TOMNO President Lipinski pleased with decision the Métis favours ruling

Historic promises are embedded within sections Confederation. These nal negotiating partners in were promised as Aborigi-

the lands and benefits they for justice in the Supreme Court. The case was based

years to reach the Supreme Court. It years of Canadian history and Métis had

MMF case represented over 140

The Manitoba Act, 1870

MMF v. Canada

Geneviève Routhier
Expedition Guide
Owner of Lake Escapes

Jeremy BROWN
Kenora, ON

Geneviève ROUTHIER
Sault Ste. Marie, ON

Graduate
Cambridge College

Candor College Graduate

Lakehead University

Faculty of Law Student

Sault College Student

Student
Sault Ste. Marie, ON

Steve Powley at

Supreme Court by Jean

important case. The MNO

Métis was heard in this

1.4 million acres of land for 7,000 children are a part of Canada’s constitution.

Fleming College Student

Candor College Graduate

Fergus, ON

North Bay, ON

Sault Ste. Marie, ON

Métis Nation of Alberta President Audrey Poitras President David Chartrand as well as Métis

MMF case included a landmark Powley case, we knew it was

against the Manitoba constitutional obligations breached its fiduciary and

on the claim that Canada

was crackling with excitement as Métis from across the home-

Canadian settlement.

and rights amid concern of encroaching

and were offered in order to settle the Red

start in the race for land in the new province

is the great niece of

10 years earlier, rep-

Supreme Court of Canada

decision v. Canada

Many MNO citizens and

MNO staff members were

ence

GMF (the “MMF case”).

were promised as Aborigi-

rivers, and were offered in order to settle the Red

Red River resistance, which was caused by

grants were meant to give the Métis a head

of the Red River Métis, which includes

1 lifetime adventure

— Continued on page 11

Geneviève Routhier

Jeremy Brown

Heather Bunn

Gerald Lavallee

Amilia DiChiara

Kyle Grenier

Josh Szajewski

Emily Ingram

Rejean Belcourt

Elizabeth Clapin

Sault Ste. Marie, ON

Sault Ste. Marie, ON

Kenora, ON

North Bay, ON

Thornhill, ON

Midland, ON

Fergus, ON

Lakehead University

Sault College Student

Lafontaine, ON

University of Ottawa Graduate

Georgian College Graduate

Manotick, ON

Graduate

Riverview High School

Ontario Government with

Mitch Case honoured by

Learn more about the

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Learn about the 2014 training experience.

CREDIT RIVER BUILDS RELATIONSHIP

MNO Council builds potential opportunities with Region of Halton.

WISE BEYOND HIS YEARS

Mitch Case honoured by Ontario Government with Young Volunteers Award.

SUMMER YOUTH CULTURAL PROGRAM

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The Suzanne Rochon-Burnett
VOLUNTEER of the YEAR AWARD 2014

Brenda POWLEY 2013 • Sault Ste. Marie
Marlene GREENWOOD 2012 • North Bay
Olivine BOUSQUET-TIEDEMA 2012 • Oshawa
Richard SARRAZIN 2008 • Sudbury
Gordon CALDER 2011 • Fort Frances
Pauline SAULNIER 2010 • Penetangoshene
Louise GOULDING 2009 • Moon Island
Reta GORDON 2007 • Ottawa

The 2013 Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year was nominated by several MNO citizens who outlined the reasons they supported her selection as the 2013 Volunteer of the Year.

“Senator Powley has served the Métis Nation tirelessly for the past two decades as a community member, organizer and senator since the mid 2000s,” stated one of the nominators. “Brenda has volunteered thousands of hours to our community, helping organize feasts, dances, information sessions, AGMs and has represented this community and the MNO as a whole on numerous committees and boards.”

Over the years, Senator Powley has made significant contributions to the Métis Nation. “She is present at every community council meeting, council or staff support event from set up until clean up, always the first to volunteer to do the work that needs to be done,” explained one of the nominators. “She worked tirelessly to support her husband and other community members in the establishment of the Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council and in the opening of the Sault Métis Centre.” Senator Powley also dedicates much of her time with youth and to sharing and teaching Métis culture and history.

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Brenda could never be replaced in our community and without her, our Métis community would not be the same. With only 1000 words it is difficult to express the achievements and dedication of this incredible Métis woman,” concluded one of the nominators.

The award was presented by MNO President Gary Lipinski at the 20th Anniversary Feast, Dinner Theatre and Dance during the 2013 MNO Annual General Assembly in Ottawa. Senator Powley was thrilled and surprised to receive the award.

“It was kind of a funny moment because I really didn’t see it coming. I had actually nominated someone else,” said Senator Powley. “It is very nice to be honoured with this award; there are so many hard working people who deserve it. Everyone does so much for the Métis community. It is hard to pick one person because we work together; it’s just who we are.”

The volunteer of the Year Award is presented by MNO Citizens and Staff. The volunteer of the Year Award was established to recognize those individuals who contribute to the betterment of the Métis Nation. It is seen as an award for exemplary service to the community. The award was presented by MNO President Gary Lipinski at the 20th Anniversary Feast, Dinner Theatre and Dance during the 2013 MNO Annual General Assembly in Ottawa. Senator Powley was thrilled and surprised to receive the award.

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Nomination forms for the Volunteer of the Year Award are available on the AGA section of the MNO website at www.metisnation.org

CRITERIA:
The individuals nominated must exemplify the kind of volunteer contribution demonstrated by Suzanne Rochon-Burnett. They will have given generously of their time and effort, are strong advocates of the Métis Nation and their record of service has been firmly established. They are seen as caring, giving individuals that others look up to and admire. The candidates will have provided an extended period of service as a volunteer.

OBJECTIVE:
The objective of the Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award is to recognize individuals who contribute as a volunteer to the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) year round and have done so for a number of years. Each year a volunteer meeting the criteria is named as the recipient of the Suzanne-Rochon Volunteer of the Year by a Selection Committee of the MNO.

PROCESS:
Any MNO citizen can nominate a volunteer for the award by completing a nomination form and sending it to the Volunteer of the Year Award Hunter Courtene Consulting Group 1205 Boulevard de la Carrière Gatineau, QC J8Y 0V5 Deadline for nominations is July 25, 2014.

Publication 8: Pm-40025265

Submission Policy:
MNO encourages contributions from MNO citizens and staff. All letters are edited to conform to the Canadian Press Style Guide as well as for grammar, repetitiveness, work not published elsewhere, the official names and titles of individuals, organizations, bodies and agencies referenced in submissions.

With the exception of letters to the editor and submissions to the family section, all submissions should NOT be written in the first person. The recommended length for a submission is between 400 and 600 words. Submissions longer than that may be edited for length.
The MNO Summer Youth Cultural Program

This summer, 19 Métis youth will embark on a journey of self-discovery as they take part in the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Summer Youth Cultural Program (SYCP).

Designed to strengthen and share Métis culture and history, SYCP is a MNO community-based initiative comprised of students who deliver Métis-inspired programming across Ontario through experiential education and ‘hands on, minds on’ approach. This summer’s project focuses on creating greater awareness on the contributions of Métis in Canada through presentations, re-enactments and other events.

Gaining experience that will last a lifetime, these 19 youth will spend the summer connecting to their roots, sharing Métis heritage and traditions in their local communities and immersing themselves in all things Métis.

Before taking on their roles as MNO SYCP Interpreters, the young Métis took part in two weeks of comprehensive training in Midland and Fort William Provincial Historic Park in Thunder Bay. Training was provided by Scott Carpenter, MNO Manager of Projects and Partnerships and Sahra McLean, MNO Education Officer as well as Fort William staff.

The interpreters included some returning participants while many others were joining for the first time. Training at Fort William required full immersion into the Métis way of life. Upon arrival, students were provided with traditional Métis attire including strap dresses for the women and corduroy pants and linen shirts for the men.

When entering the room where the youth were gathered, one could sense their eagerness to learn about their culture. There was not a quiet moment as the room filled with talking and laughter, it was as if these young Métis from across the province were not meeting for the first time but have been friends forever.

Alicia Blore, a returning interpreter who has been involved with the MNO for seven years could not wait to join the program for the second time. “I met so many great people last year and I wanted to build those connections again,” she explained. “I can’t wait to bring this knowledge back to my community in Toronto.”

Interpreters were provided a Métis character, based on historical ancestors, to portray. These characters will stay with them throughout the summer as they will be bringing them to life at future re-enactments.

Attentive and excited to learn about their ancestors, the interpreters really immersed themselves into their new role. Witnessing these young Métis act out the scenes from history, created a feeling that they had traveled back in time to the 19th century.

Returning Midland participant Katelyn LaCroix used interesting twists and humour to bring her character to life. Improvising with fellow returning participant from Thunder Bay Lucy Fowler, the crowd erupted with cheers and laughter. The two make a really great team.

This is the program’s fifth year and the group of youth grow every year as more and more young people join and discover their Métis ancestry. One in particular is Paige Mathieu from North Bay. “I just found out that I am Métis and these past two weeks I have learned a lifetime of knowledge,” she explained. “Everyone is so down to earth and I can relate to the fellow interpreters right away as we are all on this journey of discovery together.”

I have known for a while that I’m Métis but was not very knowledgeable about Métis culture and I wanted to learn more … through these past two weeks of training I have really found out what this culture is within myself – it is very unique. I can’t wait to spread this knowledge within my school.”

— Joanne Burt

(Continued on page 4)
Ontario Métis have higher prevalence of asthma

Métis people living in Ontario have a higher prevalence of asthma and COPD than the rest of the Ontario population: MNO and ICES study

Submitted by: Storm J. Russell, PhD, MNO Senior Policy and Research Analyst

ICES is an independent, non-profit organization that uses population-based health information to produce knowledge on a broad range of health care issues. Its unbiased evidence provides measures of health system performance, a clearer understanding of the shifting health care needs of Ontarians, and a stimulus for discussion of practical solutions to optimize scarce resources. ICES knowledge is highly regarded in Canada and abroad, and is widely used by government, hospitals, planners, and practitioners to make decisions about care delivery and to develop policy.

Prevalence of asthma and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) are 30 per cent and 70 per cent higher, respectively, in Métis people compared to the general Ontario population, according to a study by researchers at the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and the Institute For Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES).

The study, published April 23, 2014, in the journal PLOS ONE, is the first large-scale, population study to quantify asthma and COPD in the Ontario Métis population in terms of health services use. "In most cases, we found lower rates of primary and specialist ambulatory care visits for these diseases among the Métis, suggesting they are not able to access these services as well as other Ontario populations. This could be contributed to the higher rates of emergency department visits and hospitalizations also observed for asthma and COPD among Métis individuals," said Dr. Andrea Gershon, the study’s lead author, ICES scientist and respiratory and scientist at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre.

In the 2011 Canadian National Household Survey, 451,795 people self-identified as Métis, accounting for 32 per cent of the overall Aboriginal population in Canada. "The results of this study are disturbing and highlight some of the key health challenges facing the Métis people of Ontario," said Gary Lipinski, President of the MNO. "They also provide important direction for much needed policy and programming interventions to reduce the unacceptably high rates of asthma and COPD among our Métis citizens."

The study linked the MNO Citizenship Registry to provincial health administrative databases to measure and compare burdens of asthma and COPD between the Métis and non-Métis populations of Ontario between 2009 and 2012. The study found:

- Prevalence of asthma and COPD were 30 per cent and 70 per cent higher, respectively, in the Métis compared to the general Ontario population.
- General physician and specialist ambulatory care visits were significantly lower in Métis with asthma. Specialist visits for COPD were also lower.
- Emergency department visits and hospitalizations were generally higher for Métis compared to non-Métis with either disease.
- All-cause mortality in Métis with COPD was 1.3 times higher compared to non-Métis with COPD.
- "A number of factors are likely contributing to the higher prevalence of asthma and COPD observed among the Ontario Métis. The prevalence of smoking, a known risk factor for COPD and a trigger for asthma, is 33 per cent for the Métis population nationally, nearly twice that of the Canadian general population. In addition, socio-economic conditions, such as poor housing with poor air quality and enhanced exposure to allergens and molds, may also be contributors in regions where many Métis reside," adds Gershon.

The study, "Asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) prevalence and health services use in Ontario Métis: a population-based cohort study" was published today in PLOS ONE.

Authors: Andrea S. Gershon, Saba Khan, Julie Klem-Gelman, Drew Wilson, Teressa To, Eric J. Crighton, Lisa Pirgras (MNO), Jo MacQuarrie (MNO), Yvon Allard (MNO), Storm J. Russell (MNO) and David A. Henry.

(Continued from page 3)

The program aims to spread knowledge of Métis culture and dispel myths while providing an opportunity for these young Métis to build self-esteem, confidence and develop public speaking skills, all of which will help them succeed in the outside world.

Willi Poll from Sault Ste. Marie is hoping to use the knowledge learned through this experience in her future career working in indigenous health. “I love working with traditional medicine,” she said while working on a project during the blacksmithing demonstration, “and hope to use the techniques and knowledge learned here to help youth overcome addictions in a culturally sensitive manner.”

Workshops were held on everything from musk-kets and cannons to wild edibles and of course MNO programs and governance, Métis history and culture, finger weaving, beadting, embroidery, fire-making, cooking, tin-smithing, mukuk making, cape-to-making, leather work, quillwork, song and dance, blacksmithing and the Métis Way of Life.

“I was so glad to get this position,” said Thunder Bay first-time participant Gabriel Pianud while heading a necklace, “because now I get to talk about my culture all day long!”

Evenings served as social time where youth gathered around the open fire chatting, singing and dancing to the tunes of Blore’s fiddle. One night in particular, the interpreters broke out into traditional Métis dance and jig under the light of the full moon.

Through MNO’s SYCP, youth become more knowledgeable about Métis history and culture as well as the MNO. This program helps secure MNO’s future by encouraging young Métis to become more involved culturally and politically. They are able to develop their personal attributes while shining a positive light on Métis through a celebration of culture.

“I have known for a while that I’m Métis but was not very knowledgeable about Métis history and culture. I wanted to learn more,” said first-time participant from Toronto, Joanne Burt. “Through these past two weeks of training I have really found out what this culture is within myself – it is very unique. I can’t wait to spread this knowledge within my school.”

More details about MNO’s SYCP activities and re-enactments will be posted on the MNO website throughout the summer at www.metonation.org/education/training/summer-youth-cultural-program.
Closing the gaps in Métis education and employment

MNO and Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities continue working together

On April 28, 2014, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Gary Lipinski met with the Honourable Brad Duguid, Ontario Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities in Toronto, Ontario. During the meeting, President Lipinski reviewed MNO’s impressive record of providing results focused employment services to Métis in Ontario.

The meeting was an opportunity to discuss and highlight progress made on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that was signed between the MNO and the Ministry in 2010. Discussions focused on provisions in the agreement that promote closer collaboration on employment and training initiatives.

MNO and the Ministry have established a solid working relationship through a three-year funded work plan, now in its second year. This work plan increased the MNO’s educational capacity including engagement and formalized partnerships with post-secondary institutions, as well as greater outreach on post-secondary opportunities with students and communities and the development and implementation of innovative programs such as the MNO Infinite Reach Student Solidarity Network.

MNO and the Ministry continue to share a desire to work together to encourage youth to aspire to their highest potential and close the gaps that exist in educational employment for Métis in Ontario.

Source: Métis Nation of Ontario

ALBERTA

Clarence Campeau Development Fund has another successful year

The Clarence Campeau Development Fund (CCDF) has experienced another successful year financing Métis owned businesses in Saskatchewan.

CCDF operating results were exceptional. The traditional funding programs delivered from offices in Saskatoon and Regina provided support for 43 business proposals. Approved equity funding by CCDF resulted in the creation of 103 direct jobs.

The CCDF was established by the Métis Society of Saskatchewan Inc. (now known as Métis Nation-Saskatchewan) in 1997 with the mission to improve the economic circumstances of Saskatchewan’s Métis by providing market intelligence; funding for business and community economic development as well as development of management skills and assistance to new and existing Métis businesses owners.

Source: Clarence Campeau Development Fund

SASKATCHEWAN

Métis family reunion at Métis Crossing

The Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) citizens will be honoring their Scottish heritage at the Métis Family Reunion from July 5-6. Being held at Métis Crossing in Smoky Lake, Alberta, this weekend event will feature tours of the Métis Crossing and the Victoria Settlement, viewings of Métis and Scottish historical records and Métis soldier and genealogy displays.

Métis Crossing is the first major Métis cultural interpretive centre in Alberta. The development and operation of the facility mirrors the core values of the Métis community including self-sufficiency, respect of elders, participation of youth, and pride in our culture.

Métis crossing began as a major initiative of the MNA. Their mission is to be a premiere centre for Alberta Métis cultural interpretation, education, gatherings, and business development. The 512-acre site is designed to engage and excite visitors, and is comprised of river lot titles from the original Métis settlers to this region in the late 1800s.

Source: Métis Nation of Alberta

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Imagination Library 5th anniversary

Métis Nation of British Columbia (MNBC) is celebrating the fifth year of the Imagination Library!

The Imagination Library is a literacy program that focuses on creating higher literacy rates in Métis children five years of age and younger. The program is a partnership between MNBC and the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation. Métis children that are registered in the program receive five age-appropriate books each month.

Through the Imagination Library, the MNBC has been able to send free books directly to Métis children, who are in need, right across the province of British Columbia.

Source: Métis Nation of British Columbia

NEW AGREEMENT BENEFITING MANITOBA MÉTIS STUDENTS

As part of its commitment to improving opportunities and outcomes for Métis people in Manitoba, Red River College (RRC) has entered into a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) and the Louis Riel Institute.

Signed on May 23, the new MOU creates a partnership with representation from all three organizations—one that focuses on education, business and growing industry partnerships to increase economic prospects for Manitoba’s Métis populations.

In addition, a new $400,000 fund for bursaries for Métis students was announced—one made possible through matching $200,000 investments by the MMF and RRC.

Source: Red River College

ONTARIO

Closing the economic and employment gaps in Métis

Lipinski during their meeting on April 28, 2014. Minister Duguid is holding the paddle the MNO presented to him when he was Minister of Aboriginal Affairs.
The Métis Nation of Ontario is looking to partner with Mining Sector employers through the Métis Mining Strategy.

The Strategy has wage subsidies aimed at trained Métis, First Nations and Inuit people in mining occupations for Ontario mining companies and related companies. Help us meet your labour market needs!

For more information visit www.metisnation.org or contact:

Métis Mining Strategy Project Coordinator
1-888-466-6684 or lee-annev@metisnation.org
Launch of new MNO project in Thunder Bay

Submitted by: Jennifer Lord, MNO Manager of Mental Health and Victim Services

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is pleased to announce the beginning of a new project in Thunder Bay called the Aboriginal Sexual Violence Community Response Initiative (ASVCI).

This province-wide, multi-year program is funded by the Ontario Women's Directorate and is being run in conjunction with the Ontario Native Women's Association (ONWA), Independent First Nations (IFN), the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIFC) and the Chiefs of Ontario (COO). Each organization has chosen a different Indigenous Friendship Centre to do this work and the MNO is leading their project in Thunder Bay.

Through ASVCI Coordinator, Valerie Stortini, the project will build relationships with fellow service providers in Thunder Bay to understand how all agencies interact with one another when a woman experiences sexual violence. Once this understanding is achieved, the various parties can identify any institutional barriers and enhance these systems for the benefit of the client, the worker and the community at large. The MNO sees this initiative as one that promotes change from the community level upwards.

The project will use a combined approach of working with service providers, as well as speaking with and learning from Aboriginal women who've experienced sexual violence. The final phase of the project will engage youth in the city area so that they may learn from those that have experienced sexual violence and be provided with tools to not only inform but also strengthen and empower.

For further information, please contact Jennifer Lord, MNO Manager of Mental Health and Victim Services at 613-798-1488.

COUNCIL CORNER

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) benefits immensely from the dedicated volunteers who are members of its Chartered Community Councils. These hard-working individuals spend hundreds of hours building and strengthening their Métis communities. MNO councils are the cornerstone of a strong foundation for the MNO in its push toward its inherent right to self-govern. MNO Councils are important communication hubs who play a significant role in fostering community empowerment and development for Métis citizens living within the geographic territory of that council.

MNO COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS

Congratulations to the MNO Atikokan and Area, North Bay and York Region MNO Councils on their recent elections.

Here is a list of the new and returning elected officials:

MNO Atikokan and Area Métis Council

President
Marlene Davidson
Councillor
Edwin Gouliquer
Senator
Brian Gouliquer
Treasurer
Councillor
Blair Davidson
Women’s Representative
Don Foxx
Youth Representative
Chandler Gouliquer

MNO North Bay Métis Council

President
Mark Laurits
Secretary / Treasurer
Dennis Tremblay
Chair
Women's Representative
Susan Van Der Rassel
Senator
Marlene Greenwood

MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council

President
Tera Beaulieu
Women’s Representative
Brenda Stewart
Chair
Youth Representative
Christine Skura
Senator
Todd Ross
Secretary / Treasurer
Councillor
Derek Johnston

The MNO would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the newly elected council members and thank all council members for their time and dedication to the citizens of the MNO.

UPCOMING ELECTIONS
MNO Manitoulin Métis Council – June 21, 2014

27,000 FULL-TIME AND 56,000 PART-TIME STUDENTS, 170 INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS. REACH THE STUDENTS WHO WILL DEFINE THE FUTURE. SHAPE THE PROGRAMS THAT WILL TAKE THEM THERE.

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We take a positive, hands-on approach to teaching and learning. We want to work with other individuals who are qualified with the skills and knowledge to work in this environment.

To apply, by June 25, 2014, please visit our website at www.humber.ca/careers, click on the position that interests you and submit your cover letter and resume.

We thank all applicants; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

PART-TIME FACULTY POSITIONS

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Interior Decorating
Electrical Apprenticeship
Network Engineering Technology
Software Engineering Technology
Civil Engineering Technology - Surveying

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(www.healthsciences.humber.ca)

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Bachelor of Nursing - Clinical and Classroom
Nephrology Nursing
Neuroscience Nursing
Patient Assessment
Perioperative Nursing
Pharmacy Technician
Early Childhood Education
Bioscience

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL & COMMUNITY SERVICES
(www.communityservices.humber.ca)

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Community and Justice Services
Child and Youth Care
Child and Youth Worker
Social Service Worker
Protection, Security and Investigation
Developmental Services Worker
Criminal Justice

THE BUSINESS SCHOOL
(www.business.humber.ca)

SCHOOL OF CREATIVE & PERFORMING ARTS
(www.humber.ca/scapa)

SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES
(www.humber.ca/liberalarts)

SCHOOL OF MEDIA STUDIES & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(www.mediasudies.humber.ca)

At Humber, we are committed to a workforce that reflects the diversity of our students and our city, and actively seek qualified individuals with the skills and knowledge to work in this environment.

To apply, by June 25, 2014, please visit our website at www.humber.ca/careers, click on the position that interests you and submit your cover letter and resume.

We thank all applicants; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.
FAMILY

Remembering Jeannette Stewart

Submitted by: Evaline Jones

It is with great sadness that we must say good bye to one of our Métis sisters Jeannette Alida Marie Stewart (LePage). Jeannette passed away on November 17, 2013, after a short battle with cancer. Jeannette was born on April 16, 1936, in Penetanguishene to Melina Ella Mae (Careire) LePage and John LePage. She had seven sisters and five brothers including one of our late Senators on the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Georgian Bay Métis Council, Helen Bradley. Jeannette married Lloyd Stewart and had five wonderful children. Jeannette will be missed by all those who knew and loved her.

Saulnier-Richardson Wedding

Submitted by: Tim Pile, MNO Secretary-Treasurer

May 3, 2014 was a day of great joy for Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Region 7 Councillor Pauline Saulnier as she married Jim Richardson in a ceremony in Midland. The bride was resplendent and the groom was beaming with happiness as they exchanged vows in front of their friends and families that included a good number of MNO citizens.

Welcome to the MNO Team!

New MNO Employees

THE MNO IS EXCITED TO WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW STAFF MEMBERS

DR. MARK KNELL

Mark joins the MNO Toronto office in the position of Environmental Assessment & Regulatory Advisor with the Lands, Resources and Consultations Branch. Mark comes to MNO with a distinguished educational background in environmental science and environmental chemistry. He holds an Honours Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Sussex and a PhD in Environmental Chemistry from the University of Durham. He is currently completing the Project Management Professional (PMP) accreditation program.

Most recently, Mark was an Environmental Assessment Specialist for seven years with Golder Associates where his primary functions included environmental impact assessment and environmental studies, project management, project planning and development, stakeholder communications and consultations and scientific and policy research and analysis.

Mark will play a central role in providing expert advice and analysis with respect to the environmental assessment process and related regulatory processes and issues in support of the MNO.

Submitted by: Aly N. Alibhai, Director of Lands, Resources & Consultations

JESSICA RICE

Jessica joins the MNO Owen Sound office in the position of Employment Developer for Region 7.

Jessica comes to the MNO from Parry Sound, Ontario where she worked as a Science, Native Studies and Special Education teacher for the past five years. Jessica’s communication and networking skills will be beneficial to support Métis people throughout the region.

Jessica is actively involved in Métis culture as she sings, beads and plans on learning to jig and finger weave as part of her participation in cultural activities in the region.

Jessica holds a Bachelor of Science with Honours in Anthropology and a Bachelor of Education from Trent University.

Submitted by: Jennifer St. Germain, Director of Education and Training

CINDY PAREIGIS

Cindy joins the MNO Thunder Bay office in the position of Employment Developer. Cindy comes to the MNO from NorthWest Employment Works at Confederation College. She possesses 20+ years of experience in the social/human services sector, including 10 years in supervisory and management positions. Specifically, she has hands on experience working with various client groups in positions in the Ontario Works and Housing Services Divisions of the District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board.

Cindy is excited about the new challenges that the MNO will offer and to have the chance to make a difference in the lives of Métis people.

Submitted by: Jennifer St. Germain, Director of Education and Training

Welcome to the MNO Team!
Staying safe while using social media

I t may not have always been on Facebook or Twitter but we have always used social networking in our Métis communities. Coming together around meals, fires, during hunting and gathering, and so on provided our ancestors with opportunities to communicate and network about the day, our problems, and our joys, just like today when we update our statuses online.

However, with technological advances, there is now a sea of social media, which can make us much more vulnerable to unwanted attention and harassment or in some cases, even violence and abuse. There have been many cases where young people and adults have reported being stalked, harassed, bullied, and even approached in-person by online predators. However, you can protect yourself and your family by taking some simple and basic precautions:

- Did you know, for example, that the Global Positioning System (GPS) function on mobile devices such as cell phones and tablets (iPad etc.) can be used to determine the exact location of the device and where pictures on the device were taken? This information can be used by potential stalkers to help track down their intended victims. If your profile on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or other social media sites is public the potential exists that anyone can click on a picture and determine where someone lives and works as well as where their children go to school or play. The good news is that the GPS function on mobile devices can be disabled. This can usually be done under device settings.
- Social media and e-mail have unfortunately become new venues for bullying and other forms of harassment. As long as your profile on social media sites is public, strangers can approach you, so, if you are concerned about strangers, you can adjust the privacy settings on your social media profiles to make only certain information public or make the whole profile viewable by only people you have accepted into your network.
- Bullying and harassment, however, often involves people you already know. If you are being targeted by someone you have accepted into your network you can remove them from your network and block them from sending you e-mail and instant messages. If you are unclear how to change privacy settings or block e-mails consult someone you trust who is more technology savvy than you and ask for their assistance.
- As with any other form of harassment, always remember that if you feel uncomfortable, threatened, or in danger, contact the police as soon as possible. If this is happening at school, please contact the school principal. If you have received harassing or abusive messages keep electronic and print copies as if the situation becomes serious you may need evidence. Instant messaging and other types of communications that appear on your screen can be copied by using the ‘Print Screen’ function on your keyboard. It takes snapshots of whatever appears on the screen including instant messages and other programs that feature pop-up messages. You can then paste the ‘Print Screen’ image in a word processing document for safe keeping.
- There are many issues surrounding social media and internet privacy. There are resources available to help anyone concerned including the website “Get Cyber Safe”, which provides information on how to be safe when on using cell phones, computers, gaming systems and other technologies (www.getcybersafe.gc.ca).
- Although technology and social networking may be far from what it once was, we can still work together today by supporting each other both online and offline, by getting back to our traditional roots and by being kind to each other.

...with technological advances, there is now a sea of social media, which can make us much more vulnerable to unwanted attention and harassment or in some cases, even violence and abuse... however you can protect yourself and your family by taking some simple and basic precautions.

SOCIAL MEDIA SAFETY TIPS:

If you have concerns that your use of social media could put you or your family at risk, some precautions you can take include:
- Disable the GPS location settings on your posts and photos
- Learn how to adjust your privacy settings for any social media that you may use
- Do not respond to unsolicited messages or e-mails from strangers
- If you receive bullying, harassing or abusive messages or emails from someone save them just in case the police need to see them
- See www.getcybersafe.gc.ca for more social networking safety tips

Further assistance is available through the Métis Nation of Ontario Victim Services Program:
- Megan Muloin, MNO Victim Services Coordinator (Northern region) E: MeganM@metisnation.org T: (807) 276-6993
- Marsha Depotier, MNO Victim Services Coordinator (Southern region) E: MarshaD@metisnation.org T: (613) 332-2575 ext 23
Earlier this year the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) held a poster contest for all Métis youth ages 10-29. The theme of the contest was “What is Family, What is Safety?” and offered Dell 16 GB Android tablets as prizes. The contest received a good response and the following seven students will each receive one of the Android tablets.

In the 10-14 years old category:

1ST PLACE
ABIGAIL MITCHELL

2ND PLACE
DAKOTA ROWLINSON

3RD PLACE
SIGIL RIGSBY

4TH PLACE
KATIYA GAREAU-JONES

In the 19 years and older category:

1ST PLACE
KIRSTIE HENDERSON

2ND PLACE
OLIVIA BOUCHA

3RD PLACE
DANIELLE SECORD
They started out as friends, but will finish as family

2,000 km, 90 days, 1 adventure of a lifetime

MNO Canoe Expedition is underway!

On May 26, from the shores of the Rideau River in Ottawa, 10 Métis youth embarked on a journey of a lifetime. The forecast called for rain, but the skies cleared and the sun was shining just in time for the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) 2014 Canoe Expedition launch. Throughout this 90 day trek, these young Métis will follow historic fur trade routes of their Voyageur ancestors covering over 2,000 kilometres by canoe and portage all the way to Thunder Bay (see route map for more details - page 12).

When arriving at Mooney's Bay beach in Ottawa for the official launch you could sense the excitement in the air. A crowd of supporters and media gathered to send off the youth. Even past participants came to wish the paddler's well and one in particular, Ginny Gonneau, provided words of advice and presented each paddler with a unique good luck charm.

MNO Senator Reta Gordon provided the opening prayer to wish the modern Voyageurs safe travels and share some words of wisdom. "You will start this journey as friends but will come back as family," she stated.

This was followed by traditional fiddling performed by Sault Ste. Marie expedition participant Emily Ingram. Ingram, who is currently studying to be an Environment Technician, is extremely excited to re-enact the lives of historic Métis Voyageurs.

Unfortunately due to scheduling conflicts, MNO President Gary Lipinski was unable to attend the launch but did send well wishes through MNO Chief Operating Officer Doug Wilson with a promise to meet the Voyageurs at several communities throughout the season. President Lipinski's full remarks appear in the adjacent right column.

The expedition participants were then presented with a traditional Métis sash before embarking on this once-in-a-lifetime adventure. After putting on their sashes with pride, the youth headed to the canoe and officially began the first leg of the trek.

The crowd cheered as the paddlers hit the water, and just like that, their voyage began. While departing, the paddlers lifted their paddles in almost military precision to give the traditional Voyageur salute to those ashore.

For the first leg of the journey their route will take them through the Rideau Canal to Kingston. They will then follow the Lake Ontario shoreline to Toronto. From there, they’ll take the Humber River north, and after a series of portages and rivers they’ll enter Georgian Bay at Wasaga beach, and follow the north shore of Lake Huron and Lake Superior all the way to Thunder Bay where they will make a grand arrival at the 2014 MNO Annual General Assembly.

Guiding the expedition is past MNO Canoe Expedition participant Jeremy Brown. Owner of Lake Escapes, an eco-adventure tour company, Brown has not only experienced this type of adventure first hand, he also has 15 years of experience on the open water.

“My experience on the 2005 expedition was life changing and actually inspired me to start my own eco-tourism company... it is crazy that nine years later, I am now leading the trip. I can’t wait to help provide this amazing experience for the crew.”

— Jeremy Brown

Training and preparations

Before embarking on this epic journey, the MNO provided training to help prepare the youth for the expedition. This included three weeks of vigorous training in Thunder Bay and Midland consisting of outdoor survival, cultural ambassadorship, leadership and building employability skills workshops.

Upon arriving for culture training at Fort William in Thunder Bay, the youth immediately changed into traditional Métis garb which they will be sporting throughout their journey. These colourful outfits include corduroys for the men and strap dresses for the women.

During the training sessions, the youth began to discover their culture and spent several days learning traditional crafts such as beadwork, embroidery, quiltwork, song and dance, leather work, mukuk making and more. Many participants took part in the crafts for the first time. Heather Bunn, from Fergus, Ontario, never considered herself a “crafty” person but during training she discovered she is a pretty skillful embroiderer. “I found my old lady hobby,” she joked.

Bunn thoroughly enjoyed the cultural training as she is still discovering her Métis heritage.

“Finding out we are Métis totally changed our lives,” explained Bunn. “We jumped on board and got as much involved as possible. It was like something was missing and we found out what it was and it just filled the gap. Being here with fellow Métis youth... I am just having a blast.”

The youth spent this time really getting to know one another. Kyle Grenier from Midland, Ontario is most looking forward to all the friendships that will be made. He explained how training was a great opportunity to really get to know each other’s strengths and weaknesses before embarking on the journey.

“It is going to be a great challenge,” said Grenier. “I want to be able to say that I have been here and there and ultimately be able to say I did that.”

(Continued on page 12)
I would like to know as much of my past and history as possible and hope to pass down those traditions... as youth we are eventually going to be the voice of the MNO so having the knowledge and appreciation for what our forefathers did is very important and what better way to learn than through the MNO Canoe Expedition.”

— Kyle Grenier

The youth will be making camp every night and bring on unheard of a manner reminiscent of their Voyageur ancestors. Grenier believes one of the most challenging aspects of the trip will be getting enough sleep. “We are going to be pushing ourselves to the limit both physically and mentally,” he explained. “Sleep deprivation is definitely going to be a challenge for us.”

Not only will this be an epic adventure, these young paddlers will also help prepare them for the challenges ahead. "This will be challenging myself a lot and the journey is going to be very stressful mentally and physically and I am looking forward to it," said Szajewski. "It is going to be a great experience on the water. The MNO Canoe Expedition is an interdisciplinary model of experiential learning that challenges and empowers as they gain important employment values and skills.

During the incredible trek, the great outdoors will be a classroom and a work place for the students to learn skills that they will use to secure future jobs and advance their future careers. They will all be staying in 23 different communities where they will deliver presentations about Métis culture and history, be interviewed by the media and act as ambassadors of the MNO. Participants will share responsibilities for photography, videography and providing written descriptions of their experiences that will be shared through the MNO’s social media and communication networks.

The youth will also be preparing to enter law school as the journey will prepare them for the challenges ahead. "This will be beneficial for the future and the journey will shape me as a lawyer," said Szajewski. "It is going to be challenging but it will also be rewarding."
Elizabeth Clapin from Manotick, Ontario and Réjean Belcourt from Lafontaine, Ontario will be supporting the Voyageurs by providing ground support. They will be driving to each landing site before the crew arrives, setting up camp, ensuring supplies are adequate as well as providing communications to the MNO throughout their travels. Both are extremely excited to share the stories from water and land with the MNO community.

The MNO Canoe Expedition is an opportunity for these young MNO citizens to gain skills, spread Métis culture and ultimately prepare for their future roles in the Métis Nation.

"I would like to know as much of my past and history as possible and I hope to pass down those traditions," explained Grenier. "As youth we are eventually going to be the voice of the MNO so having the knowledge and appreciation for what our forefathers did is very important and what better way to learn than through the MNO Canoe Expedition."

An exciting journey for all, the MNO encourages its communities to take part in supporting and encouraging the youth throughout their travels as they have done so in past expeditions.

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The MNO Canoe Expedition can also be followed on Twitter @MetisNationON and pictures and video from the expedition will be posted regularly on the MNO website, Facebook page and on a new MNO mobile application (available in both iOS and Android) that will be available in July.

More information and the complete itinerary of the MNO Canoe Expedition is available online at: www.metisnation.org/canoeexpedition2014

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Métis capote hits the runway

Submitted by: Senator Carol Lévis, MNO Grand River Métis Council

On April 2, 2014, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Grand River Métis Council Senator Carol Lévis had the honour of modelling her capote wrap-around coat at the Colourful Planet Fashion Show, a fundraising event for the Joseph and District Multicultural Festival.

The capote was created at a MNO Grand River Métis Council workshop held in 2013 and is constructed from a 100 per cent wool Hudson Bay Company (HBC) ‘point’ blanket. The ‘points’ are the thin black lines on the lapel that denote the original size of the blanket. It was mistakenly thought at one time that the points referred to the number of beaver pelts required to purchase the jacket. The capote was introduced to North America by the European fur traders who wore them for their heat retention and water repelling capabilities. They were widely traded and highly valued by First Nations, Métis and Europeans alike.

Each capote is unique. Senator Lévis’ capote has a rabbit fur trimmed hood, hood tassel, ties, shoulder collars, pockets, collar and detachable cape. She belted her capote with a traditional Métis sash, finished all hems with the blanket stitch trim and retained the original HBC blanket label as is the practice. Senator Lévis hopes to add decorative Métis beading in the future.

“Perhaps I need to spend more time with Mitchell Case to stay motivated,” she stated. Case has become well known for his beautiful beadwork.

Along with the capote, Senator Lévis modeled her deer-hide scout moccasins she made with beadwork, earrings and a necklace she made from beads, birch bark and porcupine quills. She complimented the whole outfit by toting snowshoes and a mink pelt.

Serving up pancakes and Métis culture

The 37th annual Maple Syrup Festival

Submitted by: Ted McNally, MNO Oshawa and Durham Métis Council Councillor

Pancakes, flapjacks, johnnycakes, grill cakes, they had them all. From March 29–30, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Oshawa and Durham Métis Council volunteered at the Maple Syrup Festival at the beautiful Purple Woods Conservation Area just north of the City of Oshawa.

Most would agree that this winter had been long and cold, and was not giving any indication that it had any intention of going away. Fortunately, that weekend in March gave hope that maybe spring had not gotten lost after all.

Visitors were treated to a horse drawn wagon ride down the hill through the sugar bush to see how maple syrup and sugar is made. There were demonstrations of the modern methods, as well as the more traditional ways shown by re-enactors who set up shop over an open fire in front of a tipi. After that, they would either hike back along the scenic trails, or hitch a ride on the wagon, up the hill to the large wooden barnlike structure where their tents were lined up out the door and in spite of the long wait; least they were loud and even some of the guests found Métis brothers and sisters were not exactly melodious, at least with their song, “Alouette Gentille Alouette”. A dozen voices joined in and after that, every new batch would get a song. If McNally and his fellow MNO Oshawa and Durham Region Métis Council Councillors had them all. From March 29–30, the Métis Nations Council couldn’t help being very happy and proud of themselves joining in.

Saturday was busy and Sunday was even busier. People were lined up out the door and in spite of the long wait, they had no intention of leaving for home without full bellies. The Council ended up serving long after the regular closing time.

Song, laughter, and camaraderie was the order of the day, all weekend long, and as exhausted as they were, the Council couldn’t help being very happy and proud of themselves. As they dragged their tired bodies out through the parking lot, all anyone could talk about was how next year it’s going to be even better.
MNO citizens attend moccasin art exhibit in Sault Ste. Marie

Submitted by: Marsha Depotier, MNO Victim Services Coordinator

On Tuesday May 13, 2014, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) staff in Sault Ste. Marie organized a free bus service to permit MNO citizens to participate in a public tour of the Walking with Our Sisters exhibit at the Shingwauk Auditorium of Algoma University.

As reported in the last edition of the Métis Voyageur, MNO citizen and renowned artist Christi Belcourt has initiated Walking with Our Sisters, a travelling exhibition of beaded moccasin tops (or vamps), with each pair commemorating a missing or murdered Aboriginal woman.

Twenty-seven community members attended the MNO organized tour. The day began in “a good way” with Senator Brenda Powley offering the opening prayer. The group’s first stop was to the arbor and sacred fire, which was a time to give thanks and to acknowledge their Métis ancestors. The group then toured the Walking with Our Sisters exhibit and took time to reflect on the many missing and murdered Aboriginal women across Canada.

The newest installment of the exhibit includes baby moccasin tops, which represent the lost children of the residential school system. Within the exhibit, the children’s spirits were protected by the many women’s moccasins which were at the centre of the exhibit.

After the tour, a feast was provided and a spirit dish was offered to feast with the ancestors. The day ended with a sharing circle and a tea and talk time, facilitated by MNO Victim Services Coordinator Marsha Depotier, which gave the space and time needed for community members to share their stories.

The tour participants would like to thank Christi Belcourt for sharing her vision and also acknowledge the many volunteers and event organizers for their help in the Walking with our Sisters exhibit. Depotier and Senator Powley gifted the event organizers with a Métis healing blanket as a way of showing appreciation for hosting such a moving exhibit.

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Marsha Depotier, (far left) and Senator Brenda Powley (far right) present local Walking with Our Sisters exhibit organizers with a Métis healing blanket.

MNO citizens who visited the Walking with Our Sisters exhibit at Algoma University in Sault Ste. Marie.
MNO council hosts Traditional Knowledge artistic workshops

Submitted by: Cora Bunn, MNO Grand River Métis Council President

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Grand River Métis Council recently hosted two Traditional Knowledge workshops on quillwork and beaded pendants as well as birch bark basket making.

The quillwork and beaded pendant workshop taught participants how to insert porcupine quills in a feature motif into birch bark. Participants then assembled a pendant with beading trim. They were then taught how to create traditional three bead picot edges to finish the pendant.

At the birch bark basket with quillwork embellishment workshop participants were taught how to respectfully and carefully use porcupine quills. They first worked the quills into the first layer of birch bark, assembled the basket and used sweet grass as a finish along the top of the basket, lashing it on with sinew.

Both workshops were facilitated by local Aboriginal artisan Naomi Smith. Participants of the workshops included members from the MNO Grand River and Credit River Métis Councils as well as other members of the local Aboriginal community.

The workshops were great successes and enjoyed by all who participated.

MNO Senator shares Métis culture in Chapleau schools

Submitted by: Senator Micheline Boisvert

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Chapleau Métis Council recently participated for the third time in the annual Chapleau Children’s Pow Wow.

As part of the Children’s Pow Wow, MNO Senator Micheline Boisvert visited schools throughout the area to educate students on Métis culture and traditions. She discussed who the Métis are, Métis life and Métis culture.

Senator Boisvert showcased her Seven Grand Father drum and held a drumming workshop for 20 students. Some of the children played the hand drum for the first time. Senator Boisvert and students also sang along to Métis Voyageur songs.

At the end of the workshop, a Grade 4 student was chosen to carry the Métis flag for the closing ceremony. In return, the Council provided her with a Métis sash.

The evening finished with having each woman pop a balloon that held an inspiration quote inside, which was read aloud as a group.

The event was a great opportunity to have mothers come together and be acknowledged and uplifted as the life givers, life carriers and life sustainers that they are.
The MNO Credit River Métis Council holds its 2014 Annual General Meeting

O n the afternoon of Sunday, March 30, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Credit River Métis Council held its third Annual General Meeting (AGM). This is their second AGM held in their Brampton office.

Councillor David Neville acted as Chair and Senator Ray Bergie provided the opening prayer. In addition to these two Council members, Council President Richard Cuddy also introduced the other members of Council that included: Secretary/Treasurer Joyce Tolles; Women’s Representative Karen Derocker; Youth Representative Talitha Tolles; Councillors Darlene Lent, Jean-Marc Maheu, Murray Berger and Traditional Knowledge Resource Jim Tolles.

President Cuddy then read for the founding document of the MNO, the Statement of Prime Purpose saying “We, the Métis who live within the Métis Homelands of Ontario, desiring to bind our people together to collectively promote our common cultural, social, political and economic well-being, have founded the Métis Nation of Ontario to be our representative body.”

In his report, President Cuddy reported that Council members had participated in collaborations, partnerships, consultations and meetings with:
- The Peel Children’s Aid Society;
- Mississauga Halton LHIN;
- General West LHIN;
- Peel Children’s Aid Society;
- The Knights Table;
- St. Leonards Place;
- The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH);
- Peel Diversity and Inclusion;
- The Peel Commission Against women Abuse;
- Conservation Halton;
- Credit Valley Conservation;
- CPA;
- The Peel District School Board;
- Sheridan College;
- Anamark Canada;
- The Peel Art Gallery Museum and Archives;
- The City of Brampton;
- The Region of Peel;
- The Peel District School Board;
- The Peel Region Catholic School Board;
- Heritage Mississauga;
- The Ontario Trillium Foundation.

Other significant achievements the President reported on included:
- The Métis Community Garden serving local Métis families and charities;
- Recognition from the Ontario Museum Association (OMA) for outstanding contributions to the Ontario museum community;
- Participation in community events and festivals such as Carrasco, Mississauga Waterfront Festival and Credit Valley, Conservation Sweet Taste of Spring;
- Traditional knowledge snowshoe walks;
- Engaging the Peel and Halton District School Boards;
- Engaging the Region of Halton and the Region of Peel;
- The Council intends to expand its interactions with these governments and organizations.
- “Every year I have provided this report,” explained President Cuddy, “the list has grown and the Council will continue to expand the list. When Council is formed, Council will be searching for contacts within these governments and organizations. Now these organizations are contacting Council, and that is due to the hard work of your representatives. Your voice is important and you are being heard in Credit River.”

Following the reports, President Cuddy made a number of presentations to volunteers on behalf of the MNO Credit River Métis Council.

“Why do we volunteer?” asked President Cuddy, “there are almost as many different, individual reasons as there are volunteers but I personally admire the following quote,” he stated and then read the following passage by Steve Powley about the famous R. v Powley Supreme Court case: “That’s the reason I do it, for my children and their children. I didn’t see the bigger picture for all Métis at the time. I won’t lie to you, but after the second court case I started to see the bigger picture and this last one, it is just crazy how many people it is actually going to help and I’m glad to do it.”

President Cuddy then added: “Every volunteer and every time we volunteer, no matter what the size or duration of the task, you are not just moving Credit River forward, you move the Nation forward.”

The first presentation was to Mr. Bill Morrison. President Cuddy stated, “The Métis Nation of Ontario Anniversary Commemorative Coin to Mr. Bill Morrison.”

The second presentation was to Ms. Sharon McBride. President Cuddy stated, “The Council would like to recognize the assistance and contributions to a special Credit River Métis citizen. This person has attended, volunteered, collaborated or donated on every event or project. Many of our current successes can be attributed to her ongoing support in some way. Like many of the Councilors, she works full-time, has a family and is a volunteer. Her enthusiasm and passion fuels and revitalizes ours. On behalf of the Council, I am honoured to present a framed Certificate of Appreciation to the Métis Nation of Ontario Vice-chair, Sharon McBride.”

The Certificate states “In recognition of the volunteer time, donations and ongoing support of the Métis Nation of Ontario Credit River Métis Council, community and citizens. Your significant contributions benefit not only the Credit River Area but the Métis Nation of Ontario.”

The meeting was closed with a prayer by Senator Bergie and following adjournment, citizens were invited to remain for informal conversation, drinks and snacks arranged by Councillors Tolles, Lent and Neville.

The MNO Credit River Métis Council was pleased to receive valuable input from the citizens during and after the meeting. It looks forward to opportunities that offer increased interaction with the residents of Credit River and other MNO citizens.

“A citizen is part of a crew of a ship without which the ship would not be able to sail on its own. The captain and officers steer the ship in the direction that the crew wants to go. Citizens are the most important part of the Community Council and the Council exists in order to meet the needs of its citizens.”

— Richard Cuddy

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— Richard Cuddy

All of the Community Council Presidents received a coin at the AGA 2013. I then received a package of coins from MNO President Gary Lipinski, to distribute to the Councillors in appreciation of all of their hard work and dedication. Council was unanimous, based on his contributions to Council and Community, in deciding that our former Vice President and Chair, Bill Morrison, was deserving of a coin as well. On behalf of Council, I am honoured to present this Métis Nation of Ontario Anniversary Commemorative Coin to Mr. Bill Morrison.”

The MNO Credit River Métis Council was pleased to receive valuable input from the citizens during and after the meeting. It looks forward to opportunities that offer increased interaction with the residents of Credit River and other MNO citizens. A citizen is part of a crew of a ship without which the ship would not be able to sail on its own. The captain and officers steer the ship in the direction that the crew wants to go. Citizens are the most important part of the Community Council and the Council exists in order to meet the needs of its citizens. Citizens are responsible for electing their local leadership, attending meetings and providing the general direction as well as volunteering for committees and activities. Citizens support the Council and other citizens and work towards the spirit of the Métis Nation of Ontario’s Statement of Prime Purpose.”

Richard Cuddy
MNO Credit River Métis Council builds relationship with the Region of Halton

Submitted by: Richard Cuddy, President of the MNO Credit River Métis Council

In June of 2013, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Credit River Métis Council President David Neville initiated contact with the Region of Halton staff. As a resident of Halton, Councillor Neville was curious to see how he and the MNO Credit River Métis Council could work with the region to develop a relationship that could foster better understanding of the MNO citizens in the Credit River area.

In July 2013, a delegation representing the MNO Credit River Métis Council consisting of Region 8 Provisional Council of the MNO (PCMNO) Councillor Anita Tucker; Senator Ray Berge; Councillor David Neville and President Richard Cuddy had their first meeting with Region of Halton staff. The delegation met with Deputy Clerk/Supervisor of Council and Committee Services Region of Halton Ms. Kathy Kuhl and Regional Clerk Halton Region Ms. Karyn Bennett with the goal of educating Halton Region’s staff and politicians about the Métis citizens residing in their Region.

The original agenda for the meeting was to discuss certain Region of Halton protocols but under the recommendation of the delegation the focus of the meeting shifted to learning about the Métis.

The delegation had the floor for the entire meeting. Ms. Kuhl and Ms. Bennett were completely engaged as the delegation provided information about the MNO, the MNO Credit River Métis Council and MNO citizens. Not surprisingly, their engagement led to several questions, some without sufficient time to answer. Before the meeting adjourned the delegation and the Halton staff agreed to a follow-up meeting to continue discussions and work toward building a stronger relationship.

The Region of Halton staff contacted the MNO Credit River Métis Council to arrange the follow-up meeting where a delegation had 10 minutes to present to the Region of Halton Administration and Finance Committee Chair Jeff Knoll with a sash demonstrating the commitment to building a relationship.

After the meeting, the delegation spent close to an hour socializing and answering more questions with members of the Region of Halton Administration and Finance Committee, staff and members of the audience.

The MNO Credit River Métis Council feels they have taken an important step forward with the Region of Halton which over time will create a better understanding of the MNO, the MNO Credit River Métis Council and MNO citizens. Education and positive relationships are crucial to strengthening the Métis Nation.

MNO Sunset Country Métis Council Governance & Finance training

Submitted by: Glen Lipinski,
MNO Community Relations Coordinator

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) benefits immensely from the dedicated volunteers who are members of its chartered community councils. These hard-working individuals spend hundreds of hours building and strengthening their Métis communities.

The MNO has been able to develop and deliver a Governance and Finance course that helps community councils perform their important work. Recently, the MNO Sunset Country Métis Council participated in this two-day seminar from May 3-4.

The training was facilitated by MNO Community Relations Coordinator Glen Lipinski. The training explains the role of community councils as the MNOs local governments, whose structure and purpose is coordinated through each council’s charter agreement with the MNO. The course covers everything from how to run effective meetings and engage citizens in council activities to budgeting and the various financial practices, regulations and legislation that community councils follow.

A rare find

Submitted by: Denis Tremblay,
MNO North Bay Métis Council member

Metis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Denis Tremblay recently came in possession of a rare item, a trade ax dating circa 1650. The ax is clearly marked with the three fleur-de-lis stamps. It was found in the district of Huronia. It is an ax that Métis in the fur trade era would have traded and used. This style of ax is known as the “Biscay style” from France. They axes were sent to New France to trade with Aboriginal people in Canada. Pierre-Esprit Radisson advised the Hudson Bay Company to stock this style of ax for trade. In 1821 this type of ax would have cost two beaver pelts.

A similar French trade ax was found in Black Creek, on the North Shore of Lake Erie where Dollier de Casson and Gallinee spent the winter of 1669-70. The ax has the same marks on both sides as the one found by Tremblay. It was previously on display at the McCord Museum in Montreal.

This is a great addition to Tremblay’s collection that consists of Métis, First Nations and fur trade era items. His collection has been displayed at numerous events in the past including MNO Annual General Assemblies.

A MNO Credit River Métis Council President Richard Cuddy (left) presents a sash to the Region of Halton Administration and Finance Committee Chair Jeff Knoll (right).

Denis Tremblay with the rare trade ax he found in Huronia.

A MNO Sunset Country Métis Council members who attended the training. (Left to right) BACK ROW: Roger Gerhard, Wade Nelson and John George. FRONT ROW: Valerie Pelkey, Yvonne Langlois, Vaughn Murray and Eric FagerdaHL.
MNO citizen appointed to OMC Advisory Council

Submitted by: Greg Garratt, MNO Veterans’ Council Sgt-At-Arms

Teresa Beaulieu is an example of a true Métis leader

Submitted by: Christine Skura

ACHIEVEMENTS

MNO citizen appointed to OMC Advisory Council

The Premier of Ontario has appointed Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans’ Council Senator Dr. Alis Kennedy, C.D., O.M.C., a Member of the Province of Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship (OMC) Advisory Council.

Senator Kennedy’s appointment to the OMC Advisory Council reflects her ongoing commitment to the betterment of Ontario and the Métis Nation through her many years of volunteer work. A Métis veteran and MNO citizen, this rare and distinguished appointment is an honour to all Métis. Senator Kennedy is the embodiment of ‘attaining our highest potential’ and is a fine example to Métis youth who she actively mentors.

Senator Kennedy was approached to apply for the Council by the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration - Ontario Honours and Awards Secretariat in December 2011 when she received her O.M.C. designation. The Ministry wanted a recipient of the medal to be on the council and being Métis and francophone made Senator Kennedy a strong candidate.

The OMC is very proud of Senator Kennedy’s appointment.

Congratulations Leah Reid

Submit by: The Le Saux / Reid Family

Leah Reid was appointed MNO Veteran’s Council Senator in 2011. The Reid family thanks the MNO for providing Métis youth with the chance and opportunity to achieve their dreams and succeed. They encourage every Métis youth to look into the programs offered by the MNO to help in their educational journeys.

Teresa Beaulieu was nominated by Christine Skura. When submitting this article Christine wrote the following personal statements about Teresa:

I first met Tera at an Infinite Reach event with the MNO. Teresa’s passion and strong interest in forming a stronger Métis/Aboriginal community was unforgettable. She is a powerful, well-spoken and an intelligent Métis woman. Teresa embodies the qualities of a leader in every aspect. Her commitment to building a supportive and close community among the urban Aboriginal population is evident. Her initiative to plan and implement events in the city for Aboriginal peoples is an example of her dedication to building a supportive and close community. Teresa is dedicated to continuing to strengthen the Métis/Aboriginal community within the city of Toronto, and I greatly look forward to continuing to work with her over the next several years in community-based work for Métis.

Teresa Beaulieu is an example of a true Métis leader

Submitted by: Christine Skura

On April 10, 2014, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Infinite Reach Facilitator Tera Beaulieu was recognized for her leadership by the Native Women’s Resource Centre of Toronto who presented her with the Leadership Award at the Minaake Awards Ceremony.

The word Minaake means “people who are on the good path” in Ojibwe and the Minaake Awards are Toronto’s Aboriginal Women and Youth Community Achievement Awards, given out by the Native Women’s Resource Centre of Toronto. The Minaake Leadership Award recognizes a female Aboriginal community member who expresses leadership in the workplace and/or community and who brings about positive change for others.

Beaulieu is currently completing her Doctor of Philosophy in the Counselling Psychology Program at the OISE-University of Toronto and is a recipient of the Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship. The Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship is one of the most prestigious awards a doctoral student may hold in Canada and is awarded based on demonstrated leadership and academic merit. Tera's program of research examines the supports and challenges of Métis traditional knowledge in addressing the life transition needs (mental health, education and employment) of urban Métis homeless peoples.

Beaulieu has also worked at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health for the past six years. She is currently the Supervisor of Aboriginal Engagement and Outreach with the Provincal System Support Program, and previously worked as a Counsellor with the Youth Outreach Service where she was the lead clinician for a community-based partnership with an Aboriginal agency in Toronto focused on providing clinical services to Aboriginal youth. In addition to her studies and professional work, Tera is also dedicated to providing cultural events in Toronto and has acted as the facilitator for the MNO Infinite Reach: Métis Student Solidarity Network at University of Toronto for the past three years.

Beaulieu previously held the position of Women’s Representative with the MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council and was elected President on June 8, 2014.

Tera Beaulieu is currently completing her Doctor of Philosophy in the Counselling Psychology Program at the OISE-University of Toronto and is a recipient of the Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship. The Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship is one of the most prestigious awards a doctoral student may hold in Canada and is awarded based on demonstrated leadership and academic merit. Tera's program of research examines the supports and challenges of Métis traditional knowledge in addressing the life transition needs (mental health, education and employment) of urban Métis homeless peoples.

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“Wise beyond his years”

MNO citizen Mitch Case honoured with the Ontario Medal for Young Volunteers Award

Although Mitchell may be young, he is wise beyond his years and it is not uncommon for others to come to him for guidance or support. He is an asset to the Infinite Reach Network, the Métis community and all of the other many areas he applies himself to.”

Case was also recently appointed to the Premier’s Council for Youth Opportunities where he serves as an advisor to the Ontario Government on youth-related issues.

“I want to dedicate this award to our ancestors who lead the way for our people and to the youth of the Métis Nation who are my inspiration for doing this work. I look ahead to the young people I work with and the small children who are coming forward and I know our future is bright. This award goes out to all of you,” wrote Case.

Remarks by Mitch Case on the occasion of receiving the Ontario Medal for Young Volunteers

Wendakecho:  wee nindiniiwoyaganeedik.  
Your Honour, Mrs. Onley, members of the Advisory Council, family members, friends, Ministry staff, fellow recipients.  
I have been asked to share a few words on this very special occasion.  

I am so very honoured to have been chosen as a recipient of this award.  I can speak on my behalf and on behalf of the other recipients and say that we do not do the work we do because we seek recognition, but because we care about each of the causes we are involved with.  

We do this work because we have been inspired to help make a difference in whatever way we can.  

While we do not do this work to be recognized, it is so encouraging to be recognized by the Province for the work we each do in our communities.  
This award will not only serve as an encouragement to us as individual recipients, but it will serve as an encouragement to the other youth we work with.  

It will serve as a reminder that the work we do matters and that the province values our time and our commitment.

I want to thank all those involved in the process of this recognition we are receiving today.  Thank you to the ministry staff for their hard work in bringing everything together.  

Most specifically I want to thank our friends and families who are here and at home who support us in the work we do.

(Continued on page 22)
Another new venture for a true Métis entrepreneur

Submitted by: Margaret Fleury

Leon Fleury is a Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen and a true Métis entrepreneur. He loves a new challenge as can be seen by his diverse careers as an industrial painting contractor, a steeplejack painter, a thoroughbred racehorse breeder, an owner and manager of two restaurants and a flea market, and a farmer raising horses, cattle, rabbits and goats. Fleury has also owned and operated a used car business for over 45 years and built two homes for himself and his wife, Margaret.

Fleury’s latest venture is Aboriginal drum-making, crafts and herbal healing. His love for Aboriginal arts started with the discovery of his Métis ancestry in 2002. Since then, he has applied his entrepreneurial skills to this area of his life just as he has done in all other areas. When Fleury was given a medicine bag, it unlocked his curiosity for Aboriginal art and he began making his own medicine bags. He also studied drums at a local Pow Wow and decided to try his hand at drum-making and other crafts. With no training or guidance, he gradually developed his own crafting techniques. Fleury makes all sizes of hand drums and Pow Wow drums out of moose, buffalo, deer, elk, cow and goat hides. He sells them ready-made but prefers customers to visit his shop. He also studied drumming techniques and developed a broad understanding of wild plants and their uses in traditional Aboriginal healing.

Fleury also loves to share his Métis knowledge with others and sits on the MNO Clear Waters Métis Council as the Traditional Knowledge Keeper. Through extensive reading, he has developed a broad understanding of wild plants and their uses in traditional Aboriginal healing. Over the years, Leon has mastered his many skills through observation and experimentation. He is a risk-taker. A true entrepreneur! >>>

Waterloo’s “warrior athlete”

MNO CITIZEN WINS GOLD AND BREAKS RECORDS

Submitted by: Robin Pilon

Competing in her final Ontario University Athletics Championship, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Chantel Pilon went out in style, winning the gold medal in the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) women’s pentathlon event at Toronto’s York University in February, 2014. The OUA gold was Waterloo’s first in track and field since 2003.

Pilon also represented the University of Waterloo Warrior Track and Field Team in 2012, a position she held for three consecutive years. She is a three-time University of Waterloo Warrior Most Valuable Player (MVP) Track and Field recipient, a two-time University of Waterloo President’s Athlete Academic Honour Roll Recipient, a two-time Academic All-Canadian and an OUA First Team All-Star. Pilon graduates from the University of Waterloo this spring with an Honours Co-op Degree in Recreation and Business. She will start her master’s degree at the University of Waterloo in September 2014 where she will compete and help coach the Warrior’s track and field team. <<<
MNO citizen recognized for volunteer work

Submitted by: Cora Bunn, President of the MNO Grand River Métis Council

At a powwow held at Conestoga College on February 22, Bridget Brown, the Women’s Representative on the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Grand River Métis Council was recognized for her volunteer work with the college’s Aboriginal Services office. Bridget is a student at the college, enrolled in the Community and Criminal Justice program.

The Aboriginal Services office has experienced an increase in students using their services, and Bridget has been involved in preparing a proposal to the college for a larger office space. Bridget was also a recipient of an Aboriginal and Post-Secondary Education and Training bursary, which was presented to her by Myeengun Henry, the Aboriginal Services Office Manager.

“Enrolment of Aboriginal students has been increasing at the college, and is expected to continue to increase in the future,” explained Bridget. “Conestoga College offers degree programs as well as diploma programs and has campuses in Brantford, Doon and Waterloo, and we need to get ready for this next generation of Aboriginal youth, which includes those of Métis, Inuit and First Nations ancestry.”

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Every year, the citizens of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) hold their Annual General Assembly (AGA) where we gather together with our friends, family and colleagues to conduct the business of the Nation, showcase our rich culture, pass on our traditions to younger generations and celebrate our stories.

The 2014 MNO AGA will be hosted by the Region Two MNO Chartered Community Councils in Thunder Bay. The President and PCMNO’s welcome to the AGA will be held the evening of Friday, August 22 with the arrival of the voyageur canoes. The formal AGA will begin on Saturday, August 23, continue all day Sunday before wrapping up around noon on Monday, August 25. Exciting activities taking place on the Sunday afternoon will be the Métis Voyageur Games, Métis crafts and traditional knowledge workshops, MNO program activities and a concert from Champion Elvis impersonator Daylin James. Also during the AGA, the Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award will be presented. Nomination forms for the award are posted on the MNO website and there is more information on page 2 of this Voyageur.

“We are very excited to bring the AGA back to Thunder Bay,” stated Region Two Provisional Council of the MNO (PCMNO) Councillor Cam Burgess. “We have had many great AGAs here in the past and we are confident we will be continuing that tradition this year!”

“We are very pleased that the three Region Two MNO chartered community councils are coming together to host this year’s AGA,” MNO President Gary Lipinski stated. “The Greenshore, Superior North Shore and Thunder Bay Métis Councils will each bring something special to their role as host and this kind of regional cooperation is great to see.”

Thunder Bay is an excellent location for an AGA as it has been important to Métis for centuries; going back to its earliest history when it played a pivotal role in the fur trade to more recent times such as in 2004, when the MNO and the Ontario government signed the Interim Harvesting Agreement at the AGA that year. Today, Métis are important players in culture and economy of Thunder Bay through Memorandums of Understanding between the MNO and resource companies such as Osisko, Detour Gold and Union Gas as well as with similar agreements with educational institutions such as Lakehead University and the Northern Ontario School of Medicine. It is through agreements like these that the MNO contributes to building a stronger future for Métis people in Ontario.

The business sessions of the AGA will take place at the Valhalla Inn in Thunder Bay with the canoe landing and Métis Games and Culture events taking place at nearby Chippewa Park.

During their stay in Thunder Bay, MNO citizens can explore spectacular natural wonders like Eagle Canyon and Kakabeka Falls, sail on the waters of Lake Superior, and golf at the luxurious Whitewater Golf Club. They may also unwind from outdoor pursuits by visiting art galleries and museums or taking in musical and stage shows. And don’t forget to travel back in time at Fort William Historical Park - the world’s largest reconstructed fur trade post!* More information about the MNO AGA will be posted soon on the MNO website at www.metisnation.org.

AGA 2014

THE 21st MNO ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY • AUGUST 23-25, 2014 • THUNDER BAY, ONTARIO

AGA venues
1. Valhalla Inn
2. Chippewa Park Campground

Local attractions
A. Fort William Historical Park
B. Whitewater Golf Club
C. Eagle Canyon
D. Kakabeka Falls

AGA 2014

AGENDA

Thursday and Friday:
Workshops / training for invited delegates/staff.
FRIDAY, AUGUST 22

1 - 4 pm AGA Registration
Location: Valhalla Inn
7 - 10 pm Welcome to the AGA
Location: Chippewa Park Campground
Bring your music and jigging shoes and join in the excitement with President Lipinski and the PCMNO!

MNO AGA DAY 1
SATURDAY, AUGUST 23
8 am - 5 pm MNO AGA Business Meeting
Valhalla Inn
The MNO AGA Trade Show
Saturday, August 23 to Monday, August 25
Visit our vendors as well as cultural and heritage displays
Valhalla Inn
7 - 11 pm MNO AGA Dinner Event
Details to be announced

MNO AGA DAY 2
SUNDAY, AUGUST 24
9 am - Noon MNO AGA Business Meeting
Valhalla Inn
1 - 4 pm Métis Games, Culture and Community Event
- Métis Voyageur Games
- Métis crafts and traditional knowledge workshops
- MNO program activities
- Concert with Champion Elvis impersonator Daylin James
Chippewa Park Campground

MNO AGA DAY 3
MONDAY, AUGUST 25
9 am - Noon MNO AGA Business Meeting
Valhalla Inn
Noon - 1 pm MNO Development Corporation Annual General Assembly
MNO Cultural Cominion Annual General Assembly
Valhalla Inn