As it does every year, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) kicked-off its Annual General Assembly (AGA) by re-living the traditions of the Métis voyageurs.

On the evening of August 25, voyageur canoes carrying members of the Provincial Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) and special AGA guests travelled down the St. Mary River at Bell’s Point Reach Campground near Sault Ste. Marie. The journey concluded on a beach near the campground where the modern voyageurs were enthusiastically greeted by a cheering crowd of MNO citizens.

2012 marks the bicentennial of the War of 1812, and Métis contributions during the war were commemorated in the ceremony. Waiting for the canoes was a group of Sault Ste. Marie military re-enactors portraying British soldiers. The soldiers fired two musket volleys to salute the voyageurs as they arrived, and following the landing, MNO President, Gary Lipinski, flanked by Métis youth in colourful traditional clothing approached the soldiers where their leader, Brian Tremblay stated:

“Thank you for joining us hardy voyageurs. We are here to recognize your service in the Corps of Canadian Voyageurs and the Provincial Commission of Voyageurs and to thank you for your bravery in the historic battlefields of the War of 1812-14. You were in the front of battle during the stirring scenes of Plattsburgh, Mackinaw, St. Joseph Island, Sault Ste. Marie and other bloody points during the war. You carry the wounds received while gallantly defending our territory and these are a testimony more eloquent than words to the loyalty and valour of the Métis.”

President Lipinski responded:

“We joined these battles as a proud people to protect the territory we share with you the British, the Canadians and our First Nations brothers. We fought side by side and some of us are proud recipients of medals that will be treasured by our descendants. Let it be remembered today and for all days onward that when the call went out, the Métis remembered their friends and carried their share.

Following the War of 1812 commemoration, the MNO veterans’ colour party led a procession that included President Lipinski and other dignitaries who arrived by canoe. They were followed by Rick Meilleur and a group of singers dressed in traditional Métis clothing, members of the PCMNO, MNO Senators, Métis women, youth and other celebrants. Rick and his group led everyone in singing The Métis Anthem, which includes the lines:

“We are proud to be Métis Watch a nation rise again Never more forgotten people We’re the true Canadians.”

When the procession reached the campground, several hundred citizens and friends of the MNO joined the singers in another stirring rendition of the anthem.

After the song, a ceremony swearing-in the new PCMNO was held. The swearing-in included all the executive positions: Regional Councillors, Senators, Youth and Postsecondary Representatives. The oath was administered by Clément Chartier, the President of the Métis National Council and was followed by each PCMNO member signing his or her own Oath of Allegiance.

After these formalities, the AGA delegates enjoyed a rousing campfire celebration and a feast of corn prepared by former PCMNO Regional Councillor, Art Bennett.

Top: Delegates to the 19th MNO AGA arrive via voyageur canoes.
Above: Royal Newfoundland Regiment-Armstrong’s Company fires a volley to greet arriving delegates.

MVDF
The Métis Voyageur Development Fund has opened its doors.

1812
Fort St. Joseph is invaded again! The Sault Ste. Marie Historic Métis Council takes part in War of 1812 event.

MÉTIS WAY OF LIFE
Potential impacts of development projects on Métis communities.

2012 ASSEMBLY
Full coverage of the 19th Annual General Assembly of the MNO.
COMMUNITY OUTREACH

PHOTO OP

Former PCMNO member, Donna Lee, passes

Donna Lee (Sassy Crowe) 1952-2012

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) has lost a good friend and strong defender of Métis rights. Former Provincial Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Region One Councillor Donna Lee (Sassy Crowe) passed away in Fort Frances on August 5, 2012, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Donna served on the PCMNO from 1999 to 2002 and during her term earned the respect of all of us in the MNO Nation for her dedication to the Métis cause and her hard work to advance Métis issues. Donna is also remembered by all those who knew her for her gift of story-telling and the hours of volunteer and community service she provided. She started as a casual with the local school board, was later manager at the Kitchen Creek Golf Course and for the last ten years has been Manager of Transportation for the Rainy River District School Board.

Donna will be greatly missed by her (grandchildren) Rendi-Bae, Justin, Carlee-Bae, Bradden, (her children) Tracey Baldwin, Aimme, Greg Beazley, (her mother) Minnie Crowe, (her sister) Reny Maneville, (brothers) Ray, [Wendy] Crowe, Fred [Lori] Crowe, Tom [Ruth] Crowe, Darrell Crowe, and Rob [Tammy] Crowe, along with numerous nieces and nephews. She is predeceased by her husband, Wayne; father, Wallace Crowe; as well as her grandparents, Margaret and Lute Calder.

A celebration of her life took place on Saturday, August 11, 2012.

AWARD WINNER

PCMNO Councillor Pauline Saulnier receives OPSEU Tim Brown award

On April 21, Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Region 7 Councillor, Pauline Saulnier, received the “Tim Brown Award” at the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) Annual Convention in 2012. Pauline joined the OPSEU Aboriginal Circle under Tim Brown’s leadership and became Vice-chair in 2008. With Tim Brown’s passing, she was elected Chair of the Circle. Pauline was honoured for her work with the MNO and her role in the OPSEU Aboriginal Circle. Pauline became an MNO citizen in 1996 and by 2000 was elected President of the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council. In 2005, she was elected Region 7 PCMNO Councillor and was re-elected to that position in the recent MNO election.

OBITUARY

Glen Higgs 1935-2012

Glen Higgs was born August 23rd, 1935, and passed away May 25th, 2012, in a plane crash at Lillabelle Lake in Cochrane ON at the age of 56. He is survived by his wife Nancy and his children Rob (Ruthann) and Jennifer (Craig Varner). He was the beloved grandfather of Mikayla, Evan, Stuart, Kailyn, William and Abigail.


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OBITUARY

Pauline Saulnier (right) receives the Tim Brown Award at the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) Annual Convention from OPSEU President, Warren “Smokey” Thomas (left).

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Truly...
Métis entrepreneurs in Ontario have a new “financier of choice” with the Métis Voyageur Development Fund (MVDF) commencing operations August 14.

The MVDF’s formal launch was attended by the Honourable Paul DeVillers, PC, and Chair of the MVDF Board of Directors; the Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs for Ontario; as well as many private sector companies and Gary Lipinski, President of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO). The MNO initiated the formation of the MVDF last year with the Province of Ontario who agreed to provide 30 million dollars over ten years to fund the MVDF.

"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 in building the economies of Métis communities, while also contributing to Ontario’s overall economic growth,” said President Lipinski.

The MVDF is an independent Métis owned and controlled agency that provides funding and support for resource or resource-related Métis businesses. “Métis are one of the youngest and fastest growing demographic groups in Ontario,” explained the Honourable Paul DeVillers. “Our fund is in a position to ensure that Métis people also play a growing role in the Ontario economy: something that will benefit all Ontario people.”

The Ontario Government is proud to support the Métis Voyageur Development Fund,” stated the Honourable Kathleen Wynne. “This fund will help Métis entrepreneurs and businesses in the resource sector start and expand their business. These investments will support economic growth for Métis families and communities, and Ontario’s economy.”

The MVDF will extend financing options available to Métis for resource projects in Ontario, making secured and mezzanine debt available to fund projects that support sustainable growth. The financing will either supplement existing debt from the financial sector or sit alongside the entrepreneur’s equity with the aim of allowing the development of sustainable projects that the financial markets might not finance at the required level. Investing through such a revolving fund instrument helps increase the impact and extend the availability of Ontario’s investment.

“We can help Métis people propel their businesses forward,” stated DeVillers, “because we are in a position to offer customized financing and on-going support that is designed to significantly increase their business’s chances of success and opportunities to grow.”

The Métis Voyageur Development Fund is an independent Métis owned and controlled corporation, founded in 2011, that provides funding and support for resource or related sector Métis businesses.

346 Frank Street
Ottawa, ON K0P 0Y1
Tel: 613-798-0133
Toll-free: 1-855-798-0133
info@mvdf.ca
www.mvdf.ca

Seeking Tenders for
REPAIR WORK
ON HOUSING UNITS

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) provides property management services for Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services (OAHS) Rural and Native Housing (RNH) units.

The MNO is seeking tenders from contractors interested in carrying out repair work on these units.

CONTACT:
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First meeting of new PCMNO

The recently elected and re-elected members of the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) held their first meeting the weekend of June 15-17 in Ottawa. The meeting included extensive orientation sessions to prepare the PCMNO for its responsibilities as well as detailed briefings from all the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Branch Directors. We are here to solve problems for our citizens and our communities,” said MNO President, Gary Lipinski, as he spoke passionately about the role of the PCMNO. He stressed the importance of its role in ensuring that the MNO is properly recognized as the government of Métis people in Ontario and the protector of Métis rights. He reminded the PCMNO that the founding document of the MNO, The Statement of Prime Purpose, outlines clearly the objectives of the MNO as pursing Métis rights, improving social conditions for MNO citizens and promoting Métis culture: “We are at a wonderful time to make sure these things happen,” he added.

The theme of “unity” also emerged strongly from the meeting. “Our communities are part of the MNO,” explained President Lipinski, “as are women, veterans, youth and senators. Our community council charters and regional protocols bind us together. We are not separate entities....”

The newly elected Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario meets in Ottawa in June 2012.

President Gary Lipinski addresses Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples

On June 6, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President, Gary Lipinski, addressed the Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples. President Lipinski’s report was very well received and drew many questions from the committee members.

In his opening remarks President Lipinski commented: “Far too often the story in Ontario as part of the larger Métis Nation narrative is overshadowed or overlooked by some. This is a mistake, and I am glad to see the Senate Committee will not fall into the same trap.”

President Lipinski provided the senators with a history of the Métis people in Ontario and information about the role the MNO plays as the government of Métis people in the province. A major focus of his presentation was the struggle for Métis rights. “Since Ontario Métis were, for the most part, refused entry into the historic treaties,” he explained, “Metis rights and title remain ‘unacknowledged’ and ‘existing’ in this province. Our rights’ claims must be dealt with. Presently, reconciliation through negotiations leading to agreements required by section 35 of The Constitution Act is not happening with the Métis Nation generally, or the Métis Nation of Ontario specifically.”

The question and answer period following his presentation lasted approximately an hour. President Lipinski fielded a broad variety of questions that included the origin of the name “Metis”, harvesting issues, and protecting the Michif language. In an exchange with Senator Don Meredith of Ontario, who asked about the role of youth in the MNO, President Lipinski answered: “I was just speaking to all my directors and managers on one of our priorities (youth) certainly going forward in this term. I have had this discussion with the Premier here in Ontario. Without question, our focus will be on children and youth over the next number of years. Prior to entering Métis politics, I was ... a teacher. There is always a certain number of students who will make it, almost regardless of what happens, but you also have a number of students who, for whatever reason, whether it is not having the support structures in place or the proper role models, run into difficulties. Those are the ones we want to reach and try to help, because if you can encourage them to get their high school graduation and look at post secondary, they will be able to get into business opportunities or a good job, be able to provide their own housing, live a healthier lifestyle, and raise their children in a much better way. That is a priority the MNO will be putting a lot of attention on over the next four years.”

For a complete transcript of President Lipinski’s presentation to the Senate Committee or to view a video visit the MNO web site: www.metisnation.org
The Americans are coming!

Two hundred years after the attack on Fort Mackinac, over 1,000 people descend upon Fort St. Joseph to remember those who were part of the War of 1812.

The Métis Voyageur, spring edition (70), featured a story about Métis involvement in the War of 1812 and commemorations that were planned for July, 2012. As expected, Fort St. Joseph was invaded again! This time, hundreds of re-enactors brought Algoma’s history to life for the crowds in attendance.

The British troops, who successfully took Fort Michilimackinac two hundred years ago, did so with the assistance of First Nations and Métis.

On July 17th, two hundred years after the attack on Fort Mackinac, an estimated 1,200 to 1,300 people descended upon Fort St. Joseph to remember those who were part of the War of 1812. A moment of silence was observed. Senator Brenda Powley opened the ceremony with a prayer. She also presented sashes to speaking dignitaries while Anne Trudel, curator of the Ermineskin Clergue National Historic Site, and Carol Caputo, executive director of Algoma Kinawalti Travel Association, have always included the Métis in the region—starting with former PCMNO Councillor, Brent McHale, and MNO employees and volunteers like Anne Trudel, Lynne Sinclair and Heather Armstrong. This gave the local community a voice and an opportunity to sit on sub-committees such as “research” and the “canoe zone.” The canoe zone, a great success, was lead by Mark Croft and Wally van Dyke of Blind River. The Métis were well represented on this committee by former PCMNO Councillor, Art Bennett and current PCMNO Councillor, Brent McHale, and MNO employees and volunteers like Anne Trudel, Lynne Sinclair and Heather Armstrong.

Many of the people said that they had a new understanding of the significance of the sash.

The Métis Dance Club was well represented and performed to the music of both Senator Ruth Wagner and Zach and Benoit Schyter Lefebvre. More Métis dancers came from the MNO Summer Youth Cultural Program—Geri, Justine, Marie, Nikki, Erin, Jada, Melody, Hollie and Rebekah—and from the larger community of relatives and friends—Mara, Beth, Bill, Christine, Evelyn, Jean Marie, Larry, McKenzie, Myra, Rhona, and Tracey. These people had already contributed many volunteer hours sewing the period attire that everyone wore.

All of this activity and Métis involvement was the product of years of work donated by many people who sat on various committees to ensure that the Métis contribution to the British colony was noted. Senator Brenda Powley said: “There were a lot of Métis people involved. Anne Trudel has worked about five years on the committee.” Co-chairs, Kathy Fisher, curator of the Ermineskin Clergue National Historic Site, and Carol Caputo, executive director of Algoma Kiniwati Travel Association, have always included the Métis in the region—starting with former PCMNO Councillor, Brent McHale, and MNO employees and volunteers like Anne Trudel, Lynne Sinclair and Heather Armstrong. This gave the local community a voice and an opportunity to sit on sub-committees such as “research” and the “canoe zone.” The canoe zone, a great success, was lead by Mark Croft and Wally van Dyke of Blind River. The Métis were well represented on this committee by former PCMNO Councillor, Art Bennett and current PCMNO Councillor, Brent McHale, and MNO employees and volunteers like Anne Trudel, Lynne Sinclair and Heather Armstrong.

Following the re-enactments at St. Joseph’s Island, the actors moved to the “Old Stone House” in Sault Ste Marie where visitors enjoyed a different kind of re-enactment. Domestic skills, such as beadning, rug hooking, embroidery, candle making, period games and more Métis dancing were demonstrated by the many Métis volunteers. The youngest dancer was Savannah Hansen, daughter of MNO employee Shawna Hansen. Savannah, at four-years of age, is already teaching her daycare peers the rabbit dance.

Over the next three years, the 1812 Bicentennial will be recognized on both sides of the American and Canadian border by celebrating 200 years of friendship. The taking of Fort Mackinac on Mackinaw Island is recognized as the first strategic move after the Americans declared war on Great Britain. In the Sault Ste Marie and Algoma region, the Algoma 1812 executive is focusing on true friends, true stories and true heritage.
**Métis encampment at Fort Erie**

For the first time, the NRMC set up its encampment at Old Fort Erie for the weekend of July 28th. Citizens present had the opportunity to share their Métis culture and heritage with many of the people touring the fort. "It is unbelievable how many people are unaware of the Métis as one of the founding peoples of this country," said NRMC President, Stephen Quesnelle, "and that we are one of the three Aboriginal nations in Canada."

Some citizens camped for the weekend, and enjoyed it so much they wanted to stay longer. The council hopes to make arrangements next year to have the encampment stay for a week and give citizens an opportunity to camp for two or more days if they wish. "I want to thank the Métis citizens and council members who came out to help with the set-up and the take-down of the encampment, without their help it would not be possible," said Quesnelle.

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**On the shores of Huron**

**MNO Great Lakes Métis Council third annual fish fry**

By Madison Goodwill
Summer Youth Community Worker

On July 21st the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Great Lakes Métis Council (GLMC) held its third annual fish fry at the Grey Sauble Conservation Area Hibou Park located on the site of an original Métis settlement. The event was well attended and demonstrated a thriving Métis presence in the area around Grey, Bruce and Owen Sound.

The MNO Great Lakes Métis Council would like to thank the Ontario Power Generations (OPG) Deep Geologic Repository Projects Senior Communication Advisor, Kevin Ory; MPP Bill Walker; Deputy Mayor of Meaford, Harley Greenfield; MNO Training and Post Secondary School Program Representative, Jo-Anne Parent; Manager of Community Relations, Hank Rowlinson; Chair of Georgian Bay Traditional Territory Consultation Committee, Pauline Saudnier; Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA) trail guide, Krista McKee; the Home Depot of Owen Sound (Burt Adams); all the vendors; and of course, all of our citizens and friends. Without you, the day would not have been such a success. Chii migwech!

As they entered the park our guests were given a ‘swag bag’ full of useful Métis items provided by the MNO. Our day included an opening parade and ceremony to introduce all of our dignitaries and to give them a GLMC t-shirt. President, Peter Couture, and his cohorts fired up all of the yummy local white fish, and Donna Hillyer provided the delicious desserts. In the afternoon Krista McKee from GSCA took the tourists on a hike through the conservation trails. Johnny Bolton from Listowel entertained with his musical talents, and the vendors and display tables were a huge hit! Home Depot was there to build nifty little bird feeders with children and their parents. Citizens and friends spent the afternoon swimming and canoeing along the shore of Lake Huron, catching up with relatives and old friends and making new ones.

Kevin Orr pulled the winning ticket for our canoe raffle, the winner was Keith Wilson of Markdale! Keith decided to donate the canoe back to the GLMC. We will be holding another raffle in the near future! Thank you Keith! President Couture would like to send a big thank you to the GLMC Council, and to all the citizens and friends that helped organize, plan, set up, facilitate, and clean up. Without everyone’s help and cooperation the Great Lakes Métis Council’s 3rd Annual Fish Fry would not have been so successful, and the best fish fry the council has put on! Baa ma pit!

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**Métis exhibit ready to travel**

Métis Councils raise the profile and understanding of the Métis community in its area

Stephen Quesnelle, President of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Niagara Region Métis Council, has been doing presentations on Métis culture and history to schools and other interested groups for years now. Back in 2009, his granddaughter requested that he speak to her grade six history class. Another class was added. The event was covered by the local newspaper. Stephen was invited to Wardleets to address yet another class. A teacher suggested that the Welland Historical Museum might be interested in a display. The ball was rolling. By November 19th, 2011, the display was open to the public. (See Métis Voyageur #60)

Now, Ontario's first Métis museum display is inspiring others. In June, 2012, Cora Bunn and Jennifer Parkinson of the MNO Grand River Métis Council examined the three-part exhibit at the Welland Historical Museum because their council hopes to set up a Métis exhibit in the Waterloo Region Museum. While it may not be as elaborate as the Welland one, they said they were looking for guidance and ideas.

Stephen Quesnelle told the Welland Tribune that the display is strengthening the local Métis community as well as telling its story to school children and other visitors. "The whole community has gotten involved in the exhibit," he told the Grand River visitors.

Curator, Penny Morningsun, guided the group through the semi-permanent exhibit and explained the council’s desire for “touchable” displays. "As a curator, it was a challenge," she said about the canoe, furs, blankets, Red River cart, boxes and other objects that visitors can feel, handle, smell, see and hear.

With an entrance area and two rooms in the museum’s lower level, it tells the story of the Métis in Canada through sight, sound, pictures, clothing, tools, weapons, blankets, music and computerized puzzles.

Morningsun explained how the museum worked with Jean Vanier Secondary School students to build a scaled down Red River cart. “Schoo..." she told the visitors.

In fact, the Métis exhibit is popular with school tours. The museum runs an educational program that provides teachers with background information and staff explain the history of the Métis, the significance of symbols on clothing, the flag, and the practical designs of canoes, carts and boxes.

Now the MNO Grand River Métis Council wants to raise the profile and understanding of the Métis community in its area. Who’s next? Let’s keep the ball rolling.
Métis Medicine Walk

The MNO Credit River Métis Council partners with the Mississauga Halton Local Health Integration Network and Conservation Halton to host a Métis Medicine Walk at Crawford Lake Conservation Area to inspire youth and promote Métis traditional knowledge.

By Richard Cuddy
President, Credit River Métis Council

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Credit River Métis Council in partnership with the Mississauga Halton Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) and Conservation Halton were hosts to “A Métis Medicine Walk” at the gorgeous Crawford Lake Conservation Area on Sunday, September 9, 2012. Thanks to these partnerships the event was free of charge to over 50 registered guests, 15 of which were youths. The Métis Medicine Walk was fashioned to inspire our youth and promote Métis traditional knowledge throughout our community.

People gathered in the parking lot by the Iroquoian village where the Credit River Métis Council had set up the Consultation Trailer Jim Tolles, Credit River Council traditional resource person and Talitha Tolles, Credit River Youth Rep., set up a trapping, fun and fire starting display. Mississauga Halton LHIN Representatives Ariane Tilstra, Lead Health Systems Development and French Language Services and Liane Fernandes, Director, Health System Development and Community Engagement, offered a display where everyone was invited to stop by and learn about the health initiatives in their community. The Mississauga Halton LHIN is actively working to get to know the needs of the Métis community and welcomed their comments regarding healthcare for Métis citizens.

Bill Morrison, Credit River Vice-president and Chair, managed the Consultation Trailer display. Both Bill and Jim reported that even after the walkers had departed on the Medicine Walk, a constant procession of visitors enjoyed Conservation Halton’s Crawford Lake displays. These extra participants helped to further promote Métis heritage and culture.

Credit River Senator, Ray Bergie, opened the Medicine Walk with a prayer, thanking the Creator for the safe, happy gathering and beautiful venue. Richard Cuddy, Credit River President, introduced the MNO Credit River Métis Council and acknowledged the importance of friends like the Mississauga Halton LHIN and Conservation Halton. He welcomed Sharon McBride, Métis Nation of Ontario Vice-chair, and Métis brothers and sisters from across the nation as well as representatives from Environment Canada, the Dufferin Peel District Catholic School Board, the Peel Children’s Aid Society and the Ministry of Transportation. His main message to the gathering was: “The Credit River Métis Council is not an Aboriginal group, club, committee or network. The Métis Nation of Ontario is the only provincially recognized government in Ontario for Métis citizens. The Credit River Métis Council is the official local government representation for Métis citizens authorized by and responsible to the Métis Nation of Ontario and its citizens. The council is working hard to promote Métis traditions, culture and heritage in our community and to inspire generations to come.” Before President Cuddy finished, he had the pleasure of introducing the true star of the event, the Métis Medicine Walk facilitator, Mr. Joe Paquette, President of the Métis Nation of Ontario’s Veterans’ Council. Métis Elder and Credit River citizen, Joe captivated the crowd, beginning his stories at his display table. He has a unique ability to share traditional knowledge and heritage with respect, charm and humour. The group was fascinated by his stories and impressed with his technical knowledge. Passing around samples of what Mother Earth provides to us, he held everyone’s interest. As he shared his extensive traditional knowledge he encouraged the participants, especially the youth, to touch and smell the samples being passed around. If you haven’t had the opportunity to attend one of Joe’s presentations, you don’t know what you are missing.

After his short introduction, Joe guided the gathering on a two-hour Métis Medicine Walk around Crawford Lake, starting at the Iroquoian village. Joe used the boardwalk that surrounds Crawford Lake to carry out the tour in a way that was safe for the visitors and protected the fragile ecology of the conservation area. He is always concerned about the state of what will be left behind for generations of Métis to come. Throughout the walk Joe answered questions, he expanded his sharing by pointing out the plants in their natural environment, and provided detailed traditional information. The throng quickly understood why Crawford Lake is one of Joe’s much-loved locations.

When the walk was complete, guests were invited back to the display area where Joyce Tolles, Credit River Secretary and Treasurer, provided healthy beverages and Simon Bain, the Métis Nation of Ontario Region 8 Healing and Wellness Coordinator, offered an assortment of wholesome snacks.

Credit River Women’s Rep., Karen Drescher and Senator Ray Bergie reported countless compliments and rave reviews regarding Joe, the Medicine Walk, Crawford Lake and the council displays. The MNO Credit River Métis Council would like to thank the following organizations and people for collaborating on an inspirational and stimulating event: Joe Paquette, the Mississauga Halton LHIN and their Reps, Ariane Tilstra and Liane Fernandes; Conservation Halton and the staff at Crawford Lake; Simon Bain, the Métis Nation of Ontario Region 8 Healing and Wellness Coordinator; the Métis Nation of Ontario, and, last but not least, all of our friends and participants.
In Search of Birch

Métis crafters venture into Thunder Bay’s Centennial Park collecting birch bark from fallen trees to sew birch bark baskets

By Joan Parizzi
Community Wellness Coordinator
THUNDER BAY

On June 6th a group of Métis crafters visited Centennial Park in Thunder Bay. The city was very accommodating in allowing our group to go to the park and collect birch bark from fallen trees. Spruce roots were also collected and cleaned, then split and soaked prior to being used as cordage to sew the birch bark baskets together.

The weather was ideal and the bugs were few. Within an hour we had more than enough bark to complete a couple of baskets each. It was superb to sit outside and clean and prepare the bark for the basket making.

Kasie and Tamara collect and clean spruce roots to be used in basket-making.

School of Rock

Métis lead band Street Pharmacy recently featured on MuchMusic’s DisBand release fourth album

Street Pharmacy is a four-piece reggae rock band hailing from Welland, Ontario. Led by Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen, Ryan Guay, the band has written and recorded four full length albums since its start in 2009 and has gained a cult following in much of southern Ontario. Street Pharmacy offers a fresh sound that combines 90s alternative rock with reggae grooves and lyrical flow reminiscent of Golden Age Hip Hop.

Street Pharmacy was a recent co-winner of the popular MuchMusic series DisBand. The band released its fourth album, “Divorce”, on the Hardcase album label in 2011 and is just about to release a fifth album titled, “Alimony”.

Lead singer and songwriter Ryan Guay started Street Pharmacy right after he was released from a Hamilton mood disorder clinic. This came after the discovery that he had been misdiagnosed with schizophrenia following a physical illness that had caused brain swelling. Ryan began writing songs about these experiences, which also inspired the band’s name.

As a teacher in his native Welland, ON, Ryan Guay goes the extra mile to share his knowledge and passion for music with students. A “School of Rock”-style music club he started released a single on iTunes to raise money for music education and was recently featured in National Youth Arts Week (http://goo.gl/cyrzy).

Street Pharmacy is: Ryan Guay on vocals/guitar, Nate Triano on bass and Dan Frezz on the drums.

To experience Street Pharmacy visit any of the media below.

www.muchmusic.com/disband
www.myspace.com/streetpharmacy
www.streetpharmacy.com
www.youtube.com/streetpharmacy

Peacemaker

Métis artist recognized in national competition

Kelly Duquette, the Youth Representative for the MNO Anishkan Métis Council, is in the news again. (She was recently featured in Voyageur 71, page 17.) This time she has placed second in the 2012 Canadian Aboriginal Writing and Arts Challenge sponsored by Enbridge.

Kelly’s winning piece features Poundmaker, the mixed-blood Cree chief who was convicted of treason at Batoche in 1885 because of his connection to Louis Riel. Kelly says she chose Poundmaker because, “He exemplified the teaching of courage by standing up for what he believed was right, despite the overwhelming government forces to create submissiveness.” Her creation not only honours Poundmaker and his values, it also demonstrates the breaking apart and loss of Aboriginal culture.

“Recreating Poundmaker’s image helps us to remember and learn from our past, so that everyone will be encouraged to stand up for what is right and so others will respectfully listen. Then we will be heeding the message of our peacemaker…to walk in the path, instead of sitting beside it,” she says.

The granddaughter of MNO Anishkan Métis Council President, Marlene Davidson, Kelly Duquette plans to attend the University of Ottawa this fall.

On the shores of infinity

Micheline Marchand was born and raised in LaFontaine, Ontario, where she still lives. After obtaining a BA in history from the University of Ottawa, she received her MA from Laurentian in Sudbury. She has taught French and history at the secondary level since 1987.

A citizen of the MNO, Micheline has recently published a new work of historical fiction titled, “Sur les berges de l’infini.” Written in French, the book consists of nine short stories that recount the history of the Métis of Georgian Bay.

For Marchand, her own French Canadian and Métis roots are an inexhaustible source of inspiration. She builds her stories around historical facts; some are more poetic than others.

Micheline Marchand (She was born and raised in LaFontaine, Ontario, where she still lives.)

Young Artists

BOOKS

School of Rock

Ryan Guay (left) and friend in a scene from a video for Street Pharmacy’s song “Captain America”.

Ryan Guay’s winning MuchMusic DisBand entry.

Micheline Marchand is the author of two previous novels for young people. Sur les berges de l’infini is her first work geared to the general public.
Métis beadwork reduces stress

By Tera Lynn Copeeg
Community Wellness Coordinator
MIDLAND

On May 14, Métis crafter, Jeanette Brunelle, led a workshop on traditional Métis beadwork at the Midland office of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO). The workshop was held as part of a "Barriers to Wellness and Stress Relief" program offered through the MNO Community Healing and Wellness Branch. The Midland MNO office has hosted monthly beadwork sessions for the last few years but several new participants joined the workshop this May.

Musical inspiration

I had the pleasure of seeing the Métis Fiddler Quartet play their beautiful and awesome music for the very first time on March 26th, 2012, when they made a special appearance at the University of Ottawa.

Needless to say, I was so moved by their inspiring Métis music that I decided to write them the following poem. Listening to them play brought me right back to my youth in northern Ontario when some of my relatives played the fiddle, the guitar, the piano and the spoons at weekend family gatherings.

I wish to thank the Métis Fiddler Quartet, Alyssa, Conlin, Nicholas and Danton Delbaere-Sawchuk for keeping our Métis musical cultural traditions alive and for venturing into the creation of new Métis musical pieces.

— Raymond D. Tremblay

Métis Fiddler Quartet
By Raymond D. Tremblay

My heart pulsed so much faster as I listened to the music of my ancestors. Each one of their vibrations gently massaged my being for many hours. Truth be told, this talented quartet made my soul soar to new heights.

Fiddlers and guitarists playing Métis music. I felt in heaven! I simply couldn’t resist hearing the voice of my ancestors. Delightful and calming like a vivid bouquet of flowers. Did you know that you all touched my Métis soul? Love shone throughout your music. I felt whole. Eager to thank you, I applauded you heartily.

Remember, you are now my heroes, truly!

Question not where you came from. Unprecedented artists you’ve become. Ah, your art profoundly mesmerised me! Really, you reconnected me to my ancestry. Today, as you played, I felt proud to be Métis. Energy flowed from your souls, only pure beauty!

Thank you, Métis Fiddler Quartet, for celebrating life.

— Raymond D. Tremblay

Participants in the traditional Métis beadwork workshop in Midland display their finished products (left to right): Sydney Parent, Kathy Parent, Jeanette Brunelle, Cathy Fournier, Lorraine LaCroix, Judy Lundy, Susan Sam, Kathy Morgan, Barb Beaman.
Justice for all?

Donn Fowler gives some thought to the importance of “access to justice”

Following up on my “Culture Clash” piece—where I deliberately did not name the major culprits, (two 1840’s senators, one sheriff, one land registrar, one Anglican priest, and a few other members of the Family Compact and Chateau Clique in the pre-1841 new Province of Canada), has made me give some thought to the importance of understanding exactly what is meant by the phrase “access to justice”, so here goes...

By Donn Fowler

In the early 2000s the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, the Right Hon. Beverley McLachlin, began appealing to Canadian groups and individuals to give serious thought to the problem of “access to justice.” That appeal is in the person of the Chief Justice of Canada prompted a whole series of discussions and debates. However, other than a number of advisory and advocacy papers written on the topic, very little appears to have been accomplished.

First, there are two aspects to such access: on the one hand, access to criminal justice, and on the other hand, access to civil justice. Moreover, I believe the Chief Justice was emphasizing the situation on the short, the civil aspect of justice more than on the well-established side of criminal justice. Consider the criminal justice aspect. This consists of a criminal case, police action which results in an arrest, trial, and a verdict of guilty or innocent. However, unless the criminal-accused at trial has enough personal wealth to afford the expensive services of a competent defence lawyer against the charge(s), s/he will have to have the court assign a defence lawyer. In addition, that arrestee, whether found guilty or innocent at trial will not have to pay one-red-cent—neither for the legal defence, nor for the overall substantial court costs. Those costs are always paid by the taxpayers. In the happy event that the accused is found innocent of the charge(s), s/he is free, and may very well successfully turn around and sue the Crown for false arrest and possibly be awarded a substantial sum of money for having been falsely arrested or detained. Again, the tax-payers must pay.

Of course, the police might have recovered stolen wealth or property during the process of arresting a criminal, but that is not wealth belonging to an accused who is found to be guilty as charged. Moreover, the conviction and incarceration time is not “real” repayment. Again, such criminal case costs are at the taxpayers’ expense, one way or another.

The situation is quite different in a civil court action, because a major and overpowering problem does exist concerning the entire question of access to civil justice. That is because court actions take on a different meaning. Usually, when a respectable, law-abiding citizen becomes a plaintiff in a personal civil action, there are two possible means of dealing with the extremely expensive legal and court costs. A person who is too poor ever to pay such exorbitant legal and court costs, can qualify for Legal Aid assistance. Another person may be sufficiently affluent not to qualify for Legal Aid, but not affluent enough to pay for a competent lawyer and court costs without mortgaging their home and possibly having to drain their bank accounts.

The majority of Canadians today are in the latter category—too affluent to qualify for Legal Aid but not affluent enough to afford legal and court costs. If access to civil justice means one must sell all of one’s possessions in order to pay legal costs of hundreds of dollars per hour, and also pay the horrendous court costs for filing civil litigation, what then is the justified situation for the middle-class family who truly needs access to justice?

Is there a possible fiscal solution for certain qualified and full spectrum civil court actions in a Lower, Superior, Appeal, or even (if necessary) Supreme Court of Canada? Middle-class citizens who are debt-free home owners should somehow fit within the national matrix of entitlement to real access to justice. Does it not presently apply to them unless they are prepared to under take a financial gamble—an impossible family sacrifice—in order to get equal justice? Is it not possible to legislate for certain qualified and full spectrum civil court actions in a Lower, Superior, Appeal, or even (if necessary) Supreme Court of Canada? Middle-class citizens who are debt-free home owners should somehow fit within the national matrix of entitlement to real access to justice.

UPDATE: On August 11, 2012, Supreme Court of Canada Chief Justice, Beverley McLachlin, again addressed the Bar Association’s council meeting in Vancouver on this subject, saying in part “Being able to access justice is fundamental to the rule of law...”. Her speech is available at the link below: http://bit.ly/PXmU7i

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

Never to be seen again...

By Denis Tremblay

You up, tell it’s true. She’s gone under, rubbed out. Never to be seen again by these eyes. So ‘shed a tear’ cause she was some! Can you blame those who tried to protect her for telling us to go away and leave her and others like her there? Who did this terrible deed? you ask? Well I ain’t proud to admit it, friend, but I reckon we all helped. May the Great Spirit forgive us, I am as much to blame as any, and the real shame, is, I knew better. But I watched it happen through blind eyes like all the rest. Perhaps we just didn’t care enough.

The way I see it, a lot of others will be joining her soon if we don’t learn from our past mistakes and do something about it. Just pray we’re not too late, because if we are, part of us will be next. I know that I can’t live without ‘em when they’re gone.

What is the matter boy? You look uncomfortable with what I am telling. But I shame you a bit? Maybe I did. I can feel the accusing eyes on me too, and it sure don’t make me proud of some of the things I’ve done to her.

What’s that you ask? What or who was this that went under? I thought you knew! Well, I’ll tell you. She should have known! She was another prime camping site that died of abuse by unthinking campers. Her rolling grassy beauty was sullied by fire pits and larcines left uncovered, and her limbs were destroyed by careless backpacking and littering. Her body was despoiled and her animals and streams poisoned by cans and garbage—a place of nature’s beauty destroyed by those who enjoyed her most. You say you’re not to blame; you didn’t do this deed. Well, maybe, so, but give a think on it. That cigarette butt you just threw down, your empty beer and pop can there in the creek. Reckon we all have to shudder the blame, don’t we?

Don’t fret about it. The Great Spirit didn’t make us perfect. We have to live with the past, but we can learn from our own mistakes and do better in the future. Let’s not have the future generations look back and say, “All the beautiful places are gone, no longer available for our use—just because they missed us.”

We must all police our selves and help our brothers and sisters to understand when they don’t treat that camp right. We must show them how it must be done, if we are not to lose it. Then maybe there will be good times for our children’s children. Then our mind won’t go the way of the original aboriginals and their buffalo for lack of places in the sun. Maybe, just maybe, they won’t have to say, “T’em times is gone; the campers rubbed out; and their mind are all gone under.”
The Key to Winning is Playing Responsibly

By Loma Rawlinson / Aboriginal Responsible Gambling Coordinator

Many people would agree that gambling is a fun form of entertainment, but it may become a problem. In this article, we provide brief definitions of some of the terms used when that happens.

PROBLEM GAMBLING

An individual involved in “problem gambling” is often referred to as being “at-risk” because she has an urge to gamble despite being aware of the harmful consequences. Gambling becomes a “problem” when the consequences of gambling interfere with or affect a person’s family, job or lifestyle in a negative way.

PATHOLOGICAL AND COMPULSIVE GAMBLING

The terms “compulsive,” “pathological” and “addictive” can be used interchangeably. However, pathological gambling is considered an impulse control disorder and is not the same as problem gambling. Pathological gambling is when someone has an ongoing inability to resist the impulse to gamble and continues to gamble even when gambling causes serious damage to them socially, vocationally, or financially. Such a person is usually in denial, experiences mood changes, and the behaviour is chronic. Then, if the gambling is discontinued, the victim suffers symptoms of withdrawal and depression.

Compulsive/pathological gamblers do not necessarily enjoy gambling. They are addicted to the risk and the thrill. “Profiles” of pathological gamblers are likely to have some commonalities:

• May be spousal and/or child abusers;
• May have borrowed or stolen to support their activities;
• May have attempted suicide;
• May have been convicted of offences.

WHAT IS RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING?

“Responsible Gambling” is when you realize that gambling is not a way to make money and the money spent gambling comes from your entertainment budget. A responsible gambler is aware that uncontrolled gambling creates problems not only for the gambler but also in the family, workplace and community at large. A responsible gambler is able to stick to a gambling budget without the urge to spend more money or time than originally intended.

How can we ensure that our entertainment does not become a problem? Here are a few helpful tips:

• Set a budget and stick to it.
• Do not withdraw more money or borrow money when you run out.
• Remember that the “house” always has the advantage.
• Do not “chase” your losses. Be willing to accept them as the cost of entertainment.
• Take frequent breaks.
• Balance gambling with other leisure activities.
• Know the warning signs of problem gambling.

For assistance please contact a Healing and Wellness Worker in your area. If you would like more information, you can reach the Provincial Aboriginal Responsible Gambling Coordinator at 613-798-1488 Ext 150.

HIV rates continue to rise in northern communities

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uring the second week of June, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) partnered with the Native Youth Sexual Health Network for a three-day HIV workshop in Sudbury that was geared to educating Métis women and youth.

Despite the downward trend of the disease globally, experts at the workshop say HIV rates in remote, northern communities continue to rise.

Dale Xilon, Aboriginal Healthy Babies Healthy Children Coordinator (ABHBC) for the MNO brought her two young children to the event. “I want to be able to have the knowledge to pass on, so they stay safe, so we can stop this epidemic of HIV from spreading,” she said. She went on to say that a lack of understanding of northern communities exacerbated the problem. “To go to a corner store and pick up a pack of condoms, you’re dealing with your auntie; you’re dealing with your uncle...”

To go to a corner store and pick up a pack of condoms, you’re dealing with your auntie; you’re dealing with your uncle...

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purged by common goals, the Timmins Healing and Wellness Branch has started to incorporate more cultural and community-based events. It has been noted through various studies that Métis people, and the general population, are developing diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, and obesity, at alarmingly high rates and we’ve decided to do something about it. The focus is on physical activity, organic eating, and cultural activities.

HEALTHY EATING:

Healthy eating—mainly organic—has also been promoted in this new approach. Everyone knows that eating “organic” can empty your wallet, but did you know how much you can save if you grow your own? We secured a plot at the local community garden to help clients access healthy organic foods, and we provided eco-friendly gardening tips in the summer newsletter. All of those who received it not only obtained these useful tips, but also a calendar of upcoming cultural activities.

Partnering with schools and community agencies has raised cultural awareness. We have also enjoyed success in kit making, spirit painting, medicinal walks, and Aboriginal cultural days. Events will continue throughout the fall and winter, with the largest gathering taking place on 29 September, 2012, at Camp Bickell. This event, Métis Community Fest, is open to anyone and everyone who would like to experience Métis culture in all of its splendour.

For more information about upcoming events, or to be added to the mailing list, please contact Jessie or Michelle at the Timmins office at 705-264-3939 or email michelles@metisnation.org.
Giant Hogweed
An Invasive Species in Ontario

By Markus B. Toohimaa
Traditional Knowledge Technician
MNO UAC Branch

Giant hogweed (Heracleum mantegazzianum) is a non-native species that has been invading areas throughout Ontario. The plant has taken a strong hold in southern Ontario and the northern United States, and there are even reports of its appearance as far north as Elliot Lake. A hearty species, it is able to out-compete native species for territory.

The giant hogweed is a perennial herb from the carrot/parsley family and is closely related to several native species in Ontario. Its preference for rich, moist soils makes it a native species in Ontario. Its preference for rich, moist soils makes it a native species in Ontario. Its preference for rich, moist soils makes it a native species in Ontario.

Further Reading
www.web2.nre.gov.on.ca/nnr/Biodiversity/Invasive_Species/Giant_Hogweed_Fact_Sheet.pdf
www.metisnation.org/programs/lands,-resources--consultations/traditional-knowledge

MÉTIS CULTURE | TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

MNO Traditional Knowledge study recognized by Consulting Engineers of Ontario

The CEO, which represents more than 200 consulting engineering companies in Ontario, presented the Award of Merit to AECOM during its 10th anniversary celebration. Each year the CEO recognizes Ontario projects that best demonstrate the important contribution of consulting engineering to the economic, social, and environmental quality of life in Ontario.

The purpose of the Aboriginal Traditional Ecological Study was to document Métis traditional uses of terrestrial and aquatic plants in southern Ontario, and to present some of the unique traditional and medicinal practices of Métis people. This study was conducted on behalf of the MNO and was funded by Ontario Power Generation (OPG). OPG will use this information to identify potential consequences to the Métis way of life in its proposed "New Nuclear" project in Darklington, Ontario.

"The Darlington New Nuclear Project is one of the most complex environmental assessments in Canadian history," says Paul Murray, vice president and executive director of the project. "AECOM is proud to play a role in linking a technically complex project with a community that has strong ties to the land and water, and whose knowledge can enhance the quality of this important Environmental Assessment."

MNO President, Gary Lipinski, said: "I want to thank all of the Elders, Métis traditional resource users and MNO Community Councils who had a role in making this study a reality. I also want to thank OPG and AECOM for their willingness to work with our communities. I know this study will be an important resource for our people today and for generations to come."

See the MNO Aboriginal Traditional Ecological Study here:
www.metisnation.org/medial/81616/so_on_tek_darlington_report.pdf
See the video here:
www.metisnation.org/programs/lands,-resources--consultations/traditional-knowledge

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GREAT LAKES GUARDIAN
COMMUNITY FUND

Ontario is funding grants for community projects that protect and restore locales within the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin area. The basin includes: Lake Erie, Lake Huron, Lake Ontario, Lake Superior, the St. Lawrence River, the Ottawa River, and their watersheds. Examples of projects that could qualify include:

- Cleaning up a shoreline or beach
- Building a coastal or riverside trail
- Protecting or restoring fish, plant or wildlife habitat

You can receive up to a $25,000 grant for your project. Smaller projects are also encouraged. Apply as early as possible. Applications meeting the fund’s criteria will be awarded grants in the order they are received. Grant applications must be received by October 12, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. E.D.T.

www.ontario.ca/GreatLakesFund
Should you have any questions:
GreatLakesFund@ontario.ca
When we extend our hand, it is warmly received.

The MNO is enjoying increasingly positive relationships with a large number of government and private agencies across Ontario. During the Annual General Assembly (AGA) Opening Ceremonies, the morning of August 26, MNO President, Gary Lipinski, commented on these relationships stating that, “When we extend our hand, it is warmly received.”

One of the strongest partnerships that has evolved and strengthened over the last several years has been with the Government of Ontario. The Honourable Chris Bentley, Minister of Energy, represented the provincial government at the AGA while both Premier Dalton McGuinty and Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, Laurie LeBlanc, also represented at the AGA by MAA Deputy Minister, Laurie LeBlanc.

In his remarks, Minister Bentley spoke of the growing strength of the MNO-Ontario relationship that was cemented in 2008 with the signing of the MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement. “The relationship was not always thus [as positive as it is now] and sometimes a reminder has been needed, but building on the framework the Métis have done an enormous amount of very good and lasting work.”

Both Minister Bentley and President Lipinski noted that the Métis Voyageur Development Fund (MVDF) had commenced operations on August 14 this year with the support of the provincial government, which has committed to contributing $30 million in funding over the next ten years. The MVDF will provide financial support for Métis entrepreneurs and businesses in the resource sector. “The MVDF will create jobs and economic opportunities for Métis people,” explained President Lipinski, and will have an impact for generations to come.”

Minister Bentley also spoke about the recent expansion of the Aboriginal Loan Guarantee Program that is managed by his Ministry. The loan program provides Aboriginal entrepreneurs, access to loans on an equity basis for renewable energy projects. Minister Bentley concluded his remarks stating: “We are stronger together than we are apart. It is our determination to continue building on that relationship, recognizing the great strengths found in history that the Métis have always brought to the development of this country and will always bring in the future.”

While the MNO has built successful relationships with government, it also has many great partnerships with private sector companies such as Union Gas. In his remarks before the signing, Mr. Ydreos said: “We are very proud of the work done together with the Métis Nation to build the kind of win-win relationship based on respect and economic opportunity.”

In addition to renewing an existing agreement, the MNO also signed a new MOU at the AGA with the Office of the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth. Irwin Elman, the Chief Advocate with that Office signed the agreement and spoke to the assembled MNO citizens about the role and mission of his agency. Part of the mission is to provide a voice for youth, including Aboriginal youth. “Certainly,” stated Mr. Elman, “the children and youth of the Métis Nation need their voices heard.”

Success of MNO partnerships highlighted at AGA
In his State of the Nation address to over 400 Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizens attending the MNO Annual General Assembly (AGA) in Sault Ste. Marie, MNO President, Gary Lipinski, called on everyone in the MNO to place increased attention on helping and supporting Métis young people. “We all need to put more emphasis on how we support Métis children to dream the dream,” he said.

Underscoring President Lipinski’s remarks was the signing during the AGA of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the MNO and the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth. The president reported that the provincial government had recently agreed to review a MNO report on Métis child and family services as part of an overall review of provincial child and family services. President Lipinski also pointed out that youth participation in the AGA has steadily increased in the last several years. This year, over 10% of delegates were youth, as compared with less than 1% in 2008. All this combined with the fact that Métis are one of the youngest and fastest growing demographics in Ontario suggests that President Lipinski’s call is very timely.

President Lipinski linked increased attention to children and youth to the MNO’s long-term goal of Métis self-government. “Self-government,” he explained, “isn’t something people are going to give you; we need to just do it. We do it by being responsible for ourselves and responsible for our citizens.” In keeping with this principle, President Lipinski called on all MNO citizens to encourage Métis “to help our children and youth to be the best they can be” from the womb to young adulthood. “It should not be just a certain percentage of young Métis who have the vision of finishing high school and going on to post-secondary education and careers,” he stated. He told the delegates representing communities from all parts of Ontario that parents and family members need to support their children in taking advantage of the increasing number of opportunities that are opening up to them. He pointed out that everyone can influence one or two children by becoming a mentor, and if everyone in the MNO becomes a mentor, then “we can change the world.”

MNO Staff

MNO Staff recognized for great work throughout the year

President Lipinski, MNO Chair France Picotte and other speakers at the MNO Annual General Assembly (AGA) consistently took the time during their remarks to recognize the hard work and dedication of MNO staff members. “Wherever I travel,” stated President Lipinski, “I always hear from citizens is how hard our MNO staff are working for the Métis people. We are fortunate to have such talented and energetic people doing the work of the MNO.”

MNO Historic Sault Ste Marie Métis Council

Congratulations to our gracious hosts

Congratulations and thanks go to the MNO Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council for hosting a successful Annual General Assembly!
During the evening of August 26, at an event sponsored by Union Gas, those attending the 2012 MNO Annual General Assembly (AGA) enjoyed some of the top Métis entertainers in Ontario and heard stories about the Métis contribution to the defence of Canada during the War of 1812.

Sharing Our Pride: An Evening of Métis Storytelling and Cultural Performance was a star-studded gala hosted by James Kirkham, a comedian and impressionist. He kept the audience laughing and engaged with sing-a-longs to popular songs and did not shy away from going into the crowd to serenade individuals, which usually resulted in hilarity.

The first act of the evening was local to the Sault Ste. Marie area. The Métis Dancers featured children as young as four, right up to senior citizens, who performed three traditional Métis dances under the guidance of mentors Senator Brenda Powley and former MNO Regional Councillor, Anne Trudel. Accompanied by Senator Ruth Wagner on fiddle, the young children particularly impressed the audience who gave them a rousing standing ovation.

Following the Métis Dancers, the renowned Métis Fiddler Quartet played several traditional Métis songs, but also adapted other music to the Métis style including Johnny Cash’s Folsom Prison Blues. The Quartet demonstrated why they are a growing force in the Ontario and Aboriginal music scenes.

Following an intermission, the Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award was presented by MNO President, Gary Lipinski. This year the selection committee chose two winners because the quality of both candidates was so high. Senators Martine Greenwood and Olivine Tiedema were both recognized for their many years of dedicated service to the MNO, Metis rights and self-government.

The storytelling part of the program followed. In a panel chaired by Dr. Chris Paci (MNO Manager of Education), Senator Bob McKay, Barbaranne Wright and Genevieve Routhier told stories that highlighted Métis contributions during the War of 1812. Their stories increased awareness of the important role of the Métis during the war and the need to make more people aware that the Métis were fighting for Canada before there was a Canada.

The evening was brought to a successful conclusion by two singers from Fort Frances: both have experience performing across Canada and the United States. Pat (Calder) Cupp and Brittney Hayes entertained the audience with a series of classic staples as well as some favourite new country hits. Guest appearances were made by Fort Frances Community Councillor, Wanda Botford, and two members of the Métis Fiddler Quartet.

By the end of the evening, all in attendance were indeed filled with pride in their Métis heritage!
On August 27, in a ceremony held at the Annual General Assembly (AGA) of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), 18 MNO citizens received Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medals. The awards were presented by MNO President, Gary Lipinski, during a special ceremony at the Roberta Bondar Pavilion in Sault Ste. Marie.

Ten of the medals went to MNO veterans, and recognized the long tradition of Métis service in defence of Canada going back as far as the War of 1812, as well as the dedication and sacrifice of each veteran. The veterans honoured included MNO citizens who had served in World War II, the Korean Conflict and numerous Canadian peacekeeping missions. The veterans who received medals are: Chris Plummer (Courtice); Senator Rene Gravelle (Val Caron); Guy Mandeville (Trenton); Senator George Kelly (Ottawa); Senator Earl Scofield (Lasalle); Senator Elmer Ross (Bobcaygeon); Greg Garrett (Penetanguishene); Kerry McLaughlin (Thunder Bay); Gerry Bedford (Orangeville); Senator Ray Bergie (Brampton); Jean Camirand (Thunder Bay); and, Maurice Sarrazin (Val Caron).

Medals were also presented to five MNO citizens to acknowledge their long-term dedication to the cause of achieving Métis rights and self-government. Each of these individuals had served in leadership positions in the MNO at both the local and provincial levels for many years and helped build the foundation of the MNO. Much of the MNO’s current success is due to their efforts to build the nation. These medal recipients are: Alvina Cimon (Dryden); Senator Ruth Wagner (Bracebridge); Senator Bob McKay (Thunder Bay); and, MNO Chair, France Picotte (Timmins). A special presentation of a Queen’s Jubilee Medal was also made to Jason Madden by Métis Nation of Alberta President, Audrey Poitras. Jason was recognized for his on-going and long-term dedication to Métis rights starting in his youth when he served as the Postsecondary Representative on the PCMNO, and continuing to this day. Jason is a lawyer and one of the leading defenders of Aboriginal rights in Canada.

The many other Métis citizens in the audience who had previously received the Queen’s Jubilee Medal were asked to stand and be acknowledged as well; they did so to a well-deserved round of applause.

AGA Honours

MNO citizens awarded Queen’s Jubilee Medals
Senator Marlene Greenwood and Senator Olivine Bousquet-Tiedema named 2012 Volunteers of the Year

D uring the Sharing Our Pride: Métis Storytelling and Cultural Performance evening of the Annual General Assembly, the 2012 Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award was presented by MNO President, Gary Lipinski.

This year, the selection committee chose two very worthy winners, because it was impossible to decide between them. What follows is an excerpt from the remarks of MNO President Lipinski during the award presentation.

Senator Marlene Greenwood

“Senator Marlene Greenwood has been volunteering and devoting her time, knowledge and wisdom to the North Bay Métis Council and Métis Nation of Ontario since the inception of the MNO and North Bay Métis Council in 1994/95. Marlene is present at every council meeting and at every event being held by the North Bay Métis Council, such as Remembrance Day wreath laying ceremony, First Nation powwows, etc.

“Marlene is a soft-spoken lady who has a big heart and who is loved by many. She is often referred to as ‘Aunt Marlene’. Greenwood is an honest and genuine Métis person who is valued for her volunteerism, her charisma and her devotion in moving forward the MNO agenda.

“One example of Senator Marlene Greenwood’s generosity is when Credit River Métis Council was holding a Youth Capote Workshop, they did not have at that time a Senator on council. Senator Marlene without hesitation accepted the offer to come to the Capote Workshop in Mississauga at her own cost.

“To thank Senator Greenwood for coming and providing her knowledge, her mentorship and being a role model, the Métis Youth gave her a red capote.

“Later as a PCMNO Senator, and elder throughout the Province of Ontario. Her presence within the Métis Nation of Ontario has positively impacted our Nation. Senator Greenwood continues to volunteer significant time and enthusiasm and has truly been a catalyst throughout the Métis Nation.”

Senator/ Elder Olivine Bousquet-Tiedema

“Olivine Germaine Marguerite Marie Bousquet was born in St. Boniface Manitoba. She grew up proud to be Métis.

“Senator Olivine came to Toronto when she was a young lady. She was so lonely for her Métis culture and language that she would stand on street corners looking at the people as they passed by, hoping to see a Métis face.

“Olivine has a family and brought up her children telling them about speaking Michif and dancing jig with all of her family members from Manitoba from an early age. When Olivine heard about the Métis Nation of Ontario, she was instrumental in running ads to find fellow Métis people and in founding the first Toronto Métis Council.

“Later as a PCMNO Senator, Olivine was instrumental in founding both Credit River Métis Council and the Oshawa Métis Council. Olivine’s enthusiasm and work for her Métis culture knows no bounds. As Senator of Oshawa Métis Council, Olivine did the entire calling and organizing to invite the Oshawa Métis Council citizens to a potluck supper at New Lands, Resources and Consultations Branch staff on identifying impact of the duty to consult. While these workshops were taking place MNO Senators and youth, including the members of the Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council (MNOYC), participated in a full-day knowledge exchange workshop centred on Métis traditional knowledge and the Métis Way-of-Life. The interaction between youth and Senators during this session was rich with discussion, knowledge exchange, and sharing.

“The youth/Senator workshop continued the next day, while during the morning of August 25, the MNO leaders participated in a workshop organized by the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO).”

AGA workshops valuable to MNO leaders

P rior to the formal start of the Annual General Assembly, the MNO held several workshops for its provincial and local leadership. Community Council Presidents or their designates, members of the Provincial Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO), the executive members of the Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans’ Council (MNOVC) and the Women’s Secretariat of the Métis Nation of Ontario (WSMNO) as well the Captains of the Hunt attended three workshops.

The first workshop held the morning of August 24 was sponsored by Hydro One and briefed MNO leaders on the corporation’s concerns. This was followed in the afternoon by a workshop led by Lands, Resources and Consultations Senator/Elder Olivine Bousquet-Tiedema with MNO President Gary Lipinski.

The Oshawa Durham Métis Council, Olivine did the entire calling and organizing to invite the Oshawa Métis Council citizens to a potluck supper at New Lands, Resources and Consultations Branch staff on identifying impact of the duty to consult. While these workshops were taking place MNO Senators and youth, including the members of the Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council (MNOYC), participated in a full-day knowledge exchange workshop centred on Métis traditional knowledge and the Métis Way-of-Life. The interaction between youth and Senators during this session was rich with discussion, knowledge exchange, and sharing.

“The youth/Senator workshop continued the next day, while during the morning of August 25, the MNO leaders participated in a workshop organized by the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO).”

MNO Senators and youth participate in a knowledge exchange workshop centred on Métis traditional knowledge and Way-of-Life.

Volunteer of the Year co-winner Senator/Elder Olivine Bousquet-Tiedema with MNO President Gary Lipinski.

Volunteer of the Year co-winner Senator Marlene Greenwood with MNO President Gary Lipinski.

Volunteer of the Year co-winner Senator/Elder Olivine Bousquet-Tiedema with MNO President Gary Lipinski.

2012 Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award

Senator Marlene Greenwood and Senator Olivine Bousquet-Tiedema named 2012 Volunteers of the Year

AGA workshops valuable to MNO leaders

Premier Gold Mines Limited is pleased to support and participate in the 2012 Métis Nation of Ontario’s Annual General Assembly

A Big Thank You to these Friends of the MNO:

Great Lakes Power Transmission
OPG Deep Geologic Repository Project

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OPG Deep Geologic Repository Project

Was a founding member of the Métis Nation of Ontario. Named to the Order of Canada and the Order of Ontario, Suzanne was a recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation and a fellow woman induction into the Aboriginal Business Hall of Fame. Suzanne passed away in 2004. To honour her memory and recognize her outstanding service as a volunteer, the Métis Nation of Ontario named Suzanne as the first recipient of the inaugural ‘Volunteer of the Year Award’ which now bears her name.
RESOLUTIONS

2012 MNO AGA RES#2012-001

RESOLUTION ON THE MNO ELECTORAL CODE

WHEREAS a foundational principle of the MNO is to hold fair, democratic elections for the election of the Métis Nation’s regional and provincial leaderships; AND WHEREAS the MNO has adopted the MNO Electoral Code for the conduct of its elections and by-elections and recent election in May 2012; AND WHEREAS the MNO’s Chief Electoral Officer tabled a 2012 Elections Report with the Senators as well as a series of recommendations with the 2016 MNO AGA; and WHEREAS the MNO wants to provide its citizens with their feedback received on the MNO AGA; and WHEREAS the MNO adopts the MNO Electoral Code for consideration and discussion; AND WHEREAS the MNO AGA will consider and vote on this report on the MNO Electoral Code; and WHEREAS these documents will be tabled with the MNO AGA.

1. The MNO circulates the Chief Electoral Officer’s report in a series of recommendations with this current MNO AGA; and WHEREAS the MNO wants to provide its feedback received on the MNO AGA; and WHEREAS the MNO adopts the MNO Electoral Code for consideration and discussion; AND WHEREAS the MNO AGA will consider and vote on this report on the MNO Electoral Code; and WHEREAS these documents will be tabled with the MNO AGA.

2. The MNO Electoral Code is a foundational principle of the MNO because it provides for the election of the MNO’s regional and provincial leaderships; AND WHEREAS the MNO has adopted the MNO Electoral Code for the conduct of its elections and by-elections and recent election in May 2012; AND WHEREAS the MNO’s Chief Electoral Officer tabled a 2012 Elections Report with the Senators as well as a series of recommendations with the 2016 MNO AGA; and WHEREAS the MNO wants to provide its citizens with their feedback received on the MNO AGA; and WHEREAS the MNO adopts the MNO Electoral Code for consideration and discussion; AND WHEREAS the MNO AGA will consider and vote on this report on the MNO Electoral Code; and WHEREAS these documents will be tabled with the MNO AGA.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The MNO develops a 2013 Constitution that provides for the election of the MNO’s regional and provincial leaderships; AND WHEREAS the MNO wants to provide its feedback received on the MNO AGA; and WHEREAS the MNO adopts the MNO Electoral Code for consideration and discussion; AND WHEREAS the MNO AGA will consider and vote on this report on the MNO Electoral Code; and WHEREAS these documents will be tabled with the MNO AGA.

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Métis veterans recognized at MNOVC AGM

O n August 25, prior to the start of the MNO Annual General Assembly, the Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans’ Council (MNOVC) held its Annual General Meeting (AGM). This was one of the best attended MNOVC AGMs ever with approximately 20 Métis veterans in attendance.

MNO President, Gary Lipinski, attended the meeting and extended his thanks to the veterans for their dedication and sacrifice both through their military service and their service to the Métis Nation. In addition, President Lipinski presented Louis Riel Medals to Métis veterans Guy Mandeville, Jack Bouchard, Chris Hummer, Senator Earl Scolfield, Joseph Paquette, Senator Dr. Aliis Kennedy, Jean Camirand, Senator George Kelly and Greg Garratt.

In addition, Senator Rene Gravelle and MNOVC President, Joe Paquette, accepted a decorated canoe paddle from MNO Education Officer, Benny Michaud. The paddle had been designed and drawn by Senator Gravelle, Tara Warner, Danielle Secord, and Melody Chislett-Morris as part of a project that brought Métis youth and elders together. This paddle was one of a number that were on display throughout the AGA.

Verna Porter and Rene Gravelle were chosen. Senator Ruth Wagner and Senator Gerry Bedford, both of whom had served on the PCMNO from 2008 to 2012, chose not to stand for election this time but will retain the title of “Senator” due to their service on the PCMNO.

Senator Reta Gordon was asked by the other three PCMNO Senators to continue serving in the capacity of “Executive Senator” on the PCMNO Executive.

It wasn’t all business for the Senators, they also enjoyed their traditional “Meet and Greet” the evening of August 24. This gathering gave the Senators some well-deserved relaxation time to catch up with each other’s activities since the last AGA.

The WSMNO has four representatives who were selected at the meeting on August 25. All four positions were acclaimed. These representatives are Pearl Gabiona and Shirley Lynn Panusso, who previously served terms as representatives, and Barbaraone Wright and Candace Lloyd, who are starting their first terms with the WSMNO.

When we extend our hand, it is warmly received

continued from page 13

Dr. Allen Prowse, Vice-president of Patient and Client Care and Chief Nursing Executive with Providence Care, also spoke to AGA delegates. The MNO has had a long and successful relationship with Providence Care in delivering healing and wellness programs to Métis throughout Ontario. Dr. Prowse commented: “We are very pleased to be a partner of the Métis. We have learned a great deal, and we have shared a great deal with each other.” He also stated: “As we move forward, we hope to identify emerging opportunities together, to enlarge our partnerships, to address broader needs like those of children, youth and seniors.”

The MNO has successfully established partnerships with many Ontario postsecondary institutions, and has signed MOU agreements with over a dozen, including the University of Sudbury, which was represented at the AGA by its President, Dr. Pierre Zundel. Dr. Zundel described Métis oral history projects and a course on Métis culture that are being developed at his university and congratulated the MNO on its increasing success. “You can feel the winds of change coming,” he explained, “and it has been wonderful to see how these winds have really been filling your sails. You have been able to speak with a unified voice and I think that is going to take you a long way. We are happy to sail along with you on this journey.”

Equally important to the MNO are the relationships it continues to enjoy with other Métis governments. Both Métis Nation of Alberta President, Audrey Poitras, and Métis National Council President, Clément Chartier, attended the AGA and spoke to the delegates during the opening ceremony. These governments along with the MNO had intervened in the Manitoba Métis Federation’s benchmark land claim case that went before the Supreme Court of Canada in December, 2011.

“If this case is successful, the federal government will be forced to create a process to deal with our historic grievances,” explained President Lipinski. “We are the only Aboriginal people without a process and so it was important that the Supreme Court heard our voice.”

In addition to these representatives the AGA also heard from Dr. Carolyn Bennett, the Member of Parliament for St. Paul’s and Kim Prowse, President of the MNO Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council. As host, President Prowse welcomed the delegates and guests to Sault Ste Marie while Dr. Bennett indicated she appreciated all she had learned at these gatherings and said she planned on using the information to educate her parliamentary colleagues about the Métis.

All in all, the AGA delegates listened to an impressive array of speakers representing Métis, federal and provincial governments, business, health, education and social services. It is clear that the MNO has been very successful in building partnerships that benefit the Métis citizens in Ontario.
Méts-owned business wants to give clients value for money

Two years ago Dan Boulard’s company, FERUS Industrial Contracting, did not exist. Now, this Métis entrepreneur is the lead contractor for a $9.5-million project, and the recipient of $2.34 million provided by the province to help create 31 new jobs at the company over the next three years. The announcement was made August 22 by Sudbury MPP and Minister of Northern Development and Mines, Rick Bartolucci. “I was always impressed with Dan, and his dedicated approach to the work”, he said. “This is really an incredible day in the economic expansion of how we view Sudbury.”

FERUS is a general contracting company that specializes in project management, new construction, and rebuilding industrial equipment for the mining, pulp and paper and hydro industries worldwide, a civil engineer technician and a journeyman iron worker, worked his way up to become a project manager on major projects. “I’ve been in the industry for 28 years, always working for someone else,” he said. “It came to a point where I said I wanted to do it for myself, with a business plan I created.”

Dan Boulard summarized his business philosophy this way: “We are an integrity company. We want to be compensated fairly, but we also want to give the client value for their dollars. We don’t operate with big profit margins, but we want to help people, and we want to help our clients.”

The YMCA camp councillors provided the children with laughs and learning experiences from 7:00 in the morning until 9:00 at night. Georgian Bay Islands National Park gave lessons on the wildlife, as well as the history of the islands including artefacts that connect to both First Nation and Métis people. The campers had a chance to try kayaking, drumming, orienteering, hiking, swimming, archaeology digs, games and much, much more.

The MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council is planning a return trip next year and invites other councils from Region 7 to send children and councilors. Anyone interested should contact Larry Ferris (ferris.larry51@gmail.com).

Larry would like to thank D. Saulnier’s Metal Recycling and local MPP Garfield Dunlop for financial support. This event was first made possible by the late Senator Helen Bradley, she is still remembered by staff with a smile and a little chuckle. “I would also like to thank the kids for doing such a good job representing the Métis people and culture and for making it a fun trip—and remember тысячен, they learned to wash tables, set tables, sweep the floor, clean the cabin, make their bunks and much more,” said Ferris.

“We don’t operate with big profit margins, but we want to help people, and we want to help our clients.”

MÉTIS BUSINESS | SUDbury

By Larry Ferris

Georgian Bay Métis Council

The Métis youth from the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Georgian Bay Métis Council and one councilor attended YMCA Camp Kitchikewana on Beausoleil Island for three days and two nights. They shared their camping experience with campers from Georgina Island First Nation, became friends and were invited to visit Georgina Island First Nation this fall as a part of a cultural exchange. The YMCA camp counselors

Last April 19, Niagara College hosted an awards night to recognize student achievement. At the ceremony, Métis student Zachery Cousineau was presented with the Métis Nation of Ontario Award. Zachery is a third year business administration and accounting student, originally from Penetanguishene.

Currently, FERUS has 15 workers at job sites, and another five working out of the company’s headquarters in Penetanguishene. Funding is in the form of a forgivable loan to the homeowner based on approved work to a maximum of $2,500. The period of forgiveness is ten years and is forgiven at an equal rate per year over the 10-year term. The earning of loan forgiveness begins on the date of repair completion. Funding for accessibility repairs up to $7,500 is in the form of a grant and does not require repayment.

MÉTIS | SUDbury

MÉTIS BUSINESS | AROUND THE PROVINCE

A Beausoleil adventure

Métis youth from the Georgian Bay area have camping adventure on Beausoleil Island

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The Métis have always had a close relationship with rivers. Our voyageurs traveled the rivers as part of the fur trade and built the first historic Métis communities near their shores. Now, Conseautas and Family Camping Magazine is giving you a chance to explore your connection with rivers and have the chance to win some great prizes in the second annual Experience Canadian Heritage Rivers Photo Contest. Contest runs from May 15, 2012 to October 31, 2012. Winning photos will be featured in the spring 2013 issue of Conseautas and Family Camping Magazine and will tour with the 2013 Reel Paddling Film Festival.

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Their experiences included meeting Métis youth on a nature walk on Beausoleil Island. The MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council is planning a return trip next year and invites other councils from Region 7 to send children and councilors. Anyone interested should contact Larry Ferris (ferris.larry51@gmail.com).

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**White pine planted for MNO citizen**

By Raymond D. Tremblay OTTAWA

It gives me great pleasure to inform our readers that, on June 18th, 2012, my 81-year-old young brother, Fern Tremblay of Timmins, an MNO citizen, was selected this year’s inductee at the École secondaire catholique Thériault arboretum.

This annual recognition was started in 2000 when Thériault’s parent advisory council created an arboretum with the goal of honouring individuals who have made significant contributions to the school or towards francophone culture within Timmins. The criteria for those honoured is that they have demonstrated a clear impact in educating the community’s youth; have devoted themselves to the French Catholic mission; and are deemed to be an ideal role model for today’s youth.

Throughout his life, Fern always placed the needs of others ahead of his own. He’s been involved on the political scene as Reeve of Mountjoy Township and an Alderman on Timmins City Council as well as an active member of various organizations such as St. Dominic Parish, Le Centre culturel La Ronde, the Porcupine United Way; a local eye donor program; the Jean-Paul Beaudet Council of the Knights of Columbus. He is also the founding and current President of the Joseph Fortin Foundation, which provides financial assistance to low-income families who have to travel to other communities for life-saving medical treatments. And that’s only a few.

The white pine chosen by Fern to be transplanted in the arboretum this coming fall is one that he had planted in his own front yard from a seedling five years ago. A plaque was unveiled on the grounds. The words translated from French, convey his willingness to “wake up every day to serve others just like our Lord.”

His four children took turns in highlighting some of the precious values and principles their father inculcated in them. As Fern’s baby brother, I’m very proud of him and I’m not the least surprised that he felt both honoured and profoundly humbled to be selected for this special recognition.

### Métis Veterans participate in national War of 1812 ceremony

**Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) veterans** represented the MNO and the Métis National Council (MNC) in a ceremony on May 22nd at the Fort York Armouries in Toronto. The event commemorated combatants who fought on the Canadian side during the War of 1812 including Métis and First Nations as well as 31 current regiments of the Canadian Armed Forces that trace their origins to the War of 1812.

His Royal Highness, Prince Charles, Prime Minister Stephen Harper; Defence Minister, Peter McKay; Aboriginal and Northern Affairs Minister, John Duncan; and Chief of Defence Staff, General Walter Natynczyk, were among the dignitaries participating in the ceremonies.

During the ceremony, the commemorative banner and medal that will be presented to Canadian Forces units and Métis and First Nations communities involved in the War of 1812 were unveiled. This follows the tradition established after the War of 1812, when banners and medals were presented to Aboriginal communities following the end of the war. An 1812 Commemorative Banner and Medal Ceremony for Métis and First Nations communities will take place later in 2012 in Ottawa.

MNO veterans in attendance included Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans Council (MNOVC) President, Joseph Paquette, MNOVC Sergeant-at-arms Greg Garratt and Senator Alis Kennedy, MNOVC Senator. This year’s inductee at the École secondaire catholique Thériault arboretum.

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## Barbeque Grilled Veggies

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- Oil and Gas Traders and Technology (OGTT) – April 30 and November 30 annually,
- Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres (OFIFC) – May 1st annually,
- Pine Arts – May 1st annually,
- Aboriginal Health Care – June 1st and November 1st annually,
- Post Secondary Education – June 1st and November 1st annually,
- Legal Studies for Aboriginal People (LSAP) Pre-Law – May 15th annually

Indspire is able to offer special bursaries outside of the regular deadline dates. Students are encouraged to visit the Indspire website frequently.

**Indspire** is a registered charitable organization that provides program funding for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis post-secondary students across Canada. Visit their website for more information and to download application forms.

[www.indspire.ca/scholarships](http://www.indspire.ca/scholarships)

### Barbeque Grilled Veggies

3 cans of corn cut in 3 pieces

3 quartered red potatoes

1 cup baby carrots

1 large cubed green pepper

1 large cubed red pepper

1 med quartered sweet onion

1 envelope onion soup mix

1 tablespoon olive oil

1 tablespoon dried basil

1 tablespoon tarragon

1 cup baby carrots

1 med quartered sweet onion

1 envelope onion soup mix

Wash all vegetables first. Then, in a large bowl, combine all ingredients and toss until all veggies are coated. Seal the mixture. Make sure it’s well coated. Grill over medium heat for 25-30 minutes or until potatoes are tender. Place on a double thickness of heavy-duty foil. Fold foil to seal the mixture. Make sure it’s well coated. Grill over medium heat for 25-30 minutes or until potatoes are tender. Place on a double thickness of heavy-duty foil. Fold foil to seal the mixture. Make sure it’s well coated. Grill over medium heat for 25-30 minutes or until potatoes are tender. Place on a double thickness of heavy-duty foil. Fold foil to seal the mixture. Make sure it’s well coated.
MÉTIS VETERANS

Two join ranks of Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans Council

In the last edition of The Métis Voyageur (page 24, No. 71, Summer, 2012) we introduced the newly chosen Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans’ Council (MNOVC) executive and provided three short biographies. Since then, George Kelly has joined the ranks as “Senator.” The MNOVC executive is now comprised of five members: President, Joseph Paquette; Chair, Guy Mandeville; Treasurer, Christopher Plummer; and Senator, George Kelly.

Senator George Kelly

Senator George Kelly was born September 25, 1934. He was raised and educated in Ottawa, with his four brothers and three sisters. George joined the Royal Canadian Navy in 1952 at the age of 17 and was honorably discharged (rank LS. LR.) in 1957. He served during the Korean Conflict with NATO Command on board, H.M.C.S. Sioux; H.M.C.S. Athabaskan; and, H.M.C.S. Algonaquin.

Following his military service, Mr. Kelly was employed by the City of Ottawa for 33 years. He was a Special Constable with the Ottawa Police Department from 1980 until 1971, and a City Councillor from 1980 to 1991.

Although George Kelly is married and the father of four, he has never stopped serving his country and community. As a volunteer he has been president and coach of Ottawa youth minor sports since 1962 and is still involved. He has volunteered at the Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario; voluntarily stood in for Santa Claus at community events for 20 years; been a director of the Central Canada Exhibition Board; helped children with special needs achieve their wishes through the Children’s Wish Foundation; played benefit hockey with the Ottawa Police from 1970 until 1980 (for children with special needs). In 1988 the East Ottawa Optimist Club presented George Kelly with the highest award that can be bestowed upon a community volunteer, the Humanitarian Award for Dedicated Unselfish Service.

In 1994 Mr. Kelly attended the MNOVC Founding AGA Meeting in Toronto. In 2008 the MNOVC President, Christopher Plummer, was born in Oshawa, and joined the Canadian Army in May, 1981. He served with the Ontario Regiment for 31 years, achieving the rank of Master Warrant Officer. For the duration of his military career, Mr. Plummer served with the Canadian Armoured Corps (RCAC) and the Royal Canadian Dragoons battle group on Operation Cavalier in Bosnia. Chris was also the last Squadron Sergeant Major for the Ontario Regt II Sqn (Cougar Squadron) prior to the reserve unit’s re-roll to a solely reconnaissance unit. Chris Plummer has been presented the Canadian Decoration (CD2).

Presently Chris is actively involved with the Canadian Ski Patrol as part of the education team in the Kawartha Zone. He is married to Linda, his spouse of 18 years, and has two children, Kenneth and Liam. Both Chris and Linda are Métis and trace their roots back to the families, Solomon, Sylvester, Mackay and TailRon. The Plummers first discovered their family history in 2002, so they are looking forward to learning even more about their heritage.

MNOVC | MÉTIS NATIONS OF ONTARIO VETERANS COUNCIL

Change of Command

MNO Veterans’ Council President participates in Change of Command Ceremony at CFB Borden

On July 6, 2012, MNO Veterans’ Council President, Joseph Paquette, attended the ceremony marking the change of command at CFB Borden from Brigadier General J.P.L. Meloche, OMM, CD to Colonel T.L. Harris, CD.

Best wishes were conveyed to outgoing Brigadier General Meloche and a Métis sash was presented to incoming Colonel Harris.

Under the command of Brigadier General Meloche, CFB Borden hosted the very successful “Aboriginal Youth Black Bear Program” for the past two years. During this time Mr. Paquette participated in the Black Bear Program as the “Métis Elder”.

This is the last year for the Black Bear Program at CFB Borden, but the program will continue to offer the same opportunities to First Nations, Métis and Inuit youth from across Canada at its new location in Gagetown, New Brunswick.

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Jubilee medals awarded to Métis vets at CFB Borden

By Joseph Paquette

The Black Bear Program was instituted four years ago at CFB Borden, Ontario. It was means to be an extension of the Raven Program in BC and the Bold Eagle Program in Alberta, and for the past three years it has exceeded expectations.

A total of 84 participants registered for the last Black Bear Program held from July 10th to July 14th. This camp was special, and not just because it was the last one in Ontario. Dr. Alla Kennedy CD, a veteran with the Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans’ Council (MNOVC), the National Aboriginal Veterans Association (NAVA) and Senator for the MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council (TYRMC), joined Joseph Paquette, President of the MNOVC, a citizen of the Métis Credit River Métis Council and member of the National Aboriginal Veterans Association. Both received the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal (QJMM) from NAVA Vice-president, Robert Thibeau CD.

“Thank you for the tremendous support you have given the Aboriginal Youths from across Canada for the past three years,” said Joe Paquette. “Good luck to all of you. I will sure miss them all.”

Barbaranne Wright receives Jubilee medal

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen, Barbaranne Wright, received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal during a ceremony at the National Aboriginal Veterans Monument in Ottawa on National Aboriginal Day, June 21, 2012.

Barbaranne was one of several Aboriginal people to receive the medal at a ceremony commemorating 200 years of Aboriginal voluntary military service in the defence of Canada. Barbaranne is the women’s representative on the MNO Niagara Region Métis Council and her medal recognized her work in a number of veterans’ projects. Barbaranne is the daughter of a Métis veteran and several of her ancestors fought in the War of 1812.

The medals were presented by the Honourable Steven Blaney, Minister of Veterans Affairs for Canada. “What a great day to be a proud Métis Woman,” Barbaranne said.

JUBILEE MEDALS

CBF BORDEN | OPERATION BLACK BEAR.

CBF BORDEN | JUBILEE MEDALS

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Sault College presents first MNO Powley Electrical Award

Award commemorates Steve Powley who had championed Métis harvesting rights

I n 2008, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) secured $25,000 from the Power Workers’ Union (PWU) to be used at Sault College for an academic award named after Steve Powley; the Métis hero who had championed Métis harvesting rights at the Supreme Court of Canada. Sault College matched these funds and the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities then matched the combined total funds contributed by PWU and the college.

The resulting total was then invested by Sault College to create an endowment, so that the interest could be used to create an annual award for Sault students. The MNO investigated what field the most Métis students were entering at Sault College and found that these were electrical programs. Based on this research it was determined that the award would go to a self-identifying Métis student registered in electrical programs at the college.

Earlier this year, the MNO Steve Powley Electrical Award was presented for the first time. The recipient was Sara Ingram who received $3500. The award was presented by Kim Powley, the daughter of Steve Powley and the President of the MNO Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council.
Strong winds from the east

By Scott Parent

On Aug 03, 2011, I departed on a 14' coast runner stand up paddleboard (SUP) that I had named “Papanaatyhianoncoe”, from Lion’s Head Harbour. I set out at 6:00 A.M. and paddled out to Gun Point. There, I spent an hour observing the weather, and open water conditions. The winds were strong, around 10 to 12 knots out of the northwest. Weather was in a stable period. I set out from Gun Point sometime after 7:00 A.M., toward an east heading. Though it was east, my actual line of paddle calibrated as northeast power zig and southeast paddle surf zags. Points along the Bruce Peninsula soon appeared as islands. I used the Isham Lake Bay as a tail sight reference. Only Cape Croker and Gibraltar Island south of the Cape were visible by mid-afternoon.

Cape Croker was almost out of view when Christian Island appeared far to the southeast. I paddled on a supportive swell over most of the distance. By late afternoon, Cape Croker had disappeared, and only the distant Christian Island was visible. I used the visible sight reference of Christian Island, with my memory of Cape Croker’s location, and triangulated where I thought the Wester’s should be. The swell had augmented into choppy peak waves as strong north and west winds converged.

Sometime during early dusk, I reckoned the Western’s lighthouse on Double Top Island, to the east. It would be a long while yet before I actually reached the Westerns I suited up and secured my paddle with a line. Though the winds were high, weather was quite stable and the water temps were warm. At late dusk, the lighthouse beacon became visible. Over the next hour or so, multiple lighthouse and buoy lights along the eastern shore and southern islands came into view. A half hour of rest in the falling night, upon the “moshing” liquid bull, had rendered me a little south. I had adjusted my direction toward my beacon and paddled onward into a strong wind. (The Westerns’ buoy had marked 17 knot gusts that night.) I fixed my sight on the beacon, counting as it disappeared in the black night behind the peaks and night.) I fixed my sight on the beacon, counting as it disappeared in the black night behind the peaks and roughs of the dark water. Because the beacon only illuminates every 10 seconds, there would be many extended periods between sightings. As a heading, I would choose a random star above the lighthouse, and change stars as the hours of the night passed.

After a long crossing, I was under the Western’s light house, riding out the peaks and troughs with my headlamp. I could see the granite boulders underwater. I knelt on the Papanayhamionoone, in search of an exit site. I paddled into the fold between the two islands of Double Top, and threw my dry bags high on the main island. Then I jumped in the waves and escorted the board and paddle onto the island in a crash landing. As I was securing the board, the waves toyed with my belongings by sweeping them back into the water. The next day I saw that the waves would have to climb four meters up the shore to reach my bags. I stopped my SPOT device (A “SPOT” connects a smartphone to a global satellite network that lets you send messages and GPS coordinates from virtually anywhere on the planet.) and checked my phone for reception. I found “ok” reception with a tower on the island. My arrival time was around 3:30 A.M. I explored the island under the charming baas of the lighthouse beacon and a wealth of stars. The warm summer winds and high waves roared about me. After a while, I lay down to sleep.

A few hours later I awoke to calm weather and flat water. It would be another hot summer day I swam at Double Top and paddled up the chain of the Western group. I explored a couple of the islands and paddled further northeast toward Frying Pan Island. This 15 km line had a supportive tail wind with calm water, and I arrived at the north end of Frying Pan around 5:30 P.M. I camped out my second night on the shore of Frying Pan, and ate all I could at Henry’s Fish Restaurant, having completed my crossing of Georgian Bay at Henry’s.

Over the next few days I paddled south from Frying Pan to Manitou. From Manitou, I paddled to the Gilford Rocks, to the Pine Island chain, across the Gull Rocks; and, south to the Giants Tomb. Then from the Giants Tomb, I paddled east over to Beecwith Island. Here I portaged across Beecwith, and continued paddling over to Christian. Then I continued south into the Nottawasaga where I completed my sojourn at Wasaga Beach that evening.

I paddled over the course of five days, unable to paddle day three, due to strong winds from the east carrying a persistent rain. I was paddling with a Werner bent shaft paddle. I highly recommend the use of this paddle on long distance runs, due to its light weight, and extended purchase on paddle strokes. I was using a SPOT tracking device that allowed friends to monitor my progress along the distances. I saw dolostone cliffs, expanses of inland freshwater sea in action, granite island groups and shallow passages, as well as pine stands upon pink islands surrounded by open water, long vegetated dune islands, and the world’s longest fresh water beach. I swam, cliff jumped, fished, and dove, not to mention the capes, my and graceful fin stags along the shallow shorelines of Wasaga. I experienced a wealth of weather im- mately, and met interesting people, including family I had not previously known.

Scott Parent is the son of MNO citi- zen, Jo-Anne Parent, who works in the MNO office in Midland.

Think, reflect and dream

from page 23

Proving that he is a well-rounded and intelligent young man, Tesar made this interesting point: “The modern axiom that a degree in the liberal arts does not provide an obvi- ous foundation for today’s careers is absolutely true, but it is a consola- tion, not a curse; who are more likely to change things than those who do not have an investment in the way things currently are? In a world that can no longer exist in its current formulation, its best chance for the future is not a collection of rapacious business majors strug- gling to learn Mandarin, but people who think, reflect, and dream, whose palettes possess colours we have yet to see.”

The entire salutatory address may be read at the link below, or watched on YouTube. It’s worth your time. - Linda

www.unilinks.ca/2012/salutatory-address

More than a hole in the ground!

There are many great careers in mining in such areas as business, camp services, remediation, training, trades, as well as a whole host of other exciting jobs.

The Métis Nation of Ontario’s new Métis Northern Mining Strategy will provide funding to 30 eligible students for the next three years. To qualify for this support your education or training must be relevant to a career in mining. The MNO Northern Mining Strategy can fund college, university and graduate programs.

Applications will be considered in September and work placements at a mining company will be considered a requirement of the program.

Scott Carpenter | MNO Manager of Projects and Partnerships
scottc@metisnation.org | 705-527-9363

More on this voyage at: www.markscriver.wordpress.com/2011/12/02/5-day-georgian-bay-sup-trip-report-by-scott-parent

Images from Scott Parent’s paddle across Georgian Bay.
Portage in the park

Voyageur Games demonstrated on National Aboriginal Day

O n June 23rd and 24th the MNO Oshawa & Durham Region Métis Council (ODRMC) hosted its sixth Annual Métis Heritage Celebration at Memorial Park in Oshawa. Robert Pilon, President of the ODRMC, estimated that about 2,000 people attended the weekend event. Métis entertainers included Ontario’s own Alicia Blorre and Rajan Anderson, as well as J Lavallée and his band. A youth tent with activities for the young, traditional story-telling, interesting presenters, and historical artifacts on display kept everyone entertained. Of special interest were the authentic 26 ft birch-bark voyager canoe built by master canoe maker Marcel Labelle, a teepee painted by renowned Métis artist Dennis Weber, and a real, working, Red River cart made by craftsmen Armand Jerome.

“Our goal is to celebrate the Métis culture,” said Mr. Pilon. “It’s important because there are 2,300 Métis people just in the Durham Region.”

Métis Heritage Celebration at Memorial Park in Oshawa.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

CONGRATS

50 GOLDEN YEARS

MÉTIS HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Oshawa Métis Heritage Festival draws crowds

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Métis Heritage Celebration at Memorial Park in Oshawa.
Walking her own path

Julie Vermette details in her own words how the Métis Self Employment Program allowed her to succeed at personal goals and establish a life she never thought possible.

In 2011, I applied for the Self-Employment Assistance Program, through the MNO Employment and Training Branch and was accepted. Part of the agreement in the Self-Employment Program was that I needed a business mentor. I found the regular conversations I had with my mentor valuable in helping me gain clarity and focus on what I really wanted. I also had some stressf ul times when I felt discour aged and frustrated. She was able to give me advice I might never have thought of. By careful reflection, I acquired a clearer picture of my business and the message I wanted to convey in my work. My mentor has become my associate and I guess you could say we are an alliance, helping each other in business. My first retreat was very successful and helped to increase my confidence substantially. The positive feedback helped me to know what I was doing in my work and what I needed to improve. The financial support was valuable in allowing me the time for startup, such as building my website, developing my programs, and support to those who are struggling. The financial support was valuable in allowing me the time for startup, such as building my website, developing my programs, getting more familiar with the social media, marketing, etc. These things are very time consuming and had I not had the financial support, I would have found it very challenging to complete the tasks due to time.

I am currently working at Native Earth Performing Arts as a Life Skills Coach. While I was funded for the Theatre Program, I was a graduate from George Brown College and a part-time contractor working as a Life Skills Coach. While I found some fulfilment as a life skills coach, I had a desire to expand, growing my own business that included life skills. I didn’t want to work full-time for someone else and I think I have always had more of an entrepreneur spirit. Also, I found by working only part-time on a contract basis, I didn’t have the resources to do the marketing that it takes to build a business, nor did I have the financial backing to support myself while handling the time and expenses of business startup.

Another challenge was that I was not entirely clear on how to go about sharing my message in my business. While my business plan reflected what I generally wanted to do, I wasn’t completely confident in what I was offering. The financial support was valuable in allowing me the time for startup, such as building my website, developing my programs, and support to those who are struggling. The financial support was valuable in allowing me the time for startup, such as building my website, developing my programs, getting more familiar with the social media, marketing, etc. These things are very time consuming and had I not had the financial support, I would have found it very challenging to complete the tasks due to time.

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By Doug Wilson
Chief Operating Officer
Métis Nation of Ontario

I am writing to provide MNO citizens information on a consultation process that has been initiated on the 2012 MNO Elections generally and the MNO Electoral Code specifically. At the recently held 2012 MNO AGA, the MNO’s Chief Electoral Officer presented his Elections Report. This report included an overview of the 2012 MNO elections process as well as a series of recommendations for the MNO to consider in relation to future elections. A copy of this report is available at www.metisnation.org.

The 2012 MNO AGA passed a resolution which sets out a multi-year process to consult MNO citizens on the Chief Electoral Officer’s report, the 2012 elections and the current MNO Electoral Code. This resolution is attached to this memo as APPENDIX A.

Specifically, the MNO AGA established an independent Committee consisting of Joanne Young (Hamilton/Wentworth Métis Council), Janine Landry (MNO Youth Council) and Senator Verna Porter. This Committee will be supported by the MNO’s Legal Counsel (Jean Teillet) and myself, as the MNO’s Chief Operating Officer.

Over the next 8 months, MNO citizens are encouraged to provide their comments, input and suggestions to the Committee about the Chief Electoral Officer’s report, the 2012 election, the MNO Electoral Code, etc. Comments can be sent via email to mnoelection@metisnation.org or please feel free to contact members of the Committee directly. All comments received prior to April 30, 2013 will be considered by the Committee when they meet in May 2013.

Based on the comments received, the Committee, with the support of MNO’s Legal Counsel and Chief Operating Officer, will prepare a report as well as propose changes to the MNO Electoral Code. These documents will be tabled with the 2013 MNO AGA and circulated to all MNO citizens for feedback.

From September 2013 to April 2013 (8 months), the Committee will receive input and feedback from MNO citizens to the proposed changes to the MNO Electoral Code. After the 2013 MNO AGA, any additional changes to the MNO Electoral Code will be considered or made prior to the 2012 MNO Election.

The chart below sets out the timeline and deadlines for these consultations.

If you have any questions about the process please feel free to contact me or any member of the Committee.
On August 27, MNO AGA delegates of all ages took part in Métis cultural activities and the Métis Voyageur Games at the Roberta Bondar Pavilion in Sault Ste. Marie.

The proceedings featured athletic skill events representing the historic activities of Métis voyageurs during the fur trade era. Specific components included air rifle, hatchet throw, pole carry and sling shot. Those present also enjoyed demonstrations of traditional dance and children’s games, presented by the MNO Summer Youth Cultural Program students as well as workshops from MNO staff on traditional cultural activities such as fiddle making, bannock making, finger weaving, beading and embroidery.

Crews from Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN) were on hand to film events for a new show called “Warrior Games.”

In the evening, the MNO Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council hosted a delicious pig roast accompanied by local Sault Ste. Marie area entertainment: the Métis Dancers and the popular country band, the Wild Turkeys.