affairs Minister, Chris Bentley. “By supporting Métis economic development, we’re helping to boost economic growth in our province and create jobs and opportunity for all Ontarians.”

The fund, which has been set up as an arm’s-length, for-profit corporation, will be professionally managed by an independent board of directors selected based on skill and expertise in business. An interim board of directors for the fund has been appointed. A list of these directors and their biographies is available online.

The current fiscal year is a developmental one for the fund. It is anticipated that funding will not begin to flow from the fund until 2012. In addition, over the next few months, a province-wide call for additional directors to the fund will be undertaken.

For more information about the Métis Voyageur Development Fund visit www.metisnation.org.

MNO launches Direct Toll-free Number for Registry

As part of the continuing improvements to the Métis Nation of Ontario Registry, we now have a dedicated Registry phone line. The number for the line is:

1-855-798-1006 (toll free) or 613-798-1006 for local (Ottawa) calls

The advantage of using this line is that calls are not routed through the MNO reception desk but enter an automated system that enables callers to quickly and easily access the correct individual to assist them. The automated system provides three options:

- Line 2 Citizenship applications or replacement card
- Line 3 Genealogy inquiries
- Line 4 Harvest applications or Harvest cards

In addition to improved access, calls to the Registry may now be monitored and recorded for training and quality assurance purposes.

Announcements

New Arrival

Farewell Bonny!

O n May 25th, an honouring circle was held for Bonny Cann by Ryerson Aboriginal Student Service as a way to acknowledge her gifts and contributions to Métis and Aboriginal education. Bonny has been a long time partner and ally to Ryerson.

As Jennifer St. Germain, Director of Education and Training said, “It is with mixed emotions that I announce that one of MNO’s long-standing employees, Bonny Cann, has recently accepted an exciting new position with Corrections Canada. Bonny has more than 15 years’ experience working within MNO’s Education and Training Branch and has contributed greatly to the breadth of the programs and services that are available to Métis people in Ontario. Bonny has been a valued member of the MNO team, a treasured part of the Métis family in Ontario and a relentless proponent of Métis rights, arts and culture.”

Given her many years of dedication and commitment Bonny wanted to share her own words of farewell:

Hello to my Métis Family! I would like to take this opportunity to say goodbye to everyone as I will be leaving the MNO as of Friday May 27th, 2011. I have been offered and accepted a position with the federal government working in Corrections as a Counsellor to Aboriginal inmates out of a Gravenhurst Institution, beginning June 6th, 2011. It was a difficult decision as the MNO has been such a huge part of my life since 1994! I worked on the original Toronto Métis Council as a women’s rep., then as the Chair, prior to applying for the Community Development Officer position in 1996. I joined the MNO Cultural Commission for a short time and for the past four years have focused specifically on Métis education for the province.

I have learned a great deal and will no doubt take the knowledge with me in an effort to help incarcerated Métis and other Aboriginal people to get back on track upon their release. It is my hope that I will continue to work with the MNO, but from the outside by referring clients who wish to return to school or that require assistance with finding jobs. I hope to attend the AGA in Parry Sound in August as I have not missed any since the founding AGA in the early days of the MNO. Not only will I begin a new career but will also be relocating to Huntsville, Ontario.

I wish the MNO well in its future endeavours and trust that it is in good hands with so much potential for the future!

– Bonny Cann

Bonny, you will be greatly missed by many, but we wish you the very best in all of your new endeavours.
Northern voices heard

By Nina Henley
Secretary General Métis Council
KENDRA

In April 2011, the Métis Nation of Ontario, Region 1 Consultation Committee, and the Lands, Resources and Consultation (LRC) staff met with John Bonin of Union Gas. This was an initial meeting to discuss the Red Lake Natural Gas Pipeline Project.

LRC Staff member, Joe Daze, provided a Power Point presentation on local Métis history. John Bonin then gave an overview of the main project activities. A question and answer session followed.

Union Gas plans to construct the Red Lake Pipeline Project in a phased approach. Phase one of the project will include constructing a pipeline from the existing gas supply north of Ear Falls (the Bruce Lake Mine Site) to the intersection of Highway 105/125 (the “Red Lake Lateral”) and will include distribution pipelines to Goldcorp’s mine sites in Balmertown and Cochenour.

Phase 2 of the project will involve constructing distribution pipelines to provide natural gas service to the residents of Red Lake, Balmertown, Cochenour, Chukuni River Subdivisions, and any other residents and businesses along the pipeline route who request service.

Union Gas funded community meetings for the four community councils in Region One: Atikokan, Dryden, Fort Frances, and Kenora. The four meetings were similar in structure. Region 1 PCMNO Councilor, Theresa Stenlund, gave an overview of the proposed project. Citizens were given the opportunity to ask questions and gain a better understanding of what is planned for this area and how it would affect their way of life with respect to harvesting.

The citizens wanted to make sure that measures were being taken to diminish the impact on the area, and ultimately to their way of life. They were very happy and relieved to find out that the existing highway easements were to be used, thus minimizing the impact on natural resources.

These community dinners and information sessions were well received. The citizens had an opportunity not only to gain valuable information about the Union Gas Red Lake Project, but to register their businesses or trades on a master list produced for Union Gas.

Following these meetings, on May 17th, John Bonin met in Kenora with Métis business owners interested in a more in-depth understanding of what is planned for this area and how it would affect their way of life. They were very happy, and gave their business owners the opportunity not only to gain valuable information about the Union Gas Red Lake Project, but to register their businesses or trades on a master list produced for Union Gas.

For more information, please contact Union Gas at 1-888-943-7726.

Retired Métis Rear Admiral recognized by Governor General

Retired Admiral Tyrone Pile received the Meritorious Service Cross from His Excellency, David Johnston, Governor General and Commander in Chief of Canada’s Armed Forces at a ceremony in Rideau Hall on June 10th. Rear Admiral Pile is Métis and the brother of Tim Pile, the Secretary-Treasurer of the Provincial Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO). The decoration recognizes Admiral Pile’s military service and his dedication to the promotion of the Métis Nation of Ontario. Admiral Pile’s military career is one of dedication to the service of Canada, and he is being recognized for his dedication to the service of the Canadian Forces. Admiral Pile’s career included service in the United States and his ability to facilitate the collaboration and coordination of entities, while ensuring that strategic and operational goals were understood, respected and met by all, was instrumental to the success of Operation Podium and brought great credit to the Canadian Forces.

Retired Rear Admiral Pile is the son of Bileen Pile and the late Herbert Pile of Geralton. He enrolled in the Canadian Forces upon graduating from Geralton Composite High School and attended both Royal Roads and Royal Military College, graduating in 1979. During his career as a naval officer he served in a number of Canadian warships, including a brief tour aboard Her Majesty’s Yacht Britannia in 1983 during the Queen’s Royal Visit to North America. In 1995 he was appointed commanding officer of the new frigate HMCS Regina, which later became the first Canadian warship to fully integrate with a United States carrier battle group on deployed operations. He subsequently served as Director of NATO Policy and as Commander of Maritime Operations Group Four in Victoria before being promoted to Commodore and appointed Commander Canadian Fleet Atlantic in 2003. Promoted to Rear Admiral in 2005, he served as Chief Military Personnel and Commanding Officer of Military Personnel Command until being appointed Commander of Maritime Forces Pacific and Joint Task Force Pacific in 2007. From 2007 to 2010, he was concurrently appointed Commander Joint Task Force Games, leading Canadian Forces’ support to security and public safety for the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games.
**ABORIGINAL APPRENTICESHIP CENTRE**

RBC Foundation donates $10,000 to Aboriginal Apprenticeship Centre

On June 21, Art Bennett, Regional Councillor of the Provincial Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), Dr. Ron Common, President, Sault College and Carolyn Hepburn, President of Native Education and Academic Upgrading, accepted a cheque for $10,000 from Caroline Kelly, Vice President, Branch Manager, RBC, Dominion Securities, on behalf of the RBC Foundation. These funds will directly support the Aboriginal Apprenticeship Centre (AAC) at Sault College.

The AAC is a partnership between the MNO and Sault College and provides a client-based approach to training careers in the skilled trades to individuals in Sault Ste Marie and the surrounding area. The AAC’s goal is to increase Aboriginal participation in apprenticeship, increase youth awareness of trades and provide support systems for successful completion of apprenticeship training. The AAC engages Metis students in Native Education and Training Branch, Sault College’s Native Education and Training Department, industry representatives and the Aboriginal community. “We believe that supporting Métis students and learners, to reach their highest potential, will have life-long inter-generational positive effects,” stated Regional Councillor Bennett. “Not only will Métis citizens, families and communities benefit, but it will help build a stronger Ontario and Canada as well. The jobs of today and tomorrow depend on a skilled workforce and the support from the RBC Foundation will make many dreams a reality!”

Councillor Bennett represented MNO President Gary Lipinski at the ceremony. President Lipinski commented, “The MNO greatly appreciates the support from the Royal Bank Foundation and are confident it will be of great assistance to Métis learners at Sault College.”

“Sault College continues to be an education destination for Native students from around the province. Native Education is a key priority for the institution,” said Common. “Donations such as that provided by the RBC Foundation will ensure that Sault College continues to develop relationships and work in partnership with all Aboriginal peoples in the province to better their skills and improve their participation in Ontario’s labour market and economy.”

**ABORIGINAL DAY**

A number of Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizens and Métis veterans attended the tenth annual remembrance ceremony at the Aboriginal Veterans Monument in Ontario on National Aboriginal Day this year. Over 200 people took part in the event which was organized by the National Aboriginal Veterans Association. Among the dignitaries was His Excellency, David Johnston, the Governor-General of Canada, as well as representatives of the Canadian Government, the Métis National Council and other veteran and Aboriginal organizations.

The commemoration recognized the sacrifices and contributions of Aboriginal veterans, in particular those who paid the ultimate price in the service of freedom. It was acknowledged that until recently, the significant contributions of Aboriginal service members had often not been appreciated.

The ceremony included an opening prayer from Métis veteran Shaun Redmond. The MNO was well represented at the event by many MNO citizens including Senator Reta Gordon, Senator and Métis veteran Alan Kennedy and Senator Lois McCallum as well as Métis veterans Joe Paquette and Ottawa Métis Council President Daniel Gilbeau.

**Revitalizing Michif**

Lii Michif maachi wanishkawak dan leu ter • The Métis are waking up all over their land

By Theresa Stanlund

Ill across the Métis Homeland there is a growing movement to revitalize knowledge of the Métis people. Efforts are being made to both preserve the language and teach it to younger people. An article in the May/June 2011, Legion Magazine, titled “Saving Michif” drew attention to Michif programs in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia and important work is also going on in Ontario.

The article explains that although Michif was already widely used by 1840, it was never taught to younger Métis because the language was considered suppressed and even banned. As a result, Michif did not get passed on to younger generations and most Michif speakers today are elderly. Part of the growing pride of Métis people is the growing awareness that Michif is an important aspect of our history and culture. However, the knowledge passed on to new generations has become a priority. The Manitoba Métis Federation has Michif programs in six of its communities while the Métis Nation British Columbia has established a website (www.learnmichif.com) dedicated to teaching Michif. The Gabriel Dumont Institute in Saskatchewan has created DVDs and CDs that target all age groups and draw on the knowledge and guidance of Métis elders and Michif speakers.

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is playing a major part in the movement to revitalize Michif. The Education and Training Branch has recently produced a “Michif Education Kit” that includes posters with Michif words (along with English and French) describing several important elements of Métis culture. The education kits are available to Métis educators throughout Ontario.

One of the most important work being done revitalizing Michif is taking place at the community level. An excellent example is the “Sharing the Michif Language” course initiated by the Kenora Métis Council. Over 20 Métis are participating in Michif language classes that are being funded by the Federal Department of Canadian Heritage through the Aboriginal Languages Initiative (ALI). The program provides 20 weeks of language instruction through a variety of different media. Speakers and instructors from Manitoba have facilitated some classes and on-line learning, short drama skits, uniquely created versions of popular games, cooking and crafting activities, and visits to outside venues have all been used to teach Michif. While the majority of participants are young people, the ages have ranged widely and have provided a great opportunity for youth to interact and learn from Métis elders.

“Children were encouraged to learn with the adults and elders as the vehicle of learning historically through the family system,” explained Theresa Stenlund, the Provisional Council of the MNO (PCMNO) Councillor for Region 1 (which includes Kenora). “We felt by re-creating this form of education, we could develop a family-oriented learning atmosphere. It was incredible how much they learned and how much we learned from them! All the participants were very accepting and patient of this process and it enhanced our learning experience.”

Besides being PCMNO Councillor, Theresa also has two children enrolled in the Michif course.

In order to motivate the children (and adults), students participate in monthly trading posts where they can spend the “Michif dollars” earned throughout the classes to purchase and barter for items with fur trader Mr. McPherson. To encourage participation, Métis dollars were handed out to students who participated in class and/or volunteered to help with snacks, clean up, and/or deliver a Métis presentation of their own choosing.

“The Métis culture for our children is an important aspect of knowing who they are and the rich history they come from,” stated Theresa. “It is our strong Métis identity that needs to be taught to our children and grandchildren. The Métis in this area and across Ontario have deep roots to the land and the Métis way of life that need to be shared more often. I am very pleased that the Kenora Métis Council is offering the children and adults of the Kenora area a chance to re-gain our language and also expose and teach our Métis culture throughout the Michif lessons,” she added.

**Michif Phrases:**

**Tawnshi ayanwun.**
I am fine.

**Nimiyoo ayawn.**
Hello, how are you?

**Tawnshi eyishinkawshan?**
What is your name?

**Dishinkawshan**
My name is ...

**Tawnshi ayshekeshickaw?**
How is the weather?
Oshawa & Durham Region Métis Council | A Celebration in Oshawa

Paddle, Fiddle and Jig

By Wendy Pilon

Back in November, 2010, the Oshawa & Durham Region Métis Council (ODFRMC) was very pleased to announce the launch of three new programs due to the generous funding received from the Heritage Canada program. The showcasing of our rich Métis culture was achieved through a jigging program in a number of local schools, a fiddling program with an award-winning Métis fiddler, and the building of a 26-foot traditional birch bark canoe at GL Roberts Collegiate and Vocational Institute in Oshawa.

In April, 2011, we celebrated the very successful delivery of these programs at a Métis Gala in Oshawa. A fun evening of entertainment was organized by Tina Lavallee with traditional dancing by students involved in the school programs, and jigging by the Oshawa Bouquet Métis Dancers. The Oshawa Métis fiddlers—fiddlers taught and led by JJ Lavallee—played a number of tunes together along with great solos by two young learners: Dylan Lavallee and Bailey Lavallee. Students who had participated in the dance and fiddle programs also did readings in between the entertainment, reminding the crowd of friends, parents and family of Métis history and culture. Colin Carrie, the local MP also attended and spoke to the group, joining in the celebration of the successful culmination of the programs. Jennifer Henry did a great job of MC-ing the event and in his usual great style JJ Lavallee ended the performance with an amazing rendition of Orange Blossom Special, filling the stage with dancers and bringing the entire crowd to their feet.

The ODFRMC is very pleased with the results of these programs. We brought a renewed appreciation of our history and culture to the community and also had the opportunity to share that history in area schools. This could not have been accomplished without the very hard work of a number of people. As usual our community pulled together and supported each other.

In addition to the many community members who made this possible, we want to thank Bill Littleleaf and Deanna Fry from the Durham District School Board, who have continued to provide support in opening doors for teaching Métis history and culture in local schools, the many teachers who worked with the programs; and in particular, Principal Deb Johnson of GL Roberts Collegiate and Vocational Institute.

I especially want to recognize our key contributors: Dawn Boston, who was successful in applying for the grant and administering the programs; and elder Marcel Labelle, who brought his expertise, wisdom and patience in working with local students to build a large voyageur birch bark canoe. Tina Lavallee, our artistic director not only taught the dance programs in schools throughout the area, but accompanied the dance programs with important history lessons.

Finally, JJ Lavallee, an accomplished fiddler who came to us from Manitoba, not only taught fiddling in a very traditional Métis fashion, but became part of our community and represented the Métis well at the many events in which he participated. Through them, and the strong support of our larger community, we ran a series of programs that will be long remembered for its successful showcasing our Métis culture in the Durham region.

Community Charter signed in Mattawa


“Métis citizens are the foundation of the MNO,” explained MNO President Gary Lipinski, “and at the local level they are represented through MNO Charter Community Councils. The councils are an important part of the MNO’s push towards its inherent right to self-government. The local councils are also communication hubs for the MNO and play a significant role in fostering community empowerment and development.”

The charter agreement was signed by Nelson Montreuil, President of the Mattawa Council, and by MNO President, Gary Lipinski. Around 50 people witnessed the ceremony. “It took a lot of hard work to put this charter in place,” stated President Montreuil. “It is a cure for our Métis people.”

“I congratulate the Mattawa Métis Council for all their efforts to get their Community Charter Agreement signed,” said President Lipinski. “The dedication that brought us here today demonstrates what can be achieved by working together to advance Métis rights and improve the social wellbeing of Métis citizens, families and communities. The Métis citizens in the Mattawa area will be well served by those who have stepped forward to advance issues important to the community.”

Community councils operate in accordance with MNO Charter Agreements, like the one signed in Mattawa. These provide councils with the mandate to govern in accordance with the Charter, including countability, transparency, and consistency. The Charter Agreements also work in harmony with the Community Code and Community Electoral Code are the governance and policy documents community councils refer to, and for ensuring accountability through good fiscal manage-
CREDI T RIVER MÉTIS COUNCIL | NEW COUNCIL ELECTED

A new vision for Council

By Richard Cuddy
Credit River Métis Council
BRAMPTON

The Credit River Métis of Region 6 have a new council. Debbie Alves returns as president. New members include: Vice President/Chair, Richard Cuddy; Senator, Ray Bergie; Treasurer/Secretary, Joyce Tolle, Youth Rep., Talitha Tolle; Women’s Rep., Karen De-rocher; Councillor, Jim Tolle; Councillor, Murray Berger, and Sr. Councillor, Bill Morrison.

On May 7th and 8th, 2011, the Credit River Métis Council attended for governance and finance provided by the Métis Nation of Ontario. We went around the table introducing ourselves and sharing our stories. Several stories included a historical element of shame and denial of our heritage. We all seem to share the ongoing search for something or somewhere to belong. I have noticed this common thread of discussion throughout our community as I connect with citizens. This saddens me because I was, fortunately, not raised with this same shame or denial. My family always knew and accepted our “mixed blood” heritage. Instead of being ashamed to be Métis it always made me feel special. I was raised to celebrate hunting, fishing, trapping, the outdoors, and our connection with nature.

When I moved to a large, urban area, it became clearer to me that aspects of my culture were not as well appreciated when celebrated openly. However, I believe this is starting to change. The Métis are a mobile people that are spreading across the provinces, and indeed the world. Our migration is not as one large group, but more as individuals and families. We take our culture and heritage with us to these new destinations. We can also take our shame and fear, but shame and fear do not need to define us; we can choose another route.

During the training, the Credit River Métis Council decided to make choosing another route a top priority. One training activity asked us to “Create Our Vision” by defining the type of organization we want to be. Course instructors, Gary Liposki and Andy Lefkovitz, assisted us in this activity and we developed the following vision statement:

“The Credit River Métis Council is proud to promote and protect the Métis culture for citizens now and in the future.”

The Métis youth are as precious to us as our past. Citizens, please reach out to your community council, elders and veterans. Learn and reinforce our culture and heritage and share it with our youth. There is no longer any reason for our culture to be invisible due to ignorance. While the Métis should not forget past struggles, we can’t let them define us. We must ensure that our family heritage and culture are passed on to our youth with pride.

Richard Cuddy
Vice President/Chair
Credit River Métis Council
www.creditrivermetiscouncil.com
rmc@rogers.com


MALCOLM DIXON
Chair, The Great Lakes Métis Council, at the One World Festival in Owen Sound.

Grey-Brace Méets take part in local diversity celebration

by David Clark
Community Wellness Coordinator
OWN SOUND-GREY/BRUCE

Malcolm Dixon, Chair of the Great Lakes Métis Council, partook in the first-ever “One World Festival” held the 27th of May, 2011, in Owen Sound. The event, organised by the “Inclusive Communities Committee”, was a celebration of diversity.

Displays included activities sponsored by Community Living, and Klezmer Music, and featured a Black Heritage display, Aboriginal singers and drummers, children’s choirs from area schools, Nipashe, Fremont, Chinese folk music, and of course, the MNO along with over 20 other displays.

The event was alive with children who attended with teachers and parents. As I was snapping a picture, a small group of children chatted with Malcolm about the bison skull which was part of the exhibit.

Other Aboriginal presentations included the Chipewawns of Nawash, M’ Wikwending Native Cultural Resource Centre; and the “Restoring the Circle Gathering” (an event to help Aboriginal people who attended residential schools) in their healing.

The One World Festival was the culmination of a month-long celebration of community diversity, the success of which began at it becoming an annual event, and no doubt, the Métis will be present again, proudly promoting our heritage.

There is much work to be done and many options to look into and finding, to find, but we will move ahead one step at a time. Dave Dusome, treasurer of the Midland-based Georgian Bay Métis Council, said that the hope is for the centre to be located on the waterfront site of the former Ojiway Landing campground on Robert Street West.

“That’s our homeland. The majority of us came from Drummond Island hundreds of years ago, and we migrated from there to Penetang and area,” he explained.

Georgian Bay Métis Council President, Brenda Laurin, hailed the project as an important development. “It will allow local Métis to capture and display our culture and language, while providing vital health, training and sports facilities to the whole community,” she stated in a news release.

Any citizens who wish to help out with fundraising issues, building aspects, etc. can contact the GBMC office at 705-526-6335.

YOUTH AND ELDERS

Uniting generations

by Brenda Laurin
Georgian Bay Métis Council
PENETANGUISHENE

There is much to work for and there are many options to look into and finding, to find, but we will move ahead one step at a time. Dave Dusome, treasurer of the Midland-based Georgian Bay Métis Council, said that the hope is for the centre to be located on the waterfront site of the former Ojiway Landing campground on Robert Street West.

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DO YOU NEED VOLUNTEER HOURS? Help a Senior, Meet an Elder & Make memories that will last a lifetime.

Assembling outdoor chimes, raking, weeding, general clean-up.

Contact your guidance office or call the GBMC: (705) 526-6335 x. 213/204
COLLEGE BORÉAL | MNO STUDENT BURSARY PROGRAM

Collège Boréal awards $11,000 in bursaries to Aboriginal students

On April 15, 2011, at an address by dignitaries that included representatives of the greater Sudbury region’s Aboriginal communities, Collège Boréal awarded bursaries totalling $11,000 to six students attending its campuses in Sudbury, Timmins and New Liskeard. Funding for these awards is provided by the Aboriginal post-secondary education and training Bursary and the Métis Nation of Ontario Bursaries. “Collège Boréal is proud to encourage its Aboriginal and Métis students to pursue their post-secondary studies,” says Collège Boréal’s President, Denis Hubert-Dutrisac. “These bursaries are just one of the many services provided by our Louis Riel Centre to promote the development of Aboriginal culture. Through these and many other initiatives, Collège Boréal also aims to strengthen a sense of pride andframe with people’s visions and experiences are essential to our province’s development.”

Bursaries for Aboriginal post-secondary education and training were awarded to Nancy Bouchard (2nd year Commerce), Mallory Brazee (1st year Ultra-sonography), Christopher Clément (1st year, Medical Radiation Technologist), Joëlle Lavoie (1st year Office Administration) and Robert Lée (3rd year, Forestry Technologist). Métis Nation of Ontario Bursaries were awarded to Nancy Bouchard, Christopher Clément, Joëlle Lavoie and Natalie Vienne (1st year Veterinary Technician).”

College Boréal’s Louis Riel Centre was officially inaugurated in November, 2010. Located at the heart of the main campus in Sudbury, it provides the college’s Aboriginal and Métis students with a wide range of services and an environment that is sensitive to their cultural identity and conducive to their academic success. “Promoting knowledge and a vibrant culture”, this is College Boréal’s vision, as a French-Lan-
guage institution of post-secondary skills training established in 1995 that contributes to the growth and development of communities in northern and central-south-western Ontario. College Boréal encourages the values of humanism, excellence and inclu-
sion, as well as an active awareness of environmental issues that affect our society. College Boréal is the first education sector rep-
resentative officially designated by the Government of Ontario under the French Language Serv-
ices Act.

HOUIS | PILOT PROJECT

left to right: Joëlle Lavoie; Rick Meilleur; Mallory Brazee; Larry Prevost; Pam Jones; Eric Dupuis, Coordinator - Aboriginal Projects, Collège Boréal; Roger Giroux; Natalie Vienne; Nancy Bouchard; Marc Nellis, Professor, Natural Resources Sector, Collège Boréal; Denis Hubert-Dutrisac, President of Collège Boréal, and Christopher Clément.

THUNDER BAY | COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

MNO signs agreement with Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM)

Partnership expands on commitment to needs of Métis communities

The MNO and the NOSM co-hosted an Aboriginal work-
shop on May 25-27, 2011, in Sudbury, Ontario. This work-
shop, NOSM’s third Aboriginal fo-
rum, was a follow-up to the Fol-
low Your Dreams workshop held in June, 2005, and the Keeping the Fol-
low workshop held at Fort William First Nation in August of 2006. The workshop informs Abo-
riginal peoples of the progress made by the school on recom-
mandations received during the previous two Aboriginal work-
shops and provides a forum for continuing dialogue between Aboriginal peoples and NOSM. At the opening of the three-
day workshops, the MNO and NOSM signed a “Collaboration Agreement” which will allow the two parties to work more closely together. This shared commit-
ment is focused on providing ed-
ucation which is responsive to the Métis people and commun-
ities of northern Ontario, and on highlighting their complemen-
tary resources and objectives with respect to research, educa-
tion, and expertise. The MNO and NOSM have a range of common goals, ap-
proaches, and needs. Both the school and the MNO are actively involved and engaged in address-
ing the needs of their communi-
ties. There are a number of possi-
ble areas upon which the NOSM and the MNO can collaborate:

• Identifying opportunities for beneficial collaboration in the development of new medical courses, academic programs, and innovative research initia-
tives;
• Actively recruiting potential Métis medical students, and improving the provision of medical programming that is culturally and linguistically ap-
propriate;
• Developing communications intended to increase the visi-
bility and success of the Métis in medicine in Ontario;
• Increasing Métis participation in and access to current and future NOSM programs and services;
• Increasing real and meaningful Métis input to NOSM policy development.

“From day one MNO has sup-
pported NOSM. I remember when it was just a dream,” explained President Lipinski. “The MNO is entering into this collaborative agreement with the Northern On-
tario School of Medicine to facili-
tate more Métis students pursu-
ning medical careers in the north. Having more students graduate in the north will dramatically in-
crease the potential of them re-
turning to their communities, where their skills as doctors and nurses are very much needed.”

A significant component of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine’s social accountability mandate is to build and cultivate relationships with Aboriginal communities across northern Ontario,” said Dr. Roger Strasser, NOSM Dean. “This Collaboration Agreement between the school and the MNO will allow us to pur-
use opportunities that maximize the positive impact our organiza-
tions are having in the north.”

The Métis Nation of Northern Ontario Building System Technical Ad-
visory Internship Program is a two year internship with in-class learning and on-site training, also applied learning in shops, labs, workplaces and mentorship by skilled technicians. As well, the inter-
ship offers the opportunity to explore home renovations, eco-
energy and efficiency with residential housing.

T he first year interns of the Building System Technical Advisor Intern-
ship Program (BSTAIP) pilot project reached another mile-
stone recently with the comple-
tion of the first year of the pro-
gram. To celebrate, Métis Nation of Ontario Housing Investment Inc. Executive Director, Jean McIsaac-Wiitala; BSTAIP Coordi-
nator, Terry Desaulniers and Project Developer, Leafty Shaw organized a potluck dinner to recognize the achievement. Carol Rusk, Program Manager for Confederation College—the MNO’s academic partner in the BSTAIP—also attended and con-
gratulated the students.

Appropriately, the pot luck had a Métis theme with all par-
ticipants bringing fantastic dishes such as moose, venison and even buffalo meat. At the request of Terry Desaulniers, everyone voted for their favourite dish. Peter Ducharme’s bannock won the
culinary prize with honourable mention going to Justin Mc-
Carrol’s venison dish. While the interns look for-
toward the upcoming year, work placements have been set up at the MNO’s Housing Branch in Thunder Bay. Here they are set to learn the admin-
istrative side of housing through mentorship and on-
the-job training.

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energy and efficiency with residential housing.

Casey Boban, Adrian Karasiewicz, James Aggawany, Tara Guoisa, Robin Armstrong, Tyler Boly.

Bottom row: Trevor Warren, professor; Carol Rusak, program manager; Jean McIsaac-Wiitala, Executive Director MNO HII; Terry Desaulniers, BSTAIP Coordinator; Leafty Shaw, Project Developer.

MNO President, Gary Lipinski, and NOSM Dean, Dr. Roger Strasser, sign the Memorandum of Understanding between the MNO and NOSM.

Bursaries for Aboriginal post-
secondary education and training were awarded to Nancy Bouchard (2nd year Commerce), Mallory Brazee (1st year Ultra-
sonography), Christopher Clément (1st year, Medical Radiation Technologist), Joëlle Lavoie (1st year Office Administration) and Robert Lée (3rd year, Forestry Technologist). Métis Nation of Ontario Bursaries were awarded to Nancy Bouchard, Christopher Clément, Joëlle Lavoie and Na-
talie Vienne (1st year Veterinary Technician).

Collège Boréal’s Louis Riel Centre was officially inaugurated in November, 2010. Located at the heart of the main campus in Sudbury, it provides the college’s Aboriginal and Métis students with a wide range of services and an environment that is sensitive to their cultural identity and con-
ductive to their academic success. “Promoting knowledge and a vibrant culture”, this is College Boréal’s vision, as a French-Lan-
guage institution of post-secondary skills training established in 1995 that contributes to the growth and development of com-
munities in northern and central-south-western Ontario. College Boréal encourages the values of humanism, excellence and inclu-
sion, as well as an active aware-
ness of environmental issues that affect our society. College Boréal is the first education sector rep-
resentative officially designated by the Government of Ontario under the French Language Serv-
ices Act.

The Métis Nation of Ontario Building System Technical Advis-
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Collège Boréal awards $11,000 in bursaries to Aboriginal students

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ship offers the opportunity to explore home renovations, eco-
energy and efficiency with residential housing.
Infinite Reach is comprised of incoming and upper year postsecondary students who have the common goal of working together to enrich and enhance their post-secondary education experience. Members form a community of Métis learners within their college or university and support each other in their academic pursuits. Infinite Reach facilitators are upper year students who can offer assistance to incoming students by helping them adjust to university life. Infinite Reach facilitators also work to create and maintain a sense of community among Métis students. Throughout the year Infinite Reach facilitators will host/facilitate cultural and informative events to connect students to the local Métis community and the MNO.

The Infinite Reach: Métis Student Solidarity Network will serve as a community of learners with the ability to inspire Métis students to achieve their full potential and provide the support of the Métis community.

Infinite Reach Objectives
- Establish a community of Métis Postsecondary Students across Ontario connected through their participation in Infinite Reach.
- Connect Métis learners with Métis Nation of Ontario community.
- Ease the transition of incoming postsecondary education students by partnering them with an upper year mentor who can assist them during their adjustment to post-secondary studies.
- Provide incoming students with a culturally appropriate support system that encourages maintenance of Métis values and practices.
- Increase awareness of Postsecondary Education opportunities among secondary school students by having mentors engaged in outreach to high schools.

Traditional Métis Knowledge Sharing
Throughout Métis history the survival of our culture relied on the ability of community members with specific knowledge in trading, canoeing, food preparation, hunting, languages and medicines to share these skills with those less experienced in certain areas. It was recognized that through the reciprocal sharing of lived experiences, even commonplace events could provide insight and wisdom.

Today, the future of the Métis Nation relies on the principles of knowledge sharing that have always been a part of our culture. While attending postsecondary education many Métis students are separated from their families and may feel culturally invisible. The Infinite Reach network provides the sense of community necessary for Métis students to maintain healthy and positive identities.

What Makes Infinite Reach Unique?
While there are a number of mentorship programs available at colleges and universities throughout the province, there is currently no program designed with the specific intent of partnering current Métis postsecondary students with incoming or potential Métis students. The Infinite Reach network is structured as a community or network of Métis learners in order to avoid the hierarchical configuration implicit in many mentorship programmes. In this way the Infinite Reach programme remains consistent with traditional Métis values and customs by acknowledging that each member of the community brings with them unique experiences that when shared can empower others.

Infinite Reach Community
The Infinite Reach network intends to create a network of Métis postsecondary students across the province that can share experiences and support one another in their academic pursuits. The relationship between incoming students and facilitators and other Infinite Reach community members is determined by the needs of individual first year students. Some students may wish to communicate with facilitators by email for quick advice regarding university life, and some may want to meet with their facilitators for coffee or at cultural events. The goal of the Infinite Reach network is to create a community of students who can easily connect with one another.

Facilitator Responsibilities
- Attending an Infinite Reach two day training session
- Being throughout the academic year
- Initial meeting with incoming students in September
- Being knowledgeable of funding opportunities for Métis students
- Being knowledgeable of community council and MNO events and programs
- Connecting incoming students with available student services: Academic Counselling; Counselling Services; Disability Services; Health Services; Housing
- Connecting incoming students with Aboriginal Student Resource Centre and spend at least two hours a week in the Centres
- Organizing Powley Day activities (Sept 19)
- Organizing information session and cultural events throughout the year
- Encouraging students to self-identify as Métis within the institution
- Encourage students to subscribe to the MNO Postsecondary Distribution List
- Preventing and promoting postsecondary opportunities to Métis secondary school students

Facilitator Capacity
Eventually, the Infinite Reach network will grow to support facilitators and network members at every postsecondary institution attended by Métis students in Ontario.

Infinite Reach Distribution List
If you are a Métis postsecondary student and would like to know about funding opportunities, cultural events and community events in your area then you need to be on the Infinite Reach distribution list.

To join just go to the Métis Nation of Ontario Website’s Education and Training webpage and click on the Infinite Reach: Métis Student Solidarity Network link! Enter your email and stay connected! www.metisnation.org

How to Get Involved
Calling All Métis Post-secondary Students!
We are looking for facilitators and members to be part of the Infinite Reach: Métis Student Solidarity Network for the 2011/2012 academic year.
infinitereach@metisnation.org

Education and Training Branch
1-613-798-1488 x 137
Post-Secondary Education Officer
1-800-261-4889 x 137
Métis Nation of Ontario
500 Old St. Patrick Street
Ottawa, Ontario, K1N 9G4
WOMEN OF THE MÉTIS NATION

Ending violence against Métis women

Call for strong action to end violence against Métis women

T he Women of the Métis Na-

tion (WMN) attended the Collab-

oration to End Vio-

lence: National Aboriginal Women's Forum (NAVW) in Van-

cover, B.C., June 15 to 17, 2011. Violence against women is a

very real issue for the Métis: one that is more prevalent than it is rec-

ognized by mainstream media and the general public.

For the Métis, violence against women is a community issue with

each person having a role and re-

sponsibility to prevent, intervene and support victims, or those

who have lost loved ones to vio-

lence. “It is time to take a stand for our Métis women and girls.

Where one of our own has suf-

fered or is lost, it resonates throughout the veins of the com-

munity,” said Women of the Métis Nation President, Melanie

Omenaho. “Every community citi-

zen, service provider and leader must make Metis women a priori-

ty, and this starts by properly identifying our women as being Mé-

tis.”

There are issues that stem from Métis women and girls not being

identified as victims of vio-

lence within the information gathered during and after an inci-

dent. The lack of solutions and re-

sources required to prevent and intervene for Métis women and

families as well as the ongoing maintenance necessary need to be

addressed quickly. A Métis-spe-

cific approach when working with

abused Métis women is the only way to ensure that Métis women

and girls will not be forgotten.

President Omenaho contin-

ued: “There is no way that we can come up with solutions if we are

not identified, we are an unseen group—even here at this forum

the reality is the same. Until Métis women are engaged in develop-

ing the solutions and working collaboratively with others to ad-

dress the issues of violence against Métis women nothing will

change.”

Over 200 delegates, from

across Canada, including national Aboriginal organizations and

provincial and territorial minis-

ters, came together to share best practices and experiences. A list

of recommendations was devel-

oped that will be provided to

Canada’s Premiers at an upcom-

ing meeting in July.

PARLIAMENT | ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

Métis Nation welcomes reappointment of Minister John Duncan

M étis National Council Presi-

dent, Clément Chartier, has

written to the Hon. John Duncan,

Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and

Northern Development, to con-

gratulate him on his reappoint-

ment to that portfolio.

“During the election cam-

paign, the Conservative Party reaff-

irmed the importance of the M éti

s Nation Protocol as the basis of

the government’s productive relationship with the Métis Na-

tion,” stated President Chartier. “I wrote to the Prime Minister soon

after May 2, expressing my hope that the continuity and stability of-

fered by a majority government will enable Canada and the Métis Na-

tion to make further strides.

The reappointment of Minister Duncan marks a first step in that

direction as he and I have devel-

oped a very collaborative relation-

ship in our joint efforts under the

Protocol.”

President Chartier also com-

mented Prime Minister Harper

on his appointment of two Abo-

original Cabinet members, Health

Minister Leona Aglukkaq and In-

tergovernmental Affairs Minister

Peter Penashue. Moreover, the Métis National Council supports

the renaming of the Ministry of In-

dian and Northern Affairs to the

“Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development” to

change that better reflects the scope of the ministry’s relations-

ships with First Nations, Inuit and the Métis Nation.
Each year, citizens of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) gather with friends, family and colleagues from across Ontario at the MNO Annual General Assembly (AGA). The AGA is an opportunity to pass on traditions and conduct the business of the MNO. The 2011 AGA is taking place at the Bobby Orr Community Centre in Parry Sound, Ontario, from August 20 to 22, with pre-AGA activities taking place on August 18-19.

Parry Sound is a picturesque small city that sits on the beautiful Georgian Bay, an area that has been an important centre of Métis life and culture for over 300 years. Parry Sound was part of the great water routes of the fur trade and the historic northwest and provides a perfect backdrop for sharing the stories of the Ontario Métis, many of which still remain untold.

This year’s jam-packed agenda includes an amazing journey through the 30,000 Islands of the Georgian Bay on the Island Queens Cruise Ship as well as a Métis Cultural Night that will include a delicious fish fry hosted by the Moon River Métis Community Council. Traditional opening ceremonies the morning of August 20 will feature dignitaries entering in three voyager canoes and popular activities like the Métis Games will be back as well. A full agenda will include meetings and activities for veterans, youth, women and seniors. A two day trade show will run throughout the AGA and include displays and vendors from throughout the province. Daycare is available and the Parry Sound KOA has excellent camping facilities, which are only 20 minutes from Parry Sound.

So, plan on attending the AGA this year; you don’t want to miss it!

If you have any questions about the 2011 AGA send an e-mail to AGA2011info@metisnation.org

Parry Sound KOA
Camping at the AGA

Seventy-five acres of natural paradise await you less than two hours north of Toronto in the heart of Georgian Bay Country, the world’s largest fresh-water archipelago—home to 30,000 islands. Settle into a spacious open or wooded site among wind-swept pines and nature at its finest. Feel the sun tickle your face and warm your soul by day, then gather by the fire and marvel at the “Near North” starry skies by night. Enjoy the heated pool, trampoline, mini golf, gift boutique, wagon rides, bingo, two nearby sandy beaches, playgrounds and more! Fishing and golfing are not far away. Keep in touch via free Wi-Fi.

The KOA is only a 20 minute drive from Parry Sound and the Bobby Orr Centre, where the AGA is taking place. August is a busy vacation time in Parry Sound, so we strongly encourage people who are planning to attend the MNO AGA to book their camping sites early. We also advise anyone wishing to camp to contact the KOA prior to making travel plans in order to ensure that there are camping sites available.

For more information, or to submit your application contact:
Guylain Morin-Cleroux, Draft Show Committee Rep
Tel: 613-798-1488 x.116
Toll Free: 1-800-263-4889
Fax: 613-722-4225
guylainem@metisnation.org

If you have questions about the AGA send an e-mail to:
AGA2011info@metisnation.org

Métis come together in Parry Sound

AGA 2011
BUSINESS OF THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

If you have questions about the AGA send an e-mail to:
AGA2011info@metisnation.org

2011 AGA Draft Agenda:

AUGUST 18
Thurs
9 am - 5 pm
Workshops (TBD)
Bobby Orr Community
7 pm - 9 pm
AGA Registration
Bobby Orr Community

AUGUST 19
Friday
8 am - 5 pm
Workshops (TBD)
Bobby Orr Community
Times TBD
• Presidents’ Meeting
• Senators’ Meeting
• Veterans’ Meeting
• Women’s Meeting
• Youth Meeting
Locations TBD
7 pm - 10 pm
AGA Registration
Bobby Orr Community

SUNDAY, August 21
Fish Fry and Entertainment
TIME: 6:00 to 10:00 pm on Sunday, August 21
TICKETS: $15 per person

Enjoy a delicious feast and great Métis Entertainment! On the evening of Sunday, August 21, participants in the MNO Annual General Assembly can take part in a wonderful celebration of Métis culture! The Moon River Métis Council is hosting a Métis Cultural Evening with exciting entertainment and an awesome fish fry. The Moon River Council is famous for its fish fries so you don’t want to miss it!

To reserve your ticket email: AGA2011@email.metasnation.org

PARRY SOUND PROVIDES THE PERFECT BACKDROP FOR SHARING THE STORIES OF THE ONTARIO MÉTIS, MANY OF WHICH STILL REMAIN UNTOLD.

Networking Trade Show

The MNO Planning Committee is now accepting applications from vendors, corporations and non-profits for our trade show being held in conjunction with the MNO’s AGA, August 20-22, 2011, in Parry Sound, Ontario. The AGA Planning Committee invites interested vendors, corporations and non-profit organizations to submit an application form. Each vendor receives a 10’x10’ area, including a table and two chairs. Electrical outlets may be limited and are available on a first-come-first-served basis. Thank you for your support and interest in the Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly 2011. We look forward to receiving your application.

For more information, or to submit your application contact:
Guylain Morin-Cleroux, Trade Show Committee Rep
Tel: 613-798-1488 x.116
Toll Free: 1-800-263-4889
Fax: 613-722-4225
guylainem@metisnation.org

PARRY SOUND KOA
276 Rankin Lake Road, Parry Sound
RESERVE (800) 562-2681
INFO (705) 378-2721
pskoa@vianet.ca

RESERVE online at Parry Sound KOA website:
www.koa.com/campgrounds/parry-sound
Information on a business that rents campers at:
www.koa.com/campgrounds/parry-sound

RESERVE (800) 562-2681
INFO (705) 378-2721
pskoa@vianet.ca

If you have any questions about the AGA send an e-mail to:
AGA2011info@metisnation.org
Explore the beauty of the Thirty Thousand Islands

TIME: 6:30 to 10:00 pm on Saturday, August 20
Tickets: $10 for adults; $5 for youth (12-17 years); Free for youth 11 and under; $25 Family rate (2 adults / 2 kids under 17)
Reserve your ticket today: AGA2011@metisnation.org

During the evening of Saturday, August 20, participants in this year’s MNO Annual General Assembly will have the opportunity to explore the unbelievable beauty of the Thirty Thousand Island region of Georgian Bay aboard the Island Queen. The 550-passenger Island Queen is the best vessel for cruising Georgian Bay aboard the Island Queen. The ship is specially designed with easy manoeuvrability and a shallow draft, allowing her to travel into narrow channels and surprisingly up-close to shorelines, maximizing your opportunities for great photos and allowing for exploration of out-of-the-way places. Spacious and comfortable inner seating, large viewing windows, and outside observation decks provide you with a captain’s-eye view of the passing scenery which is supported by full narrations. Other amenities on board include a snack bar and café and wheelchair accessible washrooms.

The Island Queen Cruise departs from the town dock in Parry Sound for a three-hour sightseeing cruise through the wild and rugged Thirty Thousand Islands region of Georgian Bay. Discover the natural beauty of this region, recently designated by the United Nations as a Biosphere Reserve. Marvel at the beautiful glacier-sculpted islands, spectacular windswept forests and majestic summer retreats.

Follow in the wake of early explorers on this outstanding three-hour evening wilderness cruise through the secluded waterways of Georgian Bay’s outer islands. The remoteness of the outer islands has left them largely immune to the encroachments of humans. Savour the beauty of the rugged granite outer islands where there is truly an adventure around every bend.

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Bobby Orr Community Centre
Métis Games & Culture
Bobby Orr Community Centre
1 pm - 5 pm
MÉTIS CULTURAL EVENING, ENTERTAINMENT AND FISH FRY
Bobby Orr Community Centre
6 pm - 10 pm

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Accommodations

Area Inns and Hotels

There are a number of bed and breakfasts in Parry Sound, but due to limited space, you may wish to consider the following hotel options in nearby communities:

**MIDLAND:**
Best Western Highland Inn
705-526-9307
Comfort Inn Midland
705-526-2090
Deerhurst Resort
1-800-461-4193

**HUNTSVILLE:**
The Holiday Inn
705-788-9500
The Holiday Inn Express
705-788-9500
Best Western
705-788-3345

**BRAEBRIDGE:**
Sleep Inn
705-645-2519
Travelodge Braebridge
705-645-2235
Relax Inn Muskoka
705-645-8755
Braebridge Inn
705-645-4424
Wellington Motel
705-645-2238

There are a number of bed and breakfasts in Parry Sound: www.parrysoundbb.com

**Kids and Parents Day Care**

If you have children who will be needing daycare accommodations during the business days only of the Annual General Assembly (Saturday from 7:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. and Sunday and Monday 8:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.), please complete and submit a Daycare Registration Form on or before Friday, August 7th, in order to assure your needs are met. Lynne Picotte and Dale Xilon will be assisting with the organization of the daycare.

**CONTACT:**
Lynne, lynnep@metisnation.org or Dale, dalex@metisnation.org
Searching our DNA for Métis ancestors

By Donald “Donn” Fowler

My first known European ancestor was John Nourse (b.1775, d.1845) who retired from Rupert’s Land in 1840 to the “Province of Canada”. It was a hamlet within the “Township of Hamilton” in the “Neighbourhood of Stromness”. He was a former commissary and later commerce agent. His Enterprise (he called it) was the forerunner of his trade business.

At Stromness, he lied about his ancestry to get into the lucrative fur-trading business.

It now appears that in the winter of 1832, the desperate natives who wiped out the entire fur-trappers of that region.

Jacob Corrigal was born in 1775 not 1788 (see #1 below). This means that when he became indentured at Stormness, he lied about his age. He was not 18 years old, but rather 15. Nevertheless, the HBC recorded his age as 18. So, the Corrigal brothers left Scotland in order to get into the lucrative fur-trade business.

Unfortunately, William, his native wife and his aboriginal (mixed-blood) children were slaughtered by starving mainstream natives who wiped out the entire fur-trappers of that region.

Jacob Corrigal’s Native wife was Jacob Corrigal’s named beneficiaries according to the HBC Post. In each of two registered but unmarked graves (see #4 below) were of course—indigenous haplogroups (see #5 below) located through an extremely long re-search process, thanks to the assistance of Library and Archives Canada (LAC) and to Ontario Archives Toronto (OAT). All of William’s children (see #7 below) were of course—in our modern terms “Red Flag Métis”—but regrettably they all died completely and needlessly impoverished, between the years 1890 and 1909.

Here are a summary, an update, and a request that anyone who has information about “the good old days”, or “that’s not how we did it”? This error has been corrected to take this fact into account.

I have taken the liberty of pointing out that if Donn’s work is of use to people who are just beginning the investigation into their ancestors.

If you can learn more about haplogroups (see #5 below), located through an extremely long re-search process, thanks to the assistance of Library and Archives Canada (LAC) and to Ontario Archives Toronto (OAT), the most recent acquisition achieved through an extremely long re-search process, thanks to the assistance of Library and Archives Canada (LAC) and to Ontario Archives Toronto (OAT).

Hence, it may be because they had NOT been identified as First Nations or Métis.

I am honored and humbled to be among such giants within the Métis Nation, and in the consciousness of the Canadian people. I encourage you to keep an open dialogue amongst our Senators, and the earthen sharing of our knowledge and heritage. I challenge our elected officials to keep an open dialogue amongst our Senators, and the earthen sharing of our knowledge and heritage.

1. I hope that many more of our own Aboriginal relations can muster the ambition to see Mary Corrigal’s grave site, and her stone marker, at the old Martin cemetery superintendant. Purchased on-line.

2. Danes may be wrong, even when they come from seemingly reputable sources.

3. If no records of ancestors can be located, it may be because they had NOT been identified as First Nations or Métis.

4. If you suspect that an ancestor was buried in a particular cemetery, but there is no marker, check with the cemetery superintendent. Purchased plots will be recorded and there will be a record of how many are occupied and in what.

5. You can learn more about haplogroups on-line.

6. www.genselab@metalex.com / group: Native AmericanDNA

One must be courageous to take this plunge; but Donn is courageous, after all.

Jacob Corrigal died in 1844, but it took ten years to sort out the history. Finally, the Honourable James Bruce, the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine who was at that time the Governor General of the Province of Canada intervened. Nevertheless, the self-appointed administrators as principals, and others involved, managed to deny Jacob Corrigal’s family access to their own father’s will and estate, which remains extant to this day as a “Heritage”.

Jacob Corrigal’s Native wife was Jacob Corrigal’s named beneficiaries according to the HBC Post. In each of two registered but unmarked graves (see #4 below) were of course—in our modern terms “Red Flag Métis”—but regrettably they all died completely and needlessly impoverished, between the years 1890 and 1909.

These four Corrigals were apparently twins. First interred with their father and later two bodies in each of two registered but unmarked graves (see #4 below) in a south-western Ontario community.

Now for the DNA.

Jacob Corrigal’s Native wife was born in 1788—probably quite young. She was the daughter of a former commissary and later commerce agent. Jacob Corrigal’s named beneficiaries according to the HBC Post. In each of two registered but unmarked graves (see #4 below) were of course—in our modern terms “Red Flag Métis”—but regrettably they all died completely and needlessly impoverished, between the years 1890 and 1909.

These four Corrigals were apparently twins. First interred with their father and later two bodies in each of two registered but unmarked graves (see #4 below) in a south-western Ontario community.

Now for the DNA.

Jacob Corrigal’s Native wife was born in 1788—probably quite young. She was the daughter of a former commissary and later commerce agent. Jacob Corrigal’s named beneficiaries according to the HBC Post. In each of two registered but unmarked graves (see #4 below). When we maintain our traditions, we are giving to those who follow us the heritage developed by our Métis ancestors.

We must be ever mindful that we are neither First Nations nor European. We Métis hold a unique place in Canadian society and in the consciousness of the Canadian people. We Métis hold a unique place in Canadian society and in the consciousness of the Canadian people.

I have taken the liberty of pointing out that if Donn’s work is of use to people who are just beginning the investigation into their ancestors.

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**SUDBURY MÉTIS COUNCIL | Fire Safety**

**A Blazing Success**

Students and the staff of Sudbury area schools learn about fire safety.

By Dale Xilon
Métis Healthy Babies, Healthy Children Coordinator
SUDBURY

With the careful planning, organization and dedication of many volunteers, the spark of safety envisioned by George Goodchild from Webb Wood, in the Township of Sables-Spanish Rivers was fanned into a flaming success. George, a proud Métis man and an even prouder volunteer assistant fire chief, asked this worker if she would be interested in taking part in a joint endeavour. This venture was to bring fire safety teachings to three of the elementary schools, covered by the volunteer fire departments of Sables-Spanish Rivers.

On April 4th, 2011, this Aboriginal Healthy Babies Healthy Children worker along with Community Healing and Wellness Worker, Desneige Taylor, accompanied Fire Chief Rodney Houle, four assistant fire chiefs, 25 fire fighters from all four crews of the Sables-Spanish Rivers volunteer fire departments, and a few wives of the fire fighters. Together, on this one day adventure, fire safety teachings were provided to an amazing 340 students and the staff of these area schools.

Teachings included a tour and explanation of each of the fire trucks for all the students. While the younger students enjoyed a video and putting information gained into a practice demonstration lead by Sparky the fire dog, older students had a demonstration on how to use a fire extinguisher and other equipment employed by departments, such as a heat seeking camera.

Fun was had by all, but most important, crucial safety teachings were shared.

Please remember to test your fire alarm; change batteries at least twice a year; plan your escape route and practice with your children. It was amazing to this worker and very scary to see how many children planned to jump out of their bedroom windows upon hearing the fire alarm, even if this was far from the best choice. When asked why the usual answer was, “I saw it in a movie”.

So, as a worker I implore you to go through a working fire escape plan with your children, including a safe place to meet once out of the house.

**RENFREW | MNO Region 6**

**Good Food Box**

Owen Sound will be an order site for the Good Food Box.

by David Clark
Community Wellness Coordinator
OWEN SOUND-GREY/BRUCE

The Community Healing and Wellness Programme in Owen Sound has partnered with the very successful Grey & Bruce Good Food Box (GFB) and the Health Unit to be an order site, starting in September.

The Good Food Box program operates in many communities throughout Ontario, with 15 sites in Grey and Bruce. Developed to promote healthy eating, and therefore a healthier lifestyle, the GFB is a monthly “basket” of fresh fruits and vegetables. The Good Food Box program is a fresh produce purchase and delivery system that makes consuming vegetables and fruit easy and affordable for everyone in the community. Food is purchased in bulk, and savings are passed on to the participants. The box contains 10-15 different types of fresh fruits and vegetables each month.

Orders are placed and paid for a month in advance. The box costs $15 and delivery is available for an additional $5. Boxes are filled once-a-month on the fourth Tuesday. The GFB is supported by Grey Bruce Partners in Health, a coalition of local agencies that supports healthy eating and active living programs in Grey Bruce. It is operated by 15 local coordinators and approximately 150 volunteers.

With this initiative, the MNO’s Healing and Wellness Programme, and the local Métis council will benefit from an enhanced visibility and community profile. This also opens the doors to more clients, workshop promotion, and reaching Métis citizens. Our office is located in the downtown core, thereby allowing easier access to the GFB for many people. Boxes will continue to be picked up at the central sorting location, but I have initiated discussions to explore the MNO office as a pick-up site in the future.

www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca
I n today’s society we have be- come accustomed to getting what we want, and fast. Youth are especially susceptible to the instant gratification the professional poker world por- trays: with minimum effort one can have a luxurious lifestyle. Stress, financial instability, depres- sion, isolation, and time spent away from friends and fam- ily are just some of the con- sequences the gaming industry does not portray.

Even though many youth are too young to participate at casi- nos, other means of gambling are readily accessible, such as betting on dares or challenges that they can do some specific thing, partic- ipating in 50/50 draws, playing poker for money, betting on sports and gambling on- line. Youth can easily gamble on-line because there is no one there to check the age of major- ity and a credit card can be “bor- rowed” from a family member and used without the owner’s knowledge or permission.

The reasons young people gamble include needing money or wanting to win back losses, feeling the “rush” of the win, and using gambling as a stress re- liever. Another reason youth are gambling is that they believe they can become professional poker players and live the high life. Advertising campaigns and the media have the power to shape our views and perceptions and they know just how to reach their target audience. This is sup- ported by sports channels broadcasting large poker tourna- ments and classifying poker as a sport. Youth are receiving mixed signals; they are lead to believe that if poker is a sport, you need “practise” to get better. There- fore, the more they gamble the better they become. It is very im- portant to remember that there is a skill component to poker; however, poker is still a game of chance because the cards cannot be manipulated to one’s advan- tage.

Poker tournaments in private homes and bars have become the “in” thing to do. Kids in high school are now having poker “get-togethers” where they play for real money. Teens are not ready to deal with the aftermath of gambling addiction.

Special Warning: What about younger children? Never before has it been more crucial that par- ents monitor all online activities; give them an alter- native to gambling as a recre- ational activity.

Teach youth alternative stress reduction activities

Model responsible gambling practices; don’t brag about wins at the casino or talk about exciting trips to the casino.

Monitor what your children, teens and young adults are playing on the internet, set time limits and redirect to ap- propriate websites.

Read all credit card state- ments carefully, if your chil- dren have access to your credit card, they may use it to register at online gambling sites and may put your card at risk for credit card fraud.

A s service providers, we are often painted as the service providers, we are often painted as the helpers and take little time to care for ourselves. At the North Bay office of the Métis Nation of Ontario, the Heal- ing and Wellness Branch staff opted to do a series of workshops during lunchtime based on serv- ice provider wellness. We chose the end of our fiscal year, a time filled with paperwork, budgets and sometimes a little stress. This is a time when frontline workers need to be reminded to care for themselves. The MNO Community Well- ness Worker Program and the

NORTH BAY MÉTIS COUNCIL | SERVICE PROVIDER WELLNESS

by Stacey Rivet

Healing and Wellness Co-ordinator

and Amanda Desbiens

Aboriginal Healthy Babies, Healthy Children Co-ordinator

NORTH BAY MÉTIS VOGUEUR

RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING | Poker-mania

Get rich quick, Get hooked, even quicker

Great time and effort has been put into drug and alcohol education for our youth: we now must include gambling addiction...

By Loma Rowlinson

MNO’s Provincial Aboriginal Responsible Gambling Coordinator

YEOUTH GAMBLING According to the Responsible Gambling Council, our youth are not just gambling, they are gambling a lot:

• Youth aged 14-24 years are twice as likely to have gambling problems as adults or seniors.

• 2.7% of youth have severe gambling problems.

• 8.3% of young people in Ontario age 14-18 self iden- tify with gambling problems.

• 25,000-30,000 youth have a gambling problem in Ontario.

Even though many youth are too young to participate at casinos, other means of gambling are readily accessible.

A T C A S I N O S , O T H E R MEANS A R E TO A C C E S S I B L E

• Monitor what your children, teens and young adults are playing on the internet, set time limits and redirect to appropriate websites.

• Read all credit card statements carefully, if your children have access to your credit card, they may use it to register at online gambling sites and may put your card at risk for credit card fraud.

The Métis Nation of Ontario’s Aboriginal Responsible Gambling Program continues to identify unique needs in our communities. We have a new “Youth and Internet Gambling” pamphlet available at our offices across the province. In addition, our website will soon have an interactive educational slot ma- chine where you can “test your luck” and knowledge about gam- bling. Coming this summer is the release of our new “Métis Youth and Internet Gambling” DVD where Métis youth share their gambling experiences. For more information, please visit our website at www.metisnation.org/gambling.

Workers take time to care for selves

by Stacey Rivet

Healing and Wellness Co-ordinator

and Amanda Desbiens

Aboriginal Healthy Babies, Healthy Children Co-ordinator

NORTH BAY MÉTIS VOGUEUR

WE CHOSE THE END OF OUR FISCAL YEAR, A TIME FILLED WITH PAPERWORK, BUDGETS AND SOMETIMES A LITTLE STRESS. THIS IS A TIME WHEN FRONLINE WORKERS NEED TO BE REMINDED TO CARE FOR THEMSELVES.

Workers take time to care for selves

We chose the end of our fiscal year, a time filled with paperwork, budgets and sometimes a little stress. This is a time when frontline workers need to be reminded to care for themselves. The MNO Community Wellness Worker Program and the Aboriginal Healthy Babies, Healthy Children Program teamed up to bring physical fit- ness and even a few laughs to our workers. We kicked started our se- ries part way through the month with a workshop related to burnout and compassion fatigue. We educated our workers on the difference between the two, tested their stress levels to see their probability of being burned out, and educated them on pre- ventative measures. We then de- cided to add a bit of fun to the mix and created our own version of “Minute to Win it” in which our participants were asked to form various challenges using household items within a minute. Not only were the challenges fun but it gave us an opportunity to show our silly sides and be able to see all levels of the office being ridiculous. We also included a workshop about conflict resolu- tion—something everyone is faced with—and included a few fun im- provisation games at the end. An- other event we held during lunchtime was a murder mystery. We invited our staff and a few spe- cial guests to come together and become investigators, suspects, and even victims to share some lunch and some laughs. The other side to this was the physical fitness events that we held. Sitting in an office all day provides minimal exercise and can cause sore backs, so, we de- cided to put together a few lunchtime fitness activities that included playing various Wii games as well as an outing to go bowling. We provided education about nutrition and physical fit- ness to aid our staff in keeping themselves healthy. Not only was the Healing and Wellness staff planning events, but Linda Krause, our Education and Train- ing Coordinator also jumped on the wagon and organized a ‘dress silly’ day for the office which al- lowed us to truly demonstrate our silly sides.

From placement students, to frontline staff and even manage- ment, this gave us the opportu- nity to come together, learn and laugh at one another. Taking time out from a stressful period can help us revitalize and seize the day whole heartedly. If you are in- terested in any information about our Service Provider Wellness ses- sions you can contact Stacey Rivet, Community Health and Wellness Coordinator for the North Bay Métis Nation of On- tario office.

stacey@metisnation.org

amandad@metisnation.org
Diabetes and alternative medicines

by David Clark
Community Wellness Co-ordinator
OWEN SOUND: GREY-BRUCE

People who have diabetes need to be aware of the effects of alternative medicines (i.e., vitamins, herbas) and the impact on their health; such was the message of Dragana Skokovic-Susnjic, a pharmacist and herbal consultant with Dell Pharmacy. The webinar, presented on May 19th by the Canadian Diabetes Association through the Ontario Telemedicine Network, was most interesting and eye-opening.

We tend to think of “natural” as being “safe”, but vitamins and herbs can block the effects of other medications and insulin. Some herbs, such as milk thistle, bitter melon, and banana, can benefit people with diabetes. In all cases, check with a doctor and pharmacist regarding interactions with other medications, and possible negative impacts on overall health. Taking too much (over-dosing) of some vitamins, such as B12, can cause liver damage.

The bottom line is that “natural does not equal safe.” Ensure that any natural product is regulated by Health Canada and look for the natural product number (NPN), DIN, or BMIDIN numbers. A pharmacist can supply additional information for products with these numbers.

A re-broadcast is available on the webcast.otn.ca website. Check out the website for Dell Pharmacy for more information about natural health products.

www.dellpharmacy.com

Click on “specialized services”, then “herbal consulting” for more information.

Do you live in the Owen Sound-Grey-Bruce area? Are you interested in being a Volunteer Driver?

The Owen Sound-based Community Healing and Wellness Coordinator and the Long-Term Care/At Home Coordinator based in the Midland office are looking for individuals who would like to become volunteer drivers to assist citizens attend medical appointments. Mileage expense is reimbursed, and some meals are covered, depending on the time away.

Are you looking for a ride to a medical appointment? If you are looking for travel assistance to attend a medical appointment, or other services related to helping you live as independently as possible, we might be able to assist.

To find out more about becoming a volunteer driver, to request travel assistance, or other long-term care assistance, please contact:

David L. M. Clark
Community Healing and Wellness Coordinator, Owen Sound-Grey-Bruce, DavidC@metisnation.org
Tel: (519) 370-0435
Visit the office at 380 9th Street East, Owen Sound (calling ahead is a good idea).

Debbie Ferris-Giammattola
Long-Term Care/At Home Coordinator, MNO Healing and Wellness Branch, DebbieF@metisnation.org
Telephone: (705) 526-6335 ext 204 or Natalie Noonan at extension 213.
355 Cranston Crescent, Midland

As always, a visit to the Métis Nation of Ontario’s website is a good starting point for additional information: www.metonation.org (Look under “Programs and Services” then “Health & Wellness.”)

Contest sponsored by the Royal Botanical Gardens

www.rbg.ca
HEALING AND WELLNESS

SUNSET COUNTRY MÉTIS COUNCIL | Community Gatherings

Métis community hall buzzes with activity

By Anne-Marie Armstrong

by the Canada Food Guide and cost from month to month based on the Canadian Food Guide and cost effective. We usually consist of salad, meat and vegetable dishes and diabetic friendly desserts. Everyone helps with the meal preparation and clean up. We always take time for a healthy snack or lunch, and the laughter, sharing of stories and socializing throughout the afternoon is priceless, and then people go home with supper for their families.

Registration is on a first-come-first-served basis by calling the office at 438-954-9536 and asking for Anne-Marie.

Community kitchens are also offered in the community of Rainy River throughout the year and this is made possible through a partnership with the Health Access Centre, the Rainy River Northwestern Health Unit, the Best Start Early Years Family Resource Centre and our Métis Nation of Ontario Healing and Wellness Branch.

The hall has been vibrating on Mondays and Tuesdays for the last twelve weeks to music and exercise with close to 50 participants at our “New Year, New You Diabetes Boot Camp”. Participants were put through a half hour exercise regime once a week, followed by a presentation on health issues and a healthy snack. This program was so popular that it has been opened to those on the waiting list and we are running another 12 week program to promote healthy life styles with the focus on diabetes prevention.

The Métis Nation of Ontario Healing and Wellness Branch facilitates evening on a regular basis.

As stated on our website: “The Métis Nation of Ontario Healing and Wellness Branch enhances the holistic needs of the Métis Nation in Ontario at the provincial, regional and local levels. Holistic Aboriginal health includes the physical, mental, emotional, spiritual and cultural aspects of life.” We encourage you to check out our programs and events by calling or visiting us at the office or the Métis hall.

Anne-Marie Armstrong

To 705-474-1366

Fort Frances, ON

MÉTIS WRITERS | K.D. Beckett

Métis citizen publishes first historical novel

F ormer MNO registrant, Karole Dumont-Beckett, has published her first book, an historical novel titled, “Rainbows in Time”. Born in Mattawa, she is a fourth generation Métis. Karole became interested in her family’s Anishinabe, Scots, and French history when she was only 17. Now a grandmother of three, Karole finds herself drawn into that history more and more.

It turns out that Karole has been writing since she was five or six years old and has always wanted to write and publish a book. Rainbows in Time is scheduled for release on June 17th, and in order to expedite some of the technicalities of publishing, she has formed her own company: Métis Publishing. When asked about the content of this first book to hit the presses, she said it was “pure imagination”. She says she has a sense of creating the characters and then “letting them go”. However, as with all writers, a certain amount of the author inevitably ends up in the story because writers can only write what they know. Karole’s experience as an ambulance attendant, her work in search and rescue, her love of horses, and her dislike of cooking, all find their way into this story.

Karole believes that a good book, “makes you cry, makes you laugh; and, makes you think.” This first book is in the public domain. It is available for free to read online.

BOOK SIGNINGS:

July 22nd Mattawa: Mattawa Voyageur Days, official novel launch and book signing at the John Down Library from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM.

July 23rd Mattawa: Mattawa Voyageur Days (www.voyageurdays.com)

TO BE CONFIRMED:

July 29-30, Maximile: Highland Games

August 20-21, Parry Sound: MNO Annual General Assembly (www.metisnation.org)
ABORIGINAL ARTISTS | An Afternoon with Laura Lee K Harris

Nibi-Anishinabe Kwewag

by David Clark
Community Wellness Co-ordinator
OWEN SOUND, GREY/BRUCE

On March 16th, Métis and community members gathered at the Tom Thomson Gallery for an afternoon with Laura K. Harris, an Aboriginal artist from the Grey-Bruce area. Ms Harris provided a tour interspersed with poetry readings, and talked about how she works on wood, using the grain as imagery and metaphor. Her show, “Nibi-Anishinabe Kwewag: Water and the First Nations Women”, was intended “to honour the water and the women who are the traditional keepers of the water, and is dedicated to the over 600 missing or murdered women who are the traditional keepers of the water.”

Each work was accompanied by a poem about the piece. She certainly had the attention of the audience, her works and poetry covered emotional, cultural, and spiritual wellness, and reflected her personal life’s journey and Aboriginal teachings.

At the end of the tour and readings, participants had an opportunity to chat with Ms Harris, and ask questions about her work, and herself. The Community Wellness Co-ordinator partnered with the Tom Thomson Gallery to present this workshop to Métis citizens and the community. The Tom Thomson Gallery generously donated the use of the gallery and a common room for an after-event social. Following the tour, everyone (no one left at this point) gathered to enjoy bannock, bison, sandwiches, fruit and berries, beverages, and each other’s company. Some gallery staff joined us as well. Ms Harris generously donated two of her books as door prizes, and Community Wellness provided a hand-crafted pottery plate from the gallery gift shop.

The work shown here is dedicated to Mr Harris’s grandmother. For more information, visit: www.lauraleekharris.com.

MÉTIS VISUAL ARTISTS | Natalie Bertin

“Being Métis”
Nathalie Bertin mounts art exhibition

Using images that range from traditional trades to political statements, tied together by design inspired by the art of the “flower beadwork people”, Nathalie Bertin celebrates her Algonquin and French heritage. She honours Métis tradition, recognizes the courage of early Canadian settlers, and acknowledges the debt we owe to our First Peoples. For more information, visit: www.nathaliebertin.com

POETRY | Reader Submissions

Listen to the Silent Drum
by Raymond D. Tremblay

Look, the multicoloured leaves are flying! I was totally in awe - I couldn’t bear a thing. Suddenly my sensitive skin felt the wind’s embrace. Touches love, my heart was overwhelmed with grace. Eager to share my joy, I spontaneously danced in the forest. Naturally, the trees and flowers applauded. I was doing my best. Touching the moment, I noticed that the birds were keeping me company. Oh, it was as if we were square dancing to the sound of a rich harmony! Tears of joy flowed down my rosy cheeks. I was totally mesmerised. How could I admire Mother Nature’s stunning beauty? My eyes Embraced her with sparkles of tenderness and sheer adoration.

Suddenly, my heartbeat accelerated. A sound caught its attention! I could not hear its waves vibrating upon my ears. I was left speechless! Left on my own, I may have fled but my Creator held me against His breast. I could not hear its waves vibrating upon my ears. I was left speechless! Yet I clearly heard its silent beat, I felt secure living in the present. Recalling that I had clearly heard its silent beat, I felt secure living in the present. Uplifted by Mother Nature’s splendour and God’s Spirit, I continued my dance. My drum, my Métis heartbeat became my Maestro. I had heard its silence!

Student video highlights struggle for Métis commercial fishing rights

The struggle of Métis people for commercial fishing rights is a story very close to the heart of Trish O’Connor, a Métis youth currently attending Lakehead University. Her parents, Ron and Mary O’Connor, were commercial fishers on Lake of the Woods whose livelihood was threatened by the provincial government’s “Willing Seller-Willing Buyer” program, which was initiated during the 1980s. As part of one of her classes at Lakehead, Trish produced a short film about the “Willing Seller-Willing Buyer” program and its impact on Métis people as well as its implications within the wider struggle for Métis rights.

The film provides important information about Métis rights and also tells its story in a personal way. To view the film, visit the link below:

VIDEO | Métis Fishers

An image from Trish O’Connor’s film about Ontario’s “Willing Seller-Willing Buyer” program and its impact on Métis.
Three new books worth reading

by Chris Paci

S
ome of you know that I read a lot of books. Every once in a while I share some of my impressions with Voyageur readers. I try to read new books by either a Métis author or on a Métis topic. In this article I want to introduce you to three very different books.

Christmas La Pouchinn

Deborah Delaronde & Virginia McCoy

MÉTIS ARTISTS

Christmas La Pouchinn is a gorgeous children’s book by Métis author, Deborah Delaronde, about a Michif Christmas pudding. While the story ends with Christmas celebrations, the illustrations by Virginia McCoy are stylistically attractive, with prominent Métis motifs. The story is in poem form, and follows a hard working family through the four seasons as they gather and harvest ingredients needed to make “La Pouchinn”.

I think what I like about the book is that it has a page of vocabulary as well as the recipe to make La Pouchinn. This book is good for parents reading to their children and for early years.

Our Knowledge Canoe

Marcel Labelle

O
ur Knowledge Canoe is a very attractive booklet from Marcel Labelle. He illustrates the story with photos from workshops and nature. Many Voyageur readers will know that Marcel, aka “Mahigan,” is a proud member of the MNO. He has been building traditional birch bark canoes for a few years now. In this book Marcel illustrates some of the teachings and gifts that are part of the process. This book is invaluable.

The reading level is about grade 5 or 6. A table of Algonquin, English and French words used in the story is included. While intended for young audiences, the ecology lessons embedded throughout the book make it essential reading for all ages. I will read this book over and over and hope Marcel will keep writing.

Bridging Cultures: Indigenous and Scientific Ways of Knowing Nature

Glen Aikenhead & Herman Michell

Bridging Cultures is a gorgeous children’s book by Metis author, Deborah Delaronde and It is a great book that introduces young readers to the importance of respecting and valuing cultural differences. It tells the story of a group of children who are learning about the traditions and customs of different cultures around the world. Through the use of beautiful illustrations and engaging text, the book helps to foster understanding and empathy among young readers.

Wrestling with war through art

by Linda Lord

Métis artist, Timothy Mohan, has a new exhibit titled, “War Series: Wise Up”. Those who see it will be reminded that the purpose of art isn’t necessarily to create pretty pictures. In a recent interview, Tim said, “I’m not sure what it was that changed my visions this past year, but deep down inside I feel that there are stories to tell and messages I must leave in my wake. I’ve always been a bit of a storyteller in my own way, many of my images tell a tale, but until recently those stories were plain and simple and relegated to proving that everyone and everything is, in one way or another, connected, by our humanity and our love of life and liberty.”

Many of his works, including his latest work, are now available online. Mohan’s website, www.timothytmohan.com, features his latest works, including a series of paintings that reflect on his experiences during the war. These paintings are available for sale online, with proceeds going towards various projects that support Indian communities.

A Tim Mohan’s exhibit at Huronia Museum in Midland. Park Road, Midland, Ontario, beginning October 14th and continuing throughout the month of November. In honour of Remembrance Day, grade 10 students at Midland Secondary School are currently writing poems related to the War Series. Their poetry will be included with the exhibit and proudly displayed for all to see and read.
**METIS YOUTH | WRITING CONTEST**

**“I Am Métis”**

Mitchell McCron

is 10 years old and in grade 5 at MacTier Public School. This is his submission to the James Bartleman youth writing competition.

By Mitchell McCron
Grade 5
MacTier Public School

A war broke out in 1812 between England and the United States. A result of the war was the British surrendering Drummond Island to the Americans in 1822. The civilians, fur traders and their Métis families were forced from the island. Some of the Métis families were awarded land in the harbour of Penetanguishene, Ontario. Jean and Angelique were one of those families. They voyaged in a canoe to Penetanguishene. They had a country marriage. They were my 5th great-grandparents.

My first memory recognizing I was Métis was at a Métis Ren dezvous in the fall of 2006 when I was 6. A Métis Ren dezvous is when a group of Métis citizens gather to celebrate being Métis. Some of the things we do are clean and butcher animals, jigging (Métis dancing) and voyageur games. The voyageur games include target shooting with pellet guns and sling shots, axe throwing, and pack racing (carrying packs over your shoulder while running).

Whenever I go to a Métis gathering or event I wear my sash (a wide woven colourful scarf). A sash was traditionally used for many things such as hauling heavy gear and even for carrying infants or children on their backs. Also in emergencies they would cut off a piece and use it to patch clothes and bags. The colors of a sash helped to identify different Métis communities.

One of the Métis things I do is to go hunting to harvest large game animals such as moose, deer, and bear with my parents to feed our family. When we shoot the animal we offer tobacco to it (take the hide off). Once it is skinned we can butcher the meat to put in our freezer. We would flesh the animal hide (remove fat and excess meat) and salt it so the hide doesn’t go bad. When all these steps are done my mother brings the hide to a tannery so we can use the hides to make leather items. The things we make out of the hides are medicine pouches, moccasins, and vests.

My Métis culture is very important to me because it has been passed on from generation to generation and I am very proud to have it in my blood. I do many more things with my family besides hunting that connect me with my Métis culture such as fish with gill nets, celebrate National Aboriginal Day and collect edible and medicinal plants. Also I live on the water and rely on water every day to travel just like my ancestors but they traveled by birch bark canoe and I travel by a motorized boat. These are some of the things that inspire me about my Métis background.

Now for where I fit in! Jean Baptiste Trudeau and Angelique Papanaaryahtienence had six children. One of them was Antoine Trudeau who married Cecile Rec ollet on December 30th, 1851. They are my 4th great-grandparents. They had fourteen children and one was named Suzanne. Suzanne Trudeau married Isadore LePage but she had a child named John before they met. John’s father is unknown but Isadore raised him like his own son and gave him his last name of LePage. Suzanne and Isadore had seven children of their own. Suzanne is my 3rd great-grandmother. John LePage married Ella May Melina Carmichele on October 4th, 1910. They are my 2nd great-grandparents. They had twelve children and adopted one. One of the children was named Henry. Henry LePage married Edith Morson on September 10th, 1954. They are my grandparents. They had ten children. One of them was named Lisa. Lisa married Keith McCron on September 18th, 1999. They are my parents. They had two children and one of them is me.

**MARCH BREAK**

Igniting youth interest

By Brenda Laurin
Midland - Penetanguishene

During March Break students from Barassooal Island First Nation, along with Métis students from Midland and Penetanguishene area took part in a three day IBM IGNITE Camp at St. Theresa’s Catholic High School in Midland.

IGNITE stands for IGNiting Interest in Technology and Engineering. This unique opportunity was part of IBM Canada’s national Aboriginal strategy to encourage First Nation, Métis and Inuit youth to stay in school, build self-confidence in their technical abilities and explore possibilities for their future.

The Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board (SMCSDB) was one of 10 sites across Canada to deliver an IGNITE Camp. In partnership with IBM. The hands-on science and engineering activities were designed to demonstrate that technology is fun and exciting. Guest speakers included local First Nation and youth. They also explored new dimensions in education through this innovative model.

Georgian Bay Métis Council would like to thank our local education contact, Jaida McGregor, Manager of First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Initiatives (SMCSDB) for bringing this opportunity to our attention at our February Committee Assembly.

**FAMILY HISTORY PROJECT**

History alive

By Kristy Cameron
Midland - Penetanguishene

The students in Keira Cameron’s grade two class were asked to research their family history and share their project with the class. Here we see Keira giving a presentation about her Métis culture to her classmates, who are eagerly waiting their turn to pass around her collection of objects.

“I liked learning about my ancestors and what they did, like the canoe building and hunting buffalo. I enjoyed reading my project to my class, because then my class got to know about me and my culture.”
MÉTIS VOYAGEUR
By Natalie Lloyd, Lynne Picotte, & Jason Jamieson
Healing and Wellness Supervisors

This year the Healing and Wellness Branch is excited to launch collaborative Rendezvous at locations throughout the province. We have heard from our community members that they can’t always make it to the AGA due to distance, getting time off, or other variables, and that some feel they miss the opportunity to connect with fellow Métis. This year we will present one or two day events to celebrate Métis people and our culture.

At the Rendezvous you can enjoy traditional foods, demonstrations of cultural activities including finger weaving, tanning and canning. Special activities are planned for the children, and our hunters and gathers have a wonderful opportunity to pass on oral traditions and teach skills in sharing circles.

Each location is unique depending upon the resource people and vendors available. If you would like to participate as a demonstrator, a vendor or a volunteer please contact the host site(s) that you wish to attend.

Join us in celebrating Métis people and culture, and participate in the events and workshops being hosted on that day.

COMMUNITY: Windsor, Welland, Toronto, Hamilton & Mississauga
Owen Sound, Midland & Port McNicoll
Bancroft, Renfrew & Ottawa
Timmins & North Bay
Thunder Bay & Fort Frances
SSM & Sudbury
Kenora & Dryden

LOCATION: Knoll Park, Port Colborne
Grey Roots Museum and Archives, Owen Sound
Post Office Park, Bancroft
Dutchess Cottages, Sturgeon Falls
Wilderness Discovery Family Resort & Conference Centre
Richard’s Lake, Sudbury
Lunen’s Pit, Ritchie Rd, Kenora

DATE: July 16
July 23
August 6
Sept. 17
Sept. 17/18
Sept. 17
Sept. 24

SITE CONTACT: Windsor: 519-974-0860
Welland: 905-735-1112
Hamilton: 905-318-2336
Owen Sound: 519-376-0435
Midland & Port McNicoll: 705-526-6335
Bancroft: 613-332-2575
Renfrew: 613-432-7106
Ottawa: 613-798-1488 xt.113
Timmins: 705-264-3939
North Bay: 705-474-0734
Thunder Bay: 807-624-5022
Fort Frances: 807-274-6230
SSM: 705-254-1768
Sudbury: 705-671-9855
Kenora: 807-468-5835
Dryden: 807-223-4535

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MNO HEALING AND WELLNESS | COMMUNITY RENDEZVOUS
Celebrate Métis people & culture

GRAND RIVER MÉTIS COUNCIL
Grand River Métis Council hosts Cultural Camp

by Brian Tucker
Manager, Way of Life Framework

The Grand River Community Métis Council (GRCMC) held a youth camping expedition at Rockwood Conservation Area near Guelph on June 4 and 5. Approximately 20 youth and parents attended the event, where they set up their camps and participated in a range of activities. Brian Tucker and Dr. Anita Tucker attended as guest speakers and demonstrated fish cleaning, knife use, bushcraft skills, fire starting, trapping, plant identification and fish smoking.

The youth also went canoeing and hiking, learned how to use a compass, and enjoyed an evening around the campfire.