Louis Riel Day

An extraordinary Louis Riel Day is celebrated across the Homeland, including the first ever Métis Flag raising on Parliament Hill.

See more on pages A3-A9
MNO Veterans’ Council Vimy Ridge Project update

submitted by Joseph Paquette
MNO Veterans’ Council President

During the First World War, the Battle of Vimy Ridge became a major event that got Canada recognized as a country that can hold its own. This recognition came at a great cost to the Canadian people. Métis soldiers were among those gave their lives in this battle.

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans’ Council has redirected its plans for the 2017 Vimy Ridge Project. Métis veterans and youth will attend a Vimy Ridge remembrance service taking place in Ottawa to mark the 100th anniversary of this important historical event.

The event in Ottawa is estimated to last about 4 or 5 days, taking in much of Vimy Ridge and First World War history, including many events. Originally, the plan involved travelling to the commemorative ceremony taking place in Vimy, France. The current political circumstance in France and Belgium have deterred many people from applying for the previously planned event on Vimy Ridge in France, which has prevented the MNO Veterans’ Council from being able to have the minimum required number of attendees for the tour guide organizer, as stipulated by their contract.

Nevertheless, the MNO Veterans’ Council is determined to present an opportunity for Métis youth to learn what was fought for with their ancestors’ blood and will instead plan to attend the event in Ottawa.

All past and future donations and fundraising will now be dedicated to meet this goal. The MNO Veterans’ Council’s GoFundMe page has been updated and continues to accept donations.

If you would like to attend and participate in this memorable event, please email the MNO Veterans’ Council at mnovc@rogers.com to get your pre-registration form.

Support the MNO Veterans’ Council 2017 Vimy Ridge project! To donate, visit their GoFundMe page at gofundme.com/au3q23x8.

Correction notice

An error appeared in Métis Voyageur issue no. 92 that was published in October 2016. The picture of Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Senators that appeared on page 8 did not include Senator Marlene Greenwood. The picture that should have appeared is below, and includes Senator Greenwood. We apologize for the error.


MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH: Communications Branch 500 Old St. Patrick Street, Unit D Ottawa ON K1N 9G4 MikeF@Métisnation.org

Submission Policy: The MNO encourages contributions from MNO citizens and staff. All submissions are edited to conform to the Canadian Press Style Guide as well as for grammar, repetitiveness, spelling and to accurately reflect the official names and titles of individuals, organization, 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.

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In Ontario, Louis Riel Day has also become a time when Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizens not only remember Riel’s legacy and renew the commitment to complete his work, but also celebrate the many contributions of the Métis to Canada and to highlight the challenges that Métis continue to face.

This year, Louis Riel Day was made extraordinary by an unprecedented level of enthusiasm for all things Métis in Ontario and by the historic first-ever raising of the Métis Flag on Parliament Hill in Ottawa.

An unprecedented statement

The first-ever Métis flag raising on Parliament Hill took place at a ceremony that started at 8:00 a.m. on November 16.

Louis Riel was elected to Parliament to represent Manitoba ridings in three different elections. He was never able to take his seat in the House of Commons because the province of Ontario placed a $5000 bounty on his head due to his actions as leader of the Provisional Métis Government that had negotiated Manitoba’s entry into Confederation.

Although Riel was never been able to take his seat, he did at one point sneak into the Parliament Building and sign the Parliamentary register. This remarkable history made the raising of the Métis Flag on Louis Riel Day not only a piece of delicious irony but also an unprecedented statement by the Canadian government that demonstrates that the way Canada will work with the Métis has changed dramatically since 1885.

MNO President Margaret Froh was one of the Métis leaders invited to speak at the flag raising and in her remarks she spoke about how Louis Riel believed this change would eventually take place: “I know that one of the things that Louis Riel did,” she explained, “he foretold a day when Canadians would recognize and acknowledge the work that he had done and that the Métis had done in founding this country, in founding this place, these lands [Parliament] that we’re on today […] I believe that that day continued on page 4
I stand before you as a Métis – I am proud of the fact that I am Métis.”

Honourable Dave Levac
Speaker of the Ontario Legislature

Northwest Rebellion Monument on the other side of the Legislative Grounds. The procession was accompanied by Métis fiddler Alicia Blore. Alicia has been performing this role for several years now and this did not escape the attention of President Froh who when recognizing Alicia later in the program stated: “I find it so wonderful and so encouraging that our youth have taken up the fiddle and other aspects of our culture.”

MNO leaders and special guests made remarks prior to the laying of wreaths by members of the MNO Veterans’ Council. Following the end of the ceremony, the assembly went to the Sheraton Centre Hotel where they enjoyed a lovely feast.

Ceremonies at the Northwest Rebellion Monument were opened with a prayer from Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Senator Verna Porter-Bruneau. In her prayer, she called upon Métis to “stand together as a united people.”
Emceed by MNO Chair France Picotte, this year’s speeches were all barn burners starting with the Honourable Dave Levac, Speaker of the Ontario Legislature. The crowd applauded as the Speaker stood with great conviction: “I stand before you as a Métis – I am proud of the fact that I am Métis.” He added that more and more people are coming forward to proudly say they are Métis and in conclusion he urged all Métis to “Stand tall – stand tall.” Speaker Levac and President Froh have committed to establishing a joint committee to help drive the effort to establish a new monument to Louis Riel and the Métis on the grounds of the Legislature.

The provincial government was represented at the Toronto ceremony by the Honourable David Zimmer, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation. Minister Zimmer stated: “Today, Louis Riel is recognized as a statesman, having played a pivotal role in the formation of Canada [...]. We will continue working with Métis partners to uphold Riel’s legacy and create new opportunities for Métis people as we continue on the journey of reconciliation together.”

The presence of Minister Zimmer, Speaker Levac and several other Cabinet Ministers and MPPs at the Queen’s Park Louis Riel Day event demonstrates the positive relationship the MNO has built with Ontario through the MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement, which was renewed in 2014.

Other guest speakers along with Minister Zimmer and Speaker Levac were Norm Miller, the Progressive Conservative Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Critic, and France Gélinas, the New Democratic Party Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Critic. Also in attendance were the Honourable Kathryn McGarry, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry; the Honourable Michael Coteau, Minister of Children and Youth Services, and Minister Responsible for Anti-Racism; Sophie Kiwala, MPP for Kings–ton and the Islands; Arthur Potts, MPP for Beaches–East York; Yvan Baker, MPP for Etobicoke Centre; Percy Hatfield, MPP for Windsor–Tecumseh; Soo Wong, MPP for Scarborough–Agincourt; and, John Fraser, MPP for Ottawa South.

As in the past, one of the highlights of the ceremony was the address from the Métis Youth Representative, which this year was the PCMNO Youth Representative and President of the MNO Youth Council, Mitch Case. Case explained that the story of Louis Riel is the story of youth leadership. He pointed out that Riel was only 25 when he led the provisional government in the Red River and he compared Riel to today’s Métis youth. He pointed out that like Riel, modern Métis youth find themselves leaving their communities to go out and get an education – but also coming back to their communities as Riel did. He also spoke about how in the past many Métis lost their heritage and did not know who they were until later in life. Case rejoiced however, that going forward: “Those who come after us will never not know who they are.” In conclusion, much to the delight of the audience, he commented on the fact that Métis youth are present right at the Legislature stating: “The young people of the Métis Nation are here and we are coming for you!”

One of the few individuals who has participated in the provincial Louis Riel Day ceremony from the beginning, is Métis rights lawyer and Riel family member, Jean Teillet. This year, Teillet gave another inspiring speech. She drew parallels between the recent election of Donald Trump as American President and the struggles Louis Riel
Louis Riel Day

continued from page 5

They provided their 19th century version of French or Catholic and racial hatred that had prior attitude, contempt for anyone who was there for one reason – to make their personal were not a pretty example. These men were a term of endearment. They were the exam-

Métis didn’t call these men “the Canadas” as which came from Upper Canada (Ontario) to enter Confederation, Canada unleashed the

war are loose there is no justice to be found. It was the dogs of war that caused the Métis to flee Red River after 1870. Many flew to the North Saskatchewan and tried to start anew. But the dogs followed relentlessly. We all know what happened at Batoche and afterwards. It was the dogs that hounded for Riel’s hanging.

Fifteen years; from 1870-1885. For fifteen years the dogs of war preyed on the Métis. Their ultimate act was the hanging of Riel on this day in 1885.

And we have just now witnessed a sim-
thlar campaign of racism and hatred. Will the dogs of war slip into Canada? Are they already here? Can Donald Trump succeed in calling back in the dogs he has unleashed? It won’t be easy, even if he actually tries. The dogs of war are not easily re-captured. The question we may be in for a wave of violence.

We hope it has peaked and will diminish. But it might just be enough to be the precursor of larger waves to come.

So what do we do now? Pray for a mirac-

le? Duck and cover? That’s what the Métis did in the immediate aftermath of 1885. Le grand silence was the price of our defeat in la guerre nationale in 1885. But in 1909 my great-grandfather Joseph Riel, André Nash and other Métis in Red River began a campaign to break that silence. They did it by refusing to succumb. They spoke out. They wrote letters to editors. They wrote books. They stood up and spoke. Not angrily or bitterly. They simply stated the truth that the Métis know. They refused to bow their heads to the dogs of war. It is because the Métis fought the dogs of war that we have been able to accomplish everything we have. And we have accomplished much.

So on this day, 131 years after Riel was hanged, it’s a good time to remember that we can look to our own history for guid-

ance. We have faced the dogs of war before and we have survived them. We can do it again. But it means we must not be silent. We must speak out. We must write. We must take a stand for what we think is right. And we must continue to take that stand. I have a dream that long after I am gone, in the next centur-

y, the Métis will still be here. That will only happen if we keep this thing that Riel fought and died for alive.

We have much pride within our nation. What have we each done and that the Métis had done in founding this country [...] I believe that that day has come. We are there now. I’m so excited to see so much pride within our nation.”

-MNO President Margaret Froh

As she has since the beginning of the provincial Louis Riel Day ceremony at Queen’s Park, on November 16, 2016, Métis lawyer and great-niece of Louis Riel Jean Teillet delivered a speech and shared her thoughts about the significance of Louis Riel Day. This year’s speech was especially poignant and powerful and the Métis Voyager is proud to provide her full prepared remarks.

“Let Slip the Dogs of War”

We have all watched what has hap-
pended in the United States over the past few months. Many of us have watched with horror as Donald Trump has “let slip the dogs of war”. The dogs of war are not the soldiers with marching orders and military targets. The dogs of war are not the soldiers with marching orders and military targets. The dogs of war are rape, racism, pillage, hatred, envy, vio-

lence and revenge.

We have seen it before; in our own Métis history. Starting in the mid-1860s “the Canadas” set out a derogatory tone everyone in Ontar-
io bought into. Thus they set the stage for the attitude that Sir John A. Macdonald and George-Étienne Cartier brought to the resis-
tance of 1869-70. They thought they knew everything there was to know. They dis-

missed the people of Red River because they adopted the racist superior attitudes of “the Canadians”.

Following what was a successful nego-
tiation of terms on which Manitoba would enter Confederation, Canada unleashed the
doctors of war on Red River. Canada sent an army padded with “volunteers” from Ontario who had one goal – revenge for the killing of Thomas Scott. In fact Scott was only one of three men who died in the resistance of 1869-70, but he was the only one the Can-

adianers came to care about. And they had not cared, not so much, at first. They had to be goaded into it. The Canadas made it their mission to turn Scott into a symbol of insult and the focus of their revenge. They ran a campaign based on hatred. They campaigned on racism, on divide and conquer from all that was French, Catholic, Indian and Métis. The English Protestants volunteers and the militiamen unleashed the dogs – rape, pil-
lage, theft and murder – on the Métis. All of which went unpunished. When the dogs of war are loose there is no justice to be found.

[...]

I believe that that day has come. We are there now. I’m so excited to see so much pride within our nation.”

- MNO President Margaret Froh
Understanding Daniels and Louis Riel Day panel at the Law Society of Upper Canada • Daniels/Isaac Symposium

This year there has been a number of important developments concerning Métis rights and self-government. Two of the most important were the Supreme Court decision in Daniels v Canada in April and the release of A Matter of National Constitutional Import: Report of the Minister’s Special Representative on Reconciliation with Métis: Section 35 Métis Rights and the Manitoba Métis Federation Decision by Thomas Isaac in June.

In order to insure that the Métis Nation of Ontario’s (MNO) community leaders are well-aware of the many implications of the Daniels decision and the Isaac Report, the MNO held the Daniels/Isaac Symposium on November 17, 2016, in Toronto. All MNO chartered Community Council Presidents were invited to the Symposium along with two other members of each council, as well as the members of the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO), the MNO Veterans’ Council, the MNO Youth Council and the Women’s Secretariat of the Métis Nation of Ontario (WSMNO). As funding was limited, participation was limited to these groups, however the entire proceedings were recorded and are available for viewing. For more information, please contact Mike Fedyk at mike@mtnation.org.

The Symposium was ably facilitated by MNO Chair France Picone with PCMNO Senator Rene Gravelle providing both opening and closing prayers and MNO President Margaret Froh providing opening and closing remarks.

There were three main presenters. Renowned Métis lawyer and Senior Counsel at Pape Salter Teillet LLP, Jean Teillet opened the Symposium. Teillet, who is currently writing a book about Métis political history and the exclusion of Métis in Canada. The second speaker was the author of the Isaac Report, Thomas Isaac, who is also a partner at Pape Salter Teillet LLP and nationally recognized as one of the leading Indigenous rights lawyers in Canada. Maddten focused on the Daniels case and its implications as well as reconciliation road ahead and what opportunities that will present for the Métis Nation.

The Symposium was closed by well-known Métis lawyer Jason Madden, who is also a partner at Pape Salter Teillet LLP and nationally recognized as one of the leading Indigenous rights lawyers in Canada. Madden focused on the Daniels case and its implications as well as reconciliation road ahead and what opportunities that will present for the Métis Nation.

The Symposium was co-sponsored by the MNO and Law Society of Upper Canada. Held every year, this year’s event featured a panel discussion called Relationships, Reconciliation and Redress: The Road Ahead for the Métis.

The panel was moderated by Jean Teillet with MNO President Froh, Director of Métis and Non-Status Indian Relations with Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada; and, Jason Madden, Partner at Pape Salter Teillet LLP.

"The panel focused on the Daniels case and provided valuable insights into the likely future direction of relations between Canada and the Métis Nation."

The Symposium was closed by well-known Métis lawyer Jason Madden, who is also a partner at Pape Salter Teillet LLP and nationally recognized as one of the leading Indigenous rights lawyers in Canada. Madden focused on the Daniels case and its implications as well as reconciliation road ahead and what opportunities that will present for the Métis Nation.

Following the Symposium, most participants then attended a public Louis Riel Day event co-sponsored by the MNO and Law Society of Upper Canada. Held every year, this year’s event featured a panel discussion called Relationships, Reconciliation and Redress: The Road Ahead for the Métis.

The panel was moderated by Jean Teillet with MNO President Froh, Director of Métis and Non-Status Indian Relations with Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada; and, Jason Madden, Partner at Pape Salter Teillet LLP.

Following the panel discussion, participants enjoyed traditional Métis fiddling and jigging from Métis youth Alicia and Liam Blote, Joanna Burt and Kyle Burton.
November 16th

Louis Riel Day events across the province

To commemorate Louis Riel Day, MNO citizens and communities held events across the province to recognize the many contributions of the Métis to Canada, to celebrate Métis culture and to highlight Métis achievements.
On the morning of November 16, 2016, MNO representatives including PCMNO members, several MNO Community Council Presidents, and Métis youth joined the MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council and Toronto City Councillor Mike Layton for a Métis flag raising ceremony at Toronto City Hall. (Source: Toronto City Hall)

The MNO Credit River Métis Council held a Louis Riel Day celebration and invited representatives from the Peel District School Board. (Source: Twitter @MrsWilsoninPeel)

Although the wind did not cooperate, Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School proudly flew the Métis flag in honour of Louis Riel Day. (Source: Twitter @HolyCrossPTBO)

The Simcoe County District School Board had a wealth of Louis Riel resources available to promote learning about Métis people. (Source: Twitter - @FNMI_SCDSB)

The Durham District School Board was happy to welcome members of the MNO community for a special Métis flag raising ceremony as part of Louis Riel Day. (Source: Twitter - @TLRichardReid)
Métis Family Wellbeing program launched throughout province

Métis Nation of Ontario program to run across all Ontario Métis communities

by MNO Staff

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is pleased to announce the establishment of a new Métis Family Wellbeing Program. The Métis Family Wellbeing Program is a new program aimed at supporting Healthy and Whole Métis Families. The Program is delivered by the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) with support from Ontario’s Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS). The program is an investment under Walking Together: Ontario’s Long-Term Strategy to End Violence Against Indigenous Women and the Ontario Indigenous Children and Youth Strategy. The program is intended to: support families to heal from the effects of intergenerational trauma; reduce violence; and address the over-representation of Métis children and youth in child welfare and youth justice systems. The program will also support children, youth and their families with increased access to appropriate services.

The program is being delivered in all of the 29 MNO Community Council areas, which will expand the scope and reach of MNO programming to citizens across the province, including in underserved areas. Recruitment for program coordinators began in October and ultimately 29 full-time Coordinators and 29 part-time Cultural Coordinators and two Supervisors will be delivering services to Métis children, youth, families and communities. The Métis Family Wellbeing Program aims to prevent and disrupt the cycle of violence against Métis women and to create resources to support children and youth affected by violence. Strength-based interventions are intended to reduce the need for children being taken into care by supporting families through the least disruptive means possible. The program recognizes the inter-connection between reducing violence in families and communities and improving child and youth outcomes over a lifetime.

The provincial Family Wellbeing program is guided by the principle that improving outcomes and opportunities for Métis, First Nations and Inuit children and youth requires fundamental systems change that enables Indigenous communities to take the lead in the design and delivery of effective, preventative and culture-based programs and services. This is an exciting opportunity to engage with Métis youth in the programming itself as well as all members of the extended Métis Nation of Ontario family.

Call for interest in MNO Two-Spirited/LGBTQ working group

At the 2016 Annual General Assembly (AGA) in North Bay, a resolution was passed to establish a provincial Two-Spirited/Lesbian, Gay, Transgender, Bisexual, and Queer (LGBTQ) working group. The working group would be comprised of Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizens, with the support of the MNO public service, to assist in developing: Two-Spirited and LGBTQ cultural and wellness programming; the identification and advocacy of Two-Spirited and LGBTQ rights; and, consider the establishment of an MNO provincial representative body.

If you are interested in being consulted or participating in this working group, please contact Todd Ross at toddr@metisnation.org or the MNO Toronto office at 416-977-9881.
The road to reconciliation
Canada and Manitoba Metis Federation sign historic Framework Agreement

Adapted from a news release that appeared at news.gc.ca

On November 15, 2016, the Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs, and David Chartrand, President of the Manitoba Metis Federation, signed a historic Framework Agreement that marks an important step to advancing reconciliation and charting a path together toward a shared prosperous future.

“We are pleased our new federal government and the Prime Minister are keeping the promises made to settle this claim”

– David Chartrand, President, Manitoba Metis Federation

We are pleased our new federal government and the Prime Minister are keeping the promises made to settle this claim and we are firmly committed to working in partnership to reach a balanced solution that advances reconciliation for everyone’s benefit.”

While the Framework Agreement is a key milestone, much work remains to be done. Canada and the Manitoba Metis Federation will work together in partnership to develop solutions that respect the rights of all concerned and promote a lasting and meaningful reconciliation for the benefit of the Manitoba Metis community and all Canadians.

“This is a very exciting moment for Manitoba’s Metis – Canada’s negotiating partner in Confederation and the founders of Manitoba Metis.” said President Chartrand.

“After many long years of struggle, our partner has returned to the negotiating table to settle the long outstanding claim of Manitoba’s Metis in a spirit of renewal and reconciliation.”

MNO takes part in Great Lakes Public Forum

by MNO Staff

From October 4 to 6, 2016, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) took part in the Great Lakes Public Forum 2016: Celebrating Our Great Lakes (the Forum) in Toronto.

MNO Chair France Picotte and MNO Associate Director of Education and Way of Life Brian Tucker both spoke during the Forum. Alicia Blore, MNO Education Officer, and Joanna Burt, former MNO Summer Youth Cultural Program Lead, also attended the Forum and provided participants with information on Métis history and culture and MNO programs and services. Blore and Burt, along with MNO citizen Liam Blore, also entertained delegates with Métis fiddle music.

MNO Chair France Picotte was invited to appear on The Agenda with Steve Paikin to discuss Indigenous Peoples and the Great Lakes. The Agenda examined why Indigenous leaders and communities need to be involved in discussions about the Great Lakes. The program aired on TVO Thursday, October 6. The program can be accessed online at TVO’s website (www.tvo.org).

Of particular importance to the MNO, the Forum provided an opportunity for the MNO to be a part of the dialogue on Great Lakes priorities and those important to Indigenous peoples.

The Métis Nation is intimately and inextricably connected to the waterways of the St. Lawrence and Great Lakes basin. Métis communities depend on the lands, waters and resources of their traditional territories for their well-being—both physical and cultural. To this day, the regional rights-bearing Métis communities in Ontario’s Great Lakes basin continue to exercise their Indigenous rights to harvest.

MNO communities throughout Ontario are concerned about the potential environmental damage caused by industries, such as mining and forestry, and their negative effects on the environment including of course the Great Lakes. The Métis Nation is also concerned about the impact of climate change on the Great Lakes including, for example, the increased water temperatures, increased rainfall and resulting increased surface runoff of chemicals into the Great Lakes.

The MNO is working closely with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change and the federal government, particularly Environment and Climate Change Canada, on climate change initiatives in order to enlighten MNO citizens and communities about the impacts of climate change on the unique Métis way of life.

The MNO is also working closely with the Ontario and federal governments to implement the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. As a result of our engagement with the Crown in 2011, the Metis are now represented on the Great Lakes Water Quality Board and the Great Lakes Executive Committee.

MMF President David Chartrand (front – left) signs the historic Framework Agreement with the Federal Government while the Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs (front-centre); and Clément Chartier, Métis National Council President (Front right) and other MMF and Federal Government officials witness.

Alicia Blore (left), MNO Education Officer, and Joanna Burt (right), former MNO Summer Youth Cultural Program Lead, at the Forum.

MNO Chair France Picotte speaks at the Great Lakes Public Forum on October 5, 2016.
MNO Senator speaks at Trade event

submitted by
Joanne Meyer, MNO Director of Intergovernmental Relations
with files from news.gc.ca

On September 9, 2016, Bill Morrison, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Credit River Métis Council (CRMC) Senator, attended the Progressive Trade conference in Toronto. The conference was aimed at growing federal-Indigenous relations on international trade and investment initiatives.

The conference allowed the opportunity for federal ministers, including the Honourable Chrystia Freeland, P.C., M.P., Minister of International Trade, and the Honourable Carolyn Bennett, M.D., P.C., M.P., Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs, to meet with national Indigenous organizations, modern treaty signatories and Indigenous business and academic communities to discuss trade topics. MNO Senator Morrison was one of many participants invited to share their views on trade agreements such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement.

“Today’s discussions with Indigenous leaders highlight our government’s commitment to a whole-of-government approach to building a nation-to-nation relationship with Indigenous peoples in Canada,” said Minister Bennett. “We took a step forward by finding ways that Indigenous people can play a role in shaping Canada’s international trade.”

Sisters in Spirit Vigil Day

This message was issued on October 4, 2016, by MNO President Margaret Froh.

Sisters in Spirit Vigil Day is held every October 4 to honour the lives of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls and support families who have been tragically touched by the loss of a loved one to violence. The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) supports this movement and held Sisters in Spirit Vigils in Métis communities across Ontario.

This year was of special significance as the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls was launched in September. The MNO is committed to ensure that Métis families and voices are present at all stages of the Inquiry and is seeking supports from governments to that end.

If you know of a Métis family who has been impacted by violence, please consider reaching out to them to let them know that they are loved and valued. You can also share with them that the MNO delivers programs and services that provide peer supports to individuals and families impacted by violence. These services can be accessed through our offices.

Our Métis Nation is strong, vibrant and resilient and I am pleased to see our communities coming together to honour the lives we have lost and to provide our sincere support to the families left behind.

M. Margaret Froh
President, Métis Nation of Ontario

Women’s Secretariat of Métis Nation of Ontario gather in Toronto

by MNO Staff

From October 22-23, 2016, the Women’s Secretariat of the Métis Nation of Ontario (WSMNO) gathered in Toronto for a meeting. The main objectives of the meeting were to discuss the governance structure and strategic plan of the WSMNO.

The meeting was facilitated by Joan Riggs—a founding partner of Catalyst Research and Communications. For 27 years, she has worked with the non-profit sector and all levels of government, to support their work in policy development, strategic planning, organizational development and in building partnerships and collaborations. She also has extensive experience working with Aboriginal organizations.

The opening and closing prayer was provided by Elder Pearl Gabona, WSMNO Representative and a Commissioner on the WSMNO Commission on Métis Rights and Self-Government.

On day two, key opportunities were discussed, such as the National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, as well as strategic directions for the first of their two-year strategic plan. The governance structure of Women’s Secretariat was also examined in thorough detail.

The first day of the meeting was spent discussing where the WSMNO fits into the structure and prime purpose of the MNO. WSMNO members explored their history, contextualized their work and brainstormed a vision for moving forward.

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Senator Bob sends his thanks

Former Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Senator Bob McKay was an active MNO Senator for a number of years. For those who did not get to meet him personally, Bob has a real presence and a quiet, dignified, and courteous demeanor. If MNO has a great sense of humor, he usually introduced himself as Brad Pitt.

Bob was always willing to give a leg-up to anyone who needed or asked for help. There were many examples of him doing so. One example that I know of first hand, is that when I got elected to PCMNO, he gave me copies of his prayers because he knew I would need them.

He served both the MNO and the MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council very well. He was presented the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal by former MNO President Gary Lipinski. Below is a letter from Bob to all members of the MNO community:

Hello Senators,

This is to send thanks for all the friendship, laughter, good times and discussions we have had over the last twenty years. We are grateful for all the friends we have made and especially thank you for your prayers and cards since my illness prevented me from joining you last year. I particularly enjoyed the Get Well Card that everyone signed at the last Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Annual General Assembly (AGA). It brought back so many good memories. We were always treated as family and welcomed with open arms and we miss that so much. Special thanks to Reta Gordon for all her guidance and wisdom over the years. To the MNO staff for all their help and hard work. Thank you to Senator Rene Gravelle for taking the time for a personal visit and the many others who telephoned to wish me well. I was also honoured by a visit from Mitch Case, Margaret Froh, Gary Lipinski, Tim Pile, Cam Burgess and Ken Sonard.

Janine Landry has also stopped by several times for a quick visit and to see how I am doing.

I would like at this time to tell you that I have been struck down (literally) by ALS or Lou Gehrig’s Disease and so I would urge you to consider supporting research into this disease. I am fortunate that I do not suffer any pain, but most of my energy is used just to breathe. I am able to walk with a walker, but unable to leave the house and I cannot play my guitar anymore. But life is good and Gloria is doing a good job of looking after me and my needs.

In closing, with tears in my eyes, I ask the Creator to bless you all with happiness, health and prosperity.

— Former MNO Senator Bob McKay

MNO representatives take part in CAMA conference

Former MNO Senator Bob McKay (right) is awarded the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award at the 2014 MNO Annual General Assembly by former MNO President Gary Lipinski (left).

If you are interested in supporting ALS research in honour of Senator Bob, donations can be made online at als.ca/en/donate or by mail, phone, or fax:

ALS Society of Canada
3000 Steeles Avenue East, Ste 200
Markham, ON, L3R 479
Ph: 905-248-2052 ext. 203
Ph: 1-800-267-ALS (4257)

PCMNO Executive Senator Joe Poitras stands with the Infinity Investments LP Board of Directors, (L-R) Lindsay Boyd, Director of Aboriginal and Municipal Affairs, Union Gas Limited; Joe Poitras, PCMNO Executive Senator; Brenda LaRose, Managing Partner, Higgins Executive Search; Scott Paties-Richardson, CEO, Infinity Investments LP; Dr. Fred Lazare, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, and Schulich School of Business.

PCMNO Executive Senator Joseph Poitras says opening prayer at Infinity Investments LP meeting

On September 16, 2016, PCMNO Executive Senator Joseph Poitras was invited to give the opening prayer at an Infinity Investments LP Board of Directors meeting. Executive Senator Poitras also presented each member of the Board with a Métis lapel sash and pin.

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On September 19, 2016, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Ottawa Region Métis Council (ORMC) held a Powley Day celebration at the Odawa Native Friendship Centre. The event was well attended with around 30 people and included featured guest speaker Tony Belcourt, founding MNO President and current MNO ORM Councilor, former MNO Senator Lois McCallum and Honourary MNO Senator Reta Gordon. Belcourt, McCallum and Senator Gordon were all present at the MNO founding meeting held in Toronto in May 1994. The event began with opening remarks from MNO ORMC President Benny Michaud. Belcourt was then invited to discuss the significance of the Powley Decision and the legacy of Steve Powley. Entertainment was provided by Métis youth Jacob Koebel who performed a Métis jig. Other activities included a viewing of the MNO 20th anniversary video, various arts and crafts for children, and a sharing of food and great discussion where individuals were able to come together as a Métis community.

President Michaud also took this opportunity to lay out the Council’s vision for the following year.

“Powley Day is an important day for Métis people because it gives us an opportunity to celebrate the recognition of our right to hunt and fish in our traditional territories,” said President Michaud. “Sometimes people forget that what the Powley Decision represents is how fundamental Métis people’s connection to the land is. We were not just fighting for hunting and fishing rights, but also to have our traditional relationship to the land acknowledged and respected.”

Every year on September 19th, the MNO and Métis communities across the province mark Powley Day to remember the decade long fight led by the MNO with Steve and Roddy Powley for recognition of Métis harvesting rights in the R. v. Powley case.

submitted by
Reta Gordon, MNO Honourary Senator
Benny Michaud, MNO Ottawa Region Métis Council President

The MNO Ottawa Region Métis Council: (L-R) Iain Best (Youth Representative), Marie-Louise Perron (Councilor), Benny Michaud (President), Parm Burgie (Senator), Amanda Kisch (Women’s Representative) and Tony Belcourt (Councilor and founding MNO President). (Photo provided by Jennifer Lord, MNO Manager of Strategic Initiatives.)

Powley Day in Ottawa

submitted by
Reta Gordon, MNO Honourary Senator
Benny Michaud, MNO Ottawa Region Métis Council President

Powley Day in Sault Ste. Marie

submitted by
Steve Gjos, Secretary
MNO Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council

In September 19, 2016, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council (HSSMMC) celebrated Powley Day with a sunrise ceremony at Algoma University. The ceremony was followed by a feast at Grand Gardens North. Every year on September 19th, the MNO and Métis communities across the province mark Powley Day to remember the decade long fight led by the MNO with Steve and Roddy Powley for recognition of Métis harvesting rights in the R. v. Powley case.

The gathering included special guests: Brenda Powley, the wife of the late Steve Powley and HSSMMC Senator; Kim Powley, the daughter of the late Steve Powley and HSSMMC President; and, Margaret Froh, MNO President.

submitted by
Steve Gjos, Secretary
MNO Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council

The MNO Ottawa Region Métis Council: (L-R) Iain Best (Youth Representative), Marie-Louise Perron (Councilor), Benny Michaud (President), Parm Burgie (Senator), Amanda Kisch (Women’s Representative) and Tony Belcourt (Councilor and founding MNO President). (Photo provided by Jennifer Lord, MNO Manager of Strategic Initiatives.)

(L-R) Phil Prentiss (MNO Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council [HSSMMC] Councilor), Mitch Case (MNO Youth Council President and PCMNO Youth Representative), Art Bennett (Region 4 Captain of the Hunt), John Konavalchuk (MNO HSSMMC Chair), Shari Smale (MNO HSSMMC Treasurer), Steve Gjos (MNO HSSMMC Secretary), Dianne Beaudy (MNO HSSMMC Councilor), Ken Figures (MNO citizen), Brenda Powley (MNO HSSMMC Senator), Kim Powley (MNO HSSMMC President), Shirley Loubert (MNO HSSMMC Women’s Representative), Virginia Rydal (MNO citizen), Ken Smale (MNO HSSMMC Councilor), Margaret Froh (MNO President).
Métis culture alive and well in Sunset Country

Submitted by

Anne-Marie Armstrong
MNO Métis Healthy Babies Healthy Children Coordinator

Members of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) public service working out of the Fort Frances office hosted a variety of Métis cultural events over the summer months including: berry harvesting, Kids in the Kitchen workshop, Métis cultural appreciation presentations, as well as workshops on dot art and bead- ing. These events engaged both the young and old and provided an opportunity for the community to learn more about Métis people and their history as well as engage in Métis traditions and way of life.

The first beading workshop kicked off in July and was held at the Sunset Country Métis Community Hall. All of the supplies were graciously provided for participants. Additional beading workshops were planned every month from August until November. The workshop in July focused on flower beading and provided beginners the opportunity to learn the traditional Métis activity. It also encouraged the more experienced Métis beaders an opportunity to share their knowledge with the group.

The workshop was led by experienced Métis beadworkers Dorothy Friday, Traditional Healing Coordinator at Gzhewaadiziwin Health Access Centre, and Pylinda George. Throughout the workshop participants were invited to check out a display that was put together, which featured some of their completed beading projects.

MNO staff would like to thank the MNO Sunset Country Métis Council, Gzhewaadiziwin Health Access Centre, and Sherry George, Curator at the Fort Frances Museum, for their support and part- nerships that led to the success of the beading workshop and other Métis cultural activities.

MNO Council hosts Renewable Energy 101 Workshop

Submitted by

Christa Lemelin
MNO Peterborough & District Wapiti Métis Council Chair

On September 17, 2016, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council (PDWMC) hosted a Renewable Energy 101 Workshop. The workshop was led by TREC Education—a national charity that delivers hands-on renewable energy education programs to schools and communities across Ontario. TREC Education also works with Métis, First Nations and Inuit communities to develop tailored education and skills building programs for renewable energy career exploration and project development.

The interactive workshop provided an overview of Ontario’s electricity sector, renewable energy technology, environmental considerations of our energy choices, and future trends in the energy sector.

The workshop was very hands-on and provided participants the opportunity to work with and create their own model-sized wind and solar systems.

Along with the MNO PDWMC, MNO citizens from the Niagara region, Highland Waters, Oshawa and Durham, and Credit River Métis Councils also attended this workshop. The MNO PDWMC would like to thank everyone for their support and partnership.

This past summer, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Credit River Métis Council (CRMC) hosted a drum making workshop in Brampton led by MNO citizen Leon Fleury. Fleury is a natural story teller who, aided by his lovely wife Margaret, enlightened and entertained all of the participants with personal and historical stories about drumming and drum making. Fleury provided participants with the necessary materials to make their very own drums, including a deer skin he ensured had been soaked before the workshop.

The workshop was limited to 10 people to allow for sufficient one-on-one time. Fleury was very patient throughout the workshop and provided participants with a lot of guidance during the drum making process.

As the workshop came to a close, participants labelled their drums and brought them home where they could continue to dry and tighten. About two weeks after the workshop, all of the partici- pants gathered at a MNO CRMC meeting for a “birthing” of the drums. This gathering was filled with fun, laughing, sharing of sto- ries, drumming, singing, and a lot of smiling faces!

MNO Council hosts drum-making workshop

Submitted by

Wayne Copeland
MNO Credit River Métis Council Councilor

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The MNO Credit River Métis Council and workshop participants show off their drums.

Workshop participants take part in a Métis beading workshop in Fort Frances. (L-R) Millie Witherspoon (MNO citizen), Gloria Bergner, Donna Law, Yvonne Langlais (MNO citizen), and Sarah Noonan-Faragher.
The MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council with guests: (L-R) Karen Drake (Councilor At Large and Commissioner on the MNO Commission on Métis Rights and Self-Government), Frank Pullia (Thunder Bay City Councillor), Ken Simard (Senator), Jean Camirand (President), Margaret Froh (MNO President), Gwendalyn Lloyd-Gomez (Youth Representative), Angela Brotschie (Secretary), Cam Burgess (PCMNO Region 2 Councilor), Lori LaForme (Women’s Representative), Robert Graham (Chair), Paul Pugh (Thunder Bay City Councillor), and Paul Robitaille (MNO Region 2 Youth Representative Commissioner on the MNO Commission on Métis Rights and Self-Government).

MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council holds 2016 Annual General Meeting

submitted by Jean Camirand, President MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Thunder Bay Métis Council (TBMC) held their Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Sunday, September 25, 2016. The MNO TBMC was thrilled that the President of the “Great Métis Nation of Ontario” Margaret Froh was able to attend the meeting. The AGM was very well attended and included several dignitaries such as, the Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Status of Women and MP for Thunder Bay–Superior North, and Rebecca Johnson, Councilor At Large, who brought greetings on behalf of the Mayor of Thunder Bay.

The meeting was emceed by the new MNO TBMC Chair Robbert Graham. After Chair Graham has officially opened the meeting, MNO TBMC Senator Ken Simard led citizens in an opening prayer.

The MNO TBMC President Jean Camirand then introduced the new Council—Chair Graham, Councilor At Large Karen Drake, Women’s Representative Lori LaForme, Secretary Angela Brotschie, Senator Simard and Youth Representative Gwendalyn Gomez. President Camirand reminded guests that there are three vacant positions on the Council and encouraged any interested MNO citizens to consider joining the Council.

PCMNO Region 2 Councilor Cameron Burgess presented a brief update about the consultations and accommodation issues. Paul Robitaille, MNO Region 2 Youth Representative, also provided an update on what youth in Region 2 have been up to.

President Camirand, with the assistance of President Froh, presented Minister Hajdu with an Honouring our Métis women shawl for her role in the commissioning of the Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and for her ongoing leadership role in championing women’s issues. President Froh spoke to the meaning of the shawl and its various colours. Accompanying the shawl, was a small Métis sash and medallion honouring Métis and Indigenous women.

President Froh then brought local citizens up to date on a number of important issues to the MNO including: the Daniels case, Truth and Reconciliation, harvesting concerns and the recently formed MNO Commission on Métis Rights and Self-Government (the Commission). “With two of our very own chosen to be Commissioners on the [MNO Commission on Métis Rights and Self-Government]—Drake and Robitaille—Thunder Bay and Region 2 are sure to be well represented.” said President Camirand.

During the meeting, a special book of prayers made by Representative LaFrome in honour of former Senator Bob “Brad Pitt” McKay was passed around for guests to sign with their well wishes. Unfortunately, past Senator McKay’s health is in decline and he can no longer sit on the MNO TBMC. His humour, guidance, wisdom and mentoring to all Council members, especially the youth, is sorely missed.

Wendy Landry, former MNO TBMC President and recipient of an Honouring our Métis women shawl, also presented MNO citizens with information regarding the Energy Savings program just announced by Union Gas. The last item on the agenda was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the MNO TBMC and Taranis Contracting Group Ltd. (Taranis). The signatories for the MOU were: Ryan Jones, Taranis President and General Manager, Jerry Hamel, Taranis Business Development and Aboriginal Relations, President Camirand, and, Councilor Burgess. The AGM was followed by a fantastic traditional Métis feast and was accompanied by some amazing music provided by three very talented local youth. Throughout the celebration, Secretary Brotschie was tasked with ensuring the enthusiasm and energy of the day was well documented on camera. “Selfies” were very much a part of the activities going on,” she said.

Although the weather did not cooperate, the Council was pleased with a turnout of over 50 MNO citizens who braved the rain and winds to attend! It is not a stretch to say that the 2016 MNO TBMC AGM was a huge success.

MNO citizens learn to make wool capotes in Fort Frances

submitted by Sabrina Stoessinger MNO Community Support Services Coordinator

On September 17-18, 2016, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) collaborated with the Fort Frances Museum and Gishkwewiziwin Health Access Centre to host a Stress Management Workshop.

The workshop was facilitated by Nancy Goulquier and took place at the Fort Frances museum. Participants spent the weekend sharing stress management techniques while making their own capotes out of vintage wool blankets. Lunch and refreshments were enjoyed by all on both days.

“I loved the traditional stories that the facilitator Nancy Goulquier told us as she was teaching us how to make our capotes,” said Sarah Matsuy, MNO Community Wellness Coordinator. “Not only does she have the practical knowledge of putting the capotes together, but she also has the cultural teachings that I find fascinating.”

Sue Vandenbrand works on her capote during the workshop.
MNO North Channel Métis Council holds AGM

submitted by Blair Sterling, MNO North Channel Métis Council Senator

In October 15, 2016, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) North Channel Métis Council (NCMC) held their Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the Little Rapids Heritage Centre near Thessalon. NMC President Yvonne Jensen called the group to order and, following an opening prayer, presented the Council, introduced her guests (the MNO Historic Sarah Ste. Marie Métis Council Executive), and welcomed roughly 53 citizens to the gathering.

Following lunch, the financial report was presented. President Jensen then reminded MNO citizens that they may contact any member of the Council if they have a question or a problem and the Council will do their best to find an answer.

President Jensen also informed MNO citizens that the MNO is in the process of establishing a new program called the Métis Family Well-Being Program. There will be staff for the program within the area of the Council and as a result, the MNO will be opening a new office in the area soon. She encouraged anyone who is interested in the program to apply for the full and part-time coordinator positions.

Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario, (PCMNO) Representative Ernie Gatien next took the floor and made a presentation on the importance of informing Region 4 Captain and as a result, the MNO will be opening a new office in the area soon. She encouraged anyone who is interested in the program to apply for the full and part-time coordinator positions.

The next presenter was MNO Community Wellness Coordinator Toby Pickering, who went over some of the services that the MNO offers, all of which are available free of cost. These include credit counseling, finding a lawyer; help with family violence; healthy babies and parenting skills; and programs for seniors.

The final presentation, made by the MNO Veterans’ Council, was especially gratifying. The council presented MNO veterans Cynthia Forrest and Dorothy Eastman, who are also sisters and MNO citizens, with Louis Riel medals and certificates. Forrest and Eastman’s other sister, June Smart, is currently the MNO NCMC Women’s Representative. Smart extended her thanks to MNO Veterans’ Council President Joseph Paquette for ensuring her sisters could be presented with such an honour. “Thank you Joseph for taking care of all the administrative requirements in order to have the medals presented to my sisters,” she said.

The AGM closed at 2:30 p.m., but not before a few lucky winners picked up their door prizes.

MNO North Channel Métis Council President Yvonne Jensen (centre) congratulates MNO veterans Cynthia Forrest (left) and Dorothy Eastman (right) after they receive Louis Riel awards.

MNO Council invited to tour of Battle Arts Academy

submitted by Christa Lemelin, MNO Peterborough & District Wapiti Métis Council Chair

On October 6, 2016, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council (PDWMC) visited the Battle Arts Academy in Mississauga—a state of the art human performance facility. The facility is owned by Anthony Carelli, MNO citizen and former WWE Wrestler who is also known as Super Star Santana Marella.

The facility is committed to the healthy development of athletes and offers pro wrestling and various fitness services, such as cardio kickboxing, lead and fit camps, kickrylics and boxing, Muay Thai and more! Carelli gave the MNO PDWMC a personal tour of the facility where they were able to watch several athletes training. At the end of the tour, the MNO PDWMC presented Carelli with a Métis sash and flag. He said he will proudly display the Métis flag in his facility for everyone to see. The MNO PDWMC would like to thank Carelli for hosting them on this special visit.

Students celebrate Métis culture by dancing the Virginia Reel.

MNO staff teach students in Rainy River about Métis culture

submitted by Sarah Marusyk, MNO Community Wellness Coordinator

From October 5 to 6, 2016, nearly 400 students from 11 different schools and programs in the Rainy River District piled into school buses to attend the 2016 Métis Fall Harvest Celebration. The event took place along the shores of Rainy Lake on Couchiching First Nation at the Seven Generations Education Institute.

Twelve stations dotted the grounds, offering students the opportunity to learn about treaties, wild rice parching, dancing, deer teachings, storytelling, the drum and much more! “The Fall Harvest increases our community’s ability to create and promote safe, culturally significant environments by providing folks with access to traditional knowledge, skills and knowledge holders,” said Sarah Marusyk, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Community Wellness Coordinator.

MNO staff members—Anne-Marie Armstrong (MNO Métis Healthy Babies Healthy Children Coordinator) and Marusyk along with their tremendous volunteers Senator John George with the MNO Nation Countryside Métis Council, Dylinda George, Debbie Hbert, and Gloria Bergner—taught students about the traditional diets of our Métis ancestors. Students then had the opportunity to make their own bannock on a stick and cooked it on an open flame—a welcomed activity on a cool, fall day!

Once their bellies were full of bannock and jam, Senator George taught the students how to play the spoons. Students then got their feet moving as they learned the basic jigging step followed by joining hands in the Virginia Reel. Paired with a teaching on Métis culture, the jigging station was a hit with both the young and old!

“Our stations were engaging and hands-on,” said Armstrong. “They provided students and adults with a unique opportunity to learn about the culture, ask questions, and have a lot of fun!”
The following is a first-hand account by David Hamilton, MNO Chapleau Métis Council President

MOOSE HUNTING
A little bit of skill and a whole lot of luck

As far as hunting luck goes, if I had paddled around that bend in the river five minutes earlier or five minutes later, I would never have seen that moose. Now that is lucky! ☺️

I drifted quietly around a bend in the river only to encounter a young bull moose walking along the shoreline.

He was obviously responding to the call I had made in a bay up the river. One grunt stopped him in his tracks and with one shot I had my meat for the year.

My grandfather used to say that to be a successful big game hunter you have to have hunting luck; without luck, you will not see even a single hair of an animal no matter how much skill you have. To increase your hunting luck, you must always treat the animals you harvest with respect and never waste any of the meat. Never disregard any part of an animal in a dump. I get very angry when I see moose heads and legs in a dump that are thrown there like garbage by non-native hunters. Animals remain should be returned to the land for other animals to use. By sharing your harvest with those who cannot hunt, you will also increase your chances of killing game.

These are the rules my family and I have always followed.

There are two times to hunt moose during the year: the early fall season during the moose mating season and when the rut is on, or during the less popular winter season. Before deep freezers, moose used to only be hunted in the winter. At that time, if a moose did happen to be killed in warm weather, all the meat would have

My previous eight trips down the river had resulted in no moose sightings and only two answers from bulls. I was also plagued by bad weather and all-around bad luck! High winds, heavy rain and extremely warm fall temperatures coupled with a rifle malfunction and mechanical problems also complicated matters, and resulted in an unsuccessful hunt.

On day nine, I could feel that things were going to be different. I had taken a hiatus from hunting for four days to attend my cousin’s wedding and was eager to get back at it. Fresh tracks beside my canoe are always a good sign. Three hours into the hunt, I drifted quietly around a bend in the river only to encounter a young bull moose walking along the shoreline. He was obviously responding to the call I had made in a bay up the river. One grunt stopped him in his tracks and with one shot I had my meat for the year.

I would float or pad down some of the major rivers on my trap line calling for moose with a traditional birch line calling for moose. I try not to call too much as they may imitate moose antlers. I try not to call too much as they may detect something is up. My father tells a story of his grandfather who killed four moose in January on his trap line with a single shot shotgun and cut shells. The meat was hauled back to town on toboggans and distributed amongst the residents of Lower Town. Lower Town was an area in my home town primarily inhabited by non-status Indians and Métis people; it was a community within a community.

This year’s moose hunting plan was the same as in years past. I would float or pad down some of the major rivers on my trap line calling for moose with a traditional birch line calling for moose. If I received an answer from a bull moose, I would try to coax him out of the bush by breaking branches, splashing in the water or scraping trees with a moose shoulder blade, which imitates moose antlers. I try not to call too much as they may detect something is up.

Moose Hunting
MNO Chapleau Métis Council President

My goal is always that is lucky! Now that is lucky! ☺️
Medicine walk in High Park

The MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council and MNO Infinite Reach Facilitators from the University of Toronto and York University host event with Joe Paquette

Submitted by
Gabriele Simmons, MNO TYRMC Placement Student

In October, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Toronto and York Region Métis Council (TYRMC) and MNO Infinite Reach (IR) Facilitator’s from the University of Toronto (U of T) and York University (York U) hosted a Medicine Walk with Métis Knowledge Holder and MNO Veterans’ Council President Joe Paquette. The Walk, which took place in Toronto’s High Park, was well-attended with a total of 20 participants.

The Medicine Walk attracted individuals from all backgrounds including, MNO citizens, non-Indigenous folks, park volunteers, youth and budding environmentalists. Participants took advantage of the Walk to learn more about useful wild plants from a Knowledge Holder Paquette. The Walk also offered an incredible opportunity to build relationships with like-minded individuals who have a vested interest in better understanding how to steward the land. Participants also sought to learn how to walk more softly in their daily lives.

For two-and-a-half hours, Knowledge Holder Paquette led the group through the park and shared teachings about medicines in the natural world and the collective responsibility to protect them. Participants attempted to identify specific plants using Knowledge Holder Paquette’s Peterson Field Guide: Edible Wild Plants. The Medicine Walk offered participants an opportunity to connect both culturally and spiritually with the land and the chance to speak one culturally and spiritually with the land and the chance to speak to a Métis Knowledge Holder.

This was especially valuable for those living within the city, as it can be challenging for Métis people in urban spaces to connect with the land.

The Medicine Walk also created the opportunity for MNO IR Facilitators – Eleni Pappas (York U) and Elise St. Germain (U of T) – to connect with individuals from the Toronto community. Pappas and St. Germain spoke about the possibility of hosting a similar walk that would be closer to the York campus. They also shared ideas about events that could be hosted concurrently by their MNO IR Network branches. The point was made that by pooling resources and spaces from both campuses, more students and youth could get involved with the MNO IR programming that takes places in the Toronto and York Regions.

Many people, especially youth, have requested in the past that the MNO TYRMC create a medicinal garden specifically for use by MNO citizens. When the idea was presented during the Walk, it was unanimously supported with participants agreeing to help with the upkeep necessary to maintain it.

Overall, the Walk was a great success and by the end many participants were asking when the next one would be held!

MNO Council Chair attends Indigenous Negotiation Skills training in Banff

Submitted by
Christa Lemelin, MNO Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council Chair

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council (PDWMC) Chair Christa Lemelin was recently given the opportunity to participate in a week-long Indigenous Negotiation Skills training held at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity in Banff, Alberta.

Lemelin was recently given the opportunity to participate in a week-long Indigenous Negotiation Skills training held at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity in Banff, Alberta.

One of several Indigenous leadership, governance and management programs offered at the Centre, the Indigenous Negotiation Skills training session is attended by leaders from Indigenous communities across Canada, as well as by consultants, lawyers and government representatives. The training focuses on building skills related to interest-based negotiation and includes simulations and role-playing exercises to allow participants to build and learn the skills needed for meaningful negotiations.

The training provided Lemelin with a wealth of skills that will not only be useful for her duties on the PDWMC Council, but will also be incredibly beneficial in her full-time job as an Environmental Consultant and even at home when negotiating with her children.

Lemelin is extremely proud to have attended a facility where MNO President Margaret Froh sits on the faculty. The opportunity was made possible through a grant from Suncor Energy – a major supporter of programs at the Banff Centre. Lemelin encourages others to apply for opportunities such as this one, where they can learn new skills that will no doubt enhance the capacity of MNO Community Councils across Ontario.
Weaving the Sash:
Land-based knowledge exchange between youth from two Councils

In September 15, 2016, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Toronto and York Region Métis Council (TYRMC) Youth Committee and the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council (GBMC) hosted a land-based knowledge exchange workshop. The day started early for the MNO TYRMC youth with an eventful 7:00 a.m. bus ride. Though the bus had some mechanical difficulties halfway through, the MNO TYRMC youth, Culture, and Connection project, an MNO TYRMC Youth Committee-led project funded by the Laulad Foundation, was a wonderful way to connect with the land and to gain skills that are difficult to access in the city.

For the MNO TYRMC youth, the knowledge exchange was a wonderful way to connect with the land and to gain skills that are difficult to access in the city. Sitting down with youth, Elders, Senators, and Knowledge Keepers from another region also provided a unique opportunity for relationship building.

This event, and the others in the series, would not have been possible without the help of some amazing volunteers. Their efforts are greatly appreciated by many especially from the youth who attended these events. Both Councils extend a grateful “Maarsi!” to all!

To celebrate the end of the Weaving the Sash project, the MNO TYRMC Youth Committee made a special presentation on November 19, 2016 at the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto during the MNO TYRMC’s Louis Riel Day Celebration, which included a feast for the community. ☞

For more information on Anne Lederman, please visit annelederman.com

Preserving Métis history through fiddling

submitted by
Elsa Poltarz, Wife of PCCMNO Executive Senator Joseph Poltarz
with special thanks from ottawafestivals.ca and annclederman.com

The fiddle has always been an important part of Métis culture. The fiddle continues to play a prominent role in Métis celebrations today. Helping to keep the tradition of Métis fiddling alive is Anne Lederman – a fiddler, singer, multi-instrumentalist, composer, researcher, and teacher.

While not Métis herself, Lederman teaches fiddle and has devoted herself to the collection and preservation of old Métis fiddle music. She likely has one of the largest known collections of old Métis fiddle music.

When enrolment is high enough, Lederman teaches classes on Métis and French Canadian Fiddle at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto. Lederman has also released a four-record archival set of recordings titled Old Native and Métis Fiddling in Western Manitoba. The music was gathered between 1985 and 1986, when Lederman returned home to Manitoba to study and record the music of First Nations and Métis fiddlers. This historic set of recordings was re-released in 2004 as a double CD set on the National Museum’s Archive label.

Lederman has been involved in a number of Canadian folk music groups, including Muddy York, the Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band, Come From Every Way, and Publisings. She was also the resident fiddler on the CBC drama Road to Avonlea, and has appeared on The Vinyl Cafe and other programs on CBC Radio.

Lederman has performed at folk events, concerts, and festivals throughout Canada, the United States, and Europe. She has released five albums under her own name and appeared on over 50 others, and is the founding Artistic Director of World Fiddle Day Toronto and World of Music Toronto.

Most recently, on October 23, 2016, Lederman received Folk Music Ontario’s 17th Annual Estelle Klein Award for her work. Named after Estelle Klein, an early founder of Canada’s folk festival scene, each year the award is presented to an individual or group that has made significant contributions to the folk music community in Ontario. ☞

For more information on Anne Lederman, please visit annclederman.com

Fiddler Anne Lederman has had a long and varied career in Canadian music. While not Métis herself, she has devoted her career to the collection and preservation of Métis fiddle music.
The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) harvest, grounded in the exercise of Métis rights, provides food and medicine for Métis families and communities; acts as a catalyst for the transfer of traditional knowledge to future generations; and maintains our people’s connection to the land, water, and ecosystems of the Métis Homeland. The Captains of the Hunt (COTH) and Captains of the Hunt Liaisons play an integral role in the management of a sustainable MNO harvest and provide oversight of MNO’s harvest system, including the MNO Harvest Policy.

**CAPTAINS OF THE HUNT**

The Captains of the Hunt (COTH) play an integral role in the management of the Métis harvest. A COTH is appointed to each of the MNO Regions within Ontario and is mandated by the MNO to implement the MNO Harvest Policy. The Captains of the Hunt determine the appropriate management of the Métis harvest and evaluate its progress on an ongoing basis.

The COTH act as a direct line of communication between MNO Harvesters, the MNO, and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR). They help manage the MNO harvest, support the implementation of the MNO-MNR Interim Harvesting Agreement, and determine the appropriate management of the harvest in their respective Regions. The COTH also act as liaisons between Harvesters and the MNO in situations where charges have been filed.

**Duties of the COTH include:**

- Travel throughout their Region to work with MNO communities on harvesting-related matters;
- Support Harvesters in the completion of Harvester’s Certificate applications;
- Review and sign Harvester’s Certificate applications prior to sending them to the Registry Branch for processing and final approval;
- Verify that Harvesters can properly and safely employ firearms;
- Answer inquiries from MNO citizens regarding harvesting rights and other matters related to harvesting;
- Gather information on complaints and charges;
- Act as liaisons between the MNO and Harvesters;
- Act as a point of contact for MNR Conservation Officers in their Region;
- Prepare incident reports;
- Ensure Harvesters are in compliance with the MNO Harvesting Policy;
- Serve as a source of information on the Métis Way of Life and Traditional Knowledge;
- Support the MNO’s work to implement the MNO Statement of Prima Purpose;
- Support Harvester surveys and help to gather information on the number, species and location of animals taken by MNO Harvesters; and
- Sit as non-voting members of MNO Consultation Committees.

**Telling Our Stories:**

**Documenting Traditional Knowledge of Water and the Great Lakes**

The holistic nature of the Métis way of life means that Métis communities through Ontario have deep connections – social, cultural, spiritual, and economic – to the lands and waters around them.

**CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST:**

**Captains of the Hunt**

Deadline for expressions of interest:

January 30, 2017

SUBMIT TO:

Brian Tucker, Deputy Chief Captain of the Hunt
briantucker@metisnation.org

Submissions will be reviewed and appointments made in the spring of 2017.

All MNO citizens who submit an expression of interest will receive a response after appointments are made.

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Ontario Early Years Centre in Nipissing embraces the Métis community

submitted by
Amanda Benedict
MNO Métis Healthy Babies Healthy Children Coordinator

On October 7, 2016 the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) office in North Bay facilitated a Community Kitchen workshop for families at the Ontario Early Years Centre, Nipissing (OEYC). The centre provides a safe and accessible location in the centre of the community for participants to attend programming. MNO staff are very grateful to always be welcomed at the OEYC.

To begin the workshop, participants learned how to make nutritious smoothies using a variety of fruits and vegetables. Since attending the workshop, many participants say that they have continued to use the recipe to increase their children’s vegetable intake.

The second part of the workshop focused on cooking with the seasons, where families had the opportunity to learn how to make meals on a modest budget. Families were then guided in preparing a meal using whole foods as opposed to processed foods, which many found empowering. Participants also got the chance to work with some uncommon but highly nutritious vegetables. While working in the kitchen, participants were able to help themselves to a healthy and delicious hamburger soup.

This partnership with the OEYC is an example of one of the pos- itive community connections that the MNO has established with organizations that embrace Métis programming. “The connections between [the MNO] and the OEYC. Nipissing has been inspiring for many of our families to see how closely our staff teams have been working together to support them,” says OEYC Manager Kerystal Speiss. “The positive engagement that has been woven through the two programs working together has benefited many families in a seamless system.”

In particular, the MNO Métis Healthy Babies Healthy Children (MHBBC) program has had active involvement at the OEYC. Programming includes the Strengthening Family Connections Workshop, which uses traditional crafting to bring families together to learn about role modelling and self-esteem.

“This unique program continues to be a hallmark demonstration of what can happen when we put families at the centre of all we do together,” says Speiss.

MNO staff along with the Pregnancy and Infant Loss (PAL) Network, Charlie’s Angel Bears, and the OEYC has also established a peer-support group on pregnancy and infant loss called the Empty Arms Compassionate Café, which will run for two years. This group provides a safety net for parents’ emotions in the aftermath of a loss and hosts a monthly drop-in meeting.

In recognition of their partnership, Benedict presented the OEYC with a Métis-inspired artwork she made, which she displayed on a Hudson’s Bay blanket. The piece is reflective of dot art and has the vibrant colours, balance, and interconnectedness common to Métis art. The piece was gifted with the intention that it will promote discussion and create awareness of Métis peoples place in the community while embracing indigeneity. “We are so thankful for the meaningful partnerships in our community and hope to recontextualize with others who have been supportive in the past and as our community grows together,” Benedict says.

Honorary MNO Senator Reta Gordon still busy

submitted by
MNO Staff

After many years of service on the PCMNO, Senator Reta Gordon retired as a PCMNO Senator and became an Honourary Senator, but she has not slowed down at all!

On October 26, 2016, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Honourary Senator Reta Gordon attended a gathering in Ottawa at the Rideau Club – a social club for Canada’s political and business elite. The event was held by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce to explore the role of business in Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.

Also in attendance was Métis National Council (MNC) President Clément Chartier, and former Canadian Prime Minister the Right Honourable Paul Martin. Honourary Senator Gordon had the opportunity to speak with both President Chartier and former Prime Minister Martin. At the beginning of November, Honourary Senator Gordon was also invited to a gala hosted by Norway’s Ambassador to Canada, Her Excellency Anne Kari Øvind, at the Canadian Museum of History. In attendance were Crown Prince Haakon and Crown Princess Mette-Marit of Norway, who had expressed an interest in meeting Indigenous representatives from Canada.
Métis youth dances his way into National Ballet School

submitted by Stephanie Phoenix, MNO Citizen
with files from nbs-enb.ca

Métis youth Atticus Phoenix started this school year in style. In July of 2016, after a rigorous month-long audition process in January, the Grade 6 student was accepted into Canada's National Ballet School (NBS) in Toronto. Established in 1959, NBS is one of the world's leading training establishments for aspiring young dancers, providing an elite dance curriculum combined with academic training and on-site residential care at their Toronto campus.

Interested in dance from a young age, Atticus was overjoyed when he found out he had been accepted. “I walked out of the school and my parents told me,” he says. “I was almost crying because I was so happy!”

While the training is rigorous, the program provides opportunities for dancers to hone their craft in an environment that values both physical and academic training. Dancers practice for two hours each day and then spend another one-to-two hours focusing on other forms of dance or swimming.

“It's easier for me to do academics because I can get all my energy out doing ballet,” says Atticus. “The academic and dance teachers are all amazing and I love getting to dance every day!”

NBS spans Grades 6 through 12 and students are assessed on an ongoing basis to ensure that they continue responding positively to the program's broader challenges. Students who continue to meet the school’s standards are invited to continue returning for subsequent years.

While Atticus is currently very busy with all of his training, he has lofty goals for his future. “Short-term I would like to be able to do well in school and become a better dancer because in dance there’s always room for improvement,” he says. “In the future I would like to become a professional dancer and in my free time be an architect and an artist.”

Atticus Phoenix

Atticus can be seen in the NBS production of The Nutcracker from December 10-31, 2016 at Toronto’s Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts. For more information or to buy tickets, visit national.ballet.ca.

Métis youth dances his way into National Ballet School

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Amanda Rheaueme continues to be recognized in the music industry for her incredible talent. Rheaueme has been nominated once again for the Canadian Folk Music Aboriginal Songwriter of the Year Award.

Amanda won the award back in 2014 and that same year also received a Juno nomination for Aboriginal Album of the Year. Rheaueme’s nominated album, Holding Patterns, was produced by Jim Bryson. This year’s Canadian Folk Music Awards will take place on December 3 at Toronto’s Isabel Bader Theatre.

One of the standout songs on Holding Patterns is the song Red Dress, which features singer Chantal Kreviazuk. The song is meant to honour and raise awareness on the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls in Canada. Proceeds for the song will be donated to the Native Women’s Association of Canada’s Safety and Violence Prevention Program. To buy the song and support this great cause, please visit iTunes. Amanda recently performed at the 2016 MNO Annual General Assembly where she performed her newly recorded song We Aspire. The MNO commissioned Amanda to write a song based on the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose that captures the spirit and our MNO success stories. The song is now featured in the MNO We Aspire commercials that are running on the APTN television network.
MNO citizen Karen Drake appointed a Human Rights Commissioner

by MNO Staff
with files from ontario.ca

MNO citizen Karen Drake appointed to Mental Health Commission’s Board of Directors

submitted by Wendy Stewart, MNO Manager of Mental Health and Addictions

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is pleased to announce the recent appointment of MNO Citizen Ms. Tera Beaulieu, to the Mental Health Commission of Canada (MHCC) Board of Directors. The MHCC is a national organization, striving to make a difference in the lives of those living with mental health challenges and mental illnesses.

In this role, Ms. Beaulieu will be joining the MHCC’s 16-member Board of Directors to oversee the strategic direction of the MHCC by establishing the organization’s vision and mission. As such, Tera will be contributing to providing leadership and expertise to the MHCC in its efforts to raise awareness of the mental health and wellness needs of Canadians and to catalyze collaborative solutions to mental health system challenges. In addition, Tera’s appointment is strategic, in helping bring Métis and other Indigenous peoples’ issues to the table, such as cultural considerations, gaps in services, sharing approaches to mental wellness, increasing community capacity and strengthening collaborative relationships.

Ms. Beaulieu is completing her PhD in Clinical/Counselling Psychology at the University of Toronto, recently accepted a position with the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health in Toronto. In addition to her celebrated academic accomplishments and experience in mental wellness with Indigenous communities, youth, women’s and psychological trauma, Tera is highly engaged in work within the MNO and serves as President of the MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council.

This is an exciting venture for Ms. Beaulieu on a personal and professional level and is also exciting for the MNO, as one of our citizens is taking on a national role in advancing mental health for Métis and for all Canadians.

MNO legal counsel recognized as leading lawyers in Aboriginal Law

by MNO Staff
with files from linkedin.com

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) legal counsel, Jean Teillet and Jason Madden, were recognized in the 2017 Edition of Chambers and Partners’ Canada Guide—an annual peer-review publication of outstanding lawyers. Teillet and Madden were recognized as “Banked Lawyers” in the area of Aboriginal Law and were described as follows: “An experienced advocate for Aboriginal land rights, harvesting rights and Aboriginal rights law. He regularly advises on litigation, as well as consultation and accommodation issues and is widely regarded by the market as a leading authority on Métis law.”

“Jason Madden is regularly involved in the negotiation and implementation of modern-day land claims agreements. He is also highly regarded for his work on the development of Metis law. One source enthused: ‘He is a superstar in terms of advocacy for Métis rights.’”

In addition, their firm—Pape Salter Teillet LLP Barristers and Solicitors—was ranked as a leader amongst Aboriginal law boutique firms within Canada and recognized as follows: “Established firm recognized for its representation of Aboriginal clients, maintaining a strong focus on self-government and economic development, as well as advising on the negotiation of IBAs. The firm also has a strong track record before the Supreme Court and is particularly well known for its work on behalf of the Métis.”
Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Maura McLean is an internationally ranked Canadian National Synchronized Swimming (synchro) team member. Maura started her synchro career at six years of age at the Variety Village Synchro Club (VVSC) in the Little Mermaids program. It was at VVSC that she realized her love and aptitude for the unique sport of synchronized swimming. For those unfamiliar with synchro, it is a sport that combines the highest levels of athleticism with creativity, beauty, and music/lyricism. Upon moving over to the competitive provincial program, the coaching staff quickly noticed Maura’s ability and potential. Her current national coaches state that Maura is intelligent, aware, technically sound, and that she competes well under pressure—all of which are vital traits to a great synchronized swimmer. Maura is currently 15 years of age and is in Grade 10. She trains at the Regional Training Centre - ONTARIO (RTC-ON) under the direction of Head Coach Jennifer Koptie. The Synchro Canada High Performance program is supported by the Canadian Sport Institute. Maura’s greatest achievements to date are winning national championships in solo, duet, and team competitions, making the Canadian National teams in the 13–15 age category in 2015 and 2016, and being selected to represent Canada in the Duet event at the Union Americana de Natation (UANA) Pan-American Championships in Puerto Rico this past summer.

Maura is thankful for the support she receives each year through her Make-A-Champ campaign. If you wish to support Maura in her synchro journey, donations can be made online at makeachamp.com/mauramclean. Synchro Canada also accepts direct financial donations on behalf of Maura McLean.

submitted by
Eileen Barry, Mother of MNO citizen Maura McLean

Métis youth awarded Hydro One scholarships

In celebration of National Aboriginal Day, Hydro One recognized 10 outstanding students selected for the Leonard S. (Tony) Mandamin Scholarship. The scholarship, named in recognition of the Honourable Justice Leonard S. (Tony) Mandamin, is granted annually to First Nations, Métis and Inuit post-secondary students. Among the list of winners were Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Joshua Van Damme and Dalton Mathias and Brandon Casquenette, who both self-identify as Métis. Dalton is also the son of Hank and Loma Rowlinson; Hank is the MNO Man- don is studying Electrical Engineer- ing Technology at Georgian College. Dalton is studying Line Crew Ground Support at Cambrian College. “Our scholarship winners not only exceed in academic excellence but just as importantly, in their commitment to supporting their communities,” said Lee Anne Cameron, Director, First Nations & Métis Relations, Hydro One. “The Leonard S. (Tony) Mandamin Scholarship is one of the ways Hydro One supports and encourages students to stay in school and explore opportunities within the electricity industry.” Each year, up to 15 scholarships are available to students enrolled in electricity-related programs. Scholarship recipients are granted a financial award in the amount of $5,000 and those eligible may have an opportunity to complete a paid developmental work term with Hydro One. Interested students can visit hydroone.com/Careers/NewGrads/Awards to learn more and apply.

submitted by
Hank Rowlinson, MNO Manager of Community Relations
with files from hydroone.com

MNO citizen publishes her first self-help book

Very few clouds have a silver lining, and for Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Liane Geoffrion, that would be the publishing of her first book entitled, Divorce Prep: Self-Help Guide. The guide is a collection of practical advice and information Liane wishes she would have known during her own divorce and is aimed at individuals either getting ready to leave a marriage or who know they will be left behind by a controlling spouse. Through personal examples, Liane explains how to avoid, prevent, and minimize the many problems of a difficult divorce. The guide includes information on how to meet with a lawyer, what questions to ask, what to look for in financial documents, and where to go for help. It also provides a list of resources including agencies, counseling services, and government and legal websites. Liane feels confident that individuals who are well-informed, know their rights, and are self-sufficient can be spared the consequences of leaving a destructive relationship unprepared.

Liane shows no signs of slowing down and is already scheduled to publish her second novel, Joyfulness At Last, in 2017. For more information on Liane and her novels, please visit lanzegoirion.com.

submitted by
Liane Geoffrion, MNO citizen

MNO citizen publishes her way to success

submitted by
Eilen Barry, Mother of MNO citizen Maura McLean
**MNO Success Story:**

**MNO citizen gives back to his community as a physician**

Submitted by:
Kelly Honsberger,
MNO Employment & Training Coordinator

Marc Labelle, MNO citizen, graduated with a Doctor of Medicine (MD) in 2016. He is now employed full-time as a resident physician training at the University of Western Ontario. Marc works in several different areas including emergency care, ward care, obstetrics, family clinic and the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). He also works at managing chronic disease to reduce the burden of disease and lessen suffering for those near the end of their life. Marc said that “the most rewarding aspect of my career is diagnosing and improving people’s lives.”

One challenge Marc encountered while completing his studies was combining and integrating “the western medicine paradigm with my Indigenous paradigms and ways of knowing.” Marc was able to overcome this challenge by meeting with other Indigenous physicians, to ensure that his learning objectives were met, advocacy roles were pursued and that Indigenous issues were taught.

Marc is very thankful for the open channel of communication established with the MNO’s financial assistance, as this has helped to decrease the financial impact and debt burden that can so easily pile up. Marc also expressed his gratitude to the MNO Employment Counsellor, Rachelle Brunelle-McColl, for providing him with the opportunity to learn more about the town he lives in. It has allowed him the means to learn about my culture as a citizen of the Métis Nation, through local organizations and events.

**MNO citizen Marc Labelle.**

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**MNO citizen Austin Press.**

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**A Métis success story from Sudbury**

Submitted by:
Jessica Brunelle, MNO Employment Counselor

Jean-Claude Fillion, a Métis citizen, was recently employed full-time as a Consultant with the Investors Group. Jean-Claude identifies as Métis and has a strong passion for helping others and giving back to his community. He is currently a resident physician training at the University of Western Ontario.

In April 2015, Jean-Claude’s hard work paid off when he successfully completed his two-year Commerce program at Collège Boréal. He graduated top of his class, earning honours and was even asked to give a speech during the graduation ceremony. Jean-Claude helped plan various activities around campus and enjoyed spending time at the Louis Riel Centre, where he was able to embrace his Métis culture.

Jean-Claude loved the program and sat on the Board of Directors of Regroupement étudiant Franco-Ontarien (RéFO) and joined the College’s Student Council. As a member of the Student Council, Jean-Claude helped plan various activities around campus and enjoyed spending time at the Louis Riel Centre, where he was able to embrace his Métis culture.

Jean-Claude was able to pursue a career in medicine as he had always excelled in the sciences and had a desire to help others and give back to his community. Jean-Claude is a perfect example of what hard work and dedication can get you in life. After completing 10 years of post-secondary education, Marc has proudly obtained his MD (Doctor of Medicine) from the University of Toronto.

After so many years in school, Marc is very thankful for the MNO’s financial assistance as this has helped to decrease the financial impact and debt burden that can so easily pile up. Marc decided to pursue a career in medicine as he had always excelled in the sciences and had a desire to help others and give back to his community. Jean-Claude is a perfect example of what hard work and dedication can get you in life. After completing 10 years of post-secondary education, Marc has proudly obtained his MD (Doctor of Medicine) from the University of Toronto.

After so many years in school, Marc is very thankful for the MNO’s financial assistance as this has helped to decrease the financial impact and debt burden that can so easily pile up. Marc decided to pursue a career in medicine as he had always excelled in the sciences and had a desire to help others and give back to his community. Jean-Claude is a perfect example of what hard work and dedication can get you in life.

Jean-Claude helped plan various activities around campus and enjoyed spending time at the Louis Riel Centre, where he was able to embrace his Métis culture. In April 2015, Jean-Claude’s hard work paid off when he successfully completed his two-year Commerce program at Collège Boréal. He graduated top of his class, earning honours and was even asked to give a speech during the graduation ceremony. Jean-Claude is proud to say that he is now employed full-time as a Consultant with the Investors Group.

**A Métis success story from Sudbury.**

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**Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Marc Labelle.**

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**MNO citizen Austin Press.**
Proud Day

Three generations receive Métis Nation of Ontario citizenship

submitted by Kathy Bazley, MNO Citizen

It was a proud day for the Bazley-Curran Métis family. Arden’s mother Kathy Bazley-Curran received her Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizenship. Arden accompanied me to the event and watched proudly. Kathy said that three generations of women all receiving their MNO citizenship is a source of family pride and a chance to share cultural knowledge. “All of us wear our sashes with great pride, and will continue to provide information where and when we can about the Métis.”

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-government. Since June, the following MNO community councils have had elections. Thanks and congratulations go to all the candidates who participated in these elections and to the new council members listed below:

**MNO OTTAWA REGION MÉTIS COUNCIL**
President: Benny Michaud
Senator: Parnell Burke
Women’s Representative: Amanda Bison
Youth Representative: Iain Boist
Councillor: Tony Belcourt

**MNO GREENSTONE MÉTIS COUNCIL**
President: William Gordon
Chair: Allan Gordon
Senator: Patryc Dryden
Women’s Representative: Kelly Carnacho
Youth Representative: Christine Gillis
Councillor: Sandra Gillis
Councillor: Ted Pile
Daniel Rancourt

**MNO ATIKOKAN MÉTIS COUNCIL**
President: Marlene Davidson
Senator: Brian Goulcher
Secretary/Treasurer: Sandra Gauthier-Poelman
Women’s Representative: Lorraine Gauthier-Stromberg
Councillor: Edwin Goulcher
Blain Davidson
Bruce Foy
Don Foy

**MNO NORTH CHANNEL MÉTIS COUNCIL**
President: Yvonne Jensen
Chair: Guy Ladneroute
Senator: Blair Sterling
Secretary/Treasurer: Jennifer Jensen
Women’s Representative: Lorraine Smart
Youth Representative: Taylor McNally
Councillors: Reg Bennett
Gary Foster
Jason Rydall

**MNO SUPERIOR NORTH SHORE MÉTIS COUNCIL**
President: Trent Desaulniers
Chair: Mike Rauaud
Senator: Paul Turpin
Secretary/Treasurer: Karen Ritschie
Women’s Representative: Deanna Cooper
Youth Representative: Laura Desaulniers
Councillor: Dawn Gionet

**MNO WINDSOR-ESEK-KENT MÉTIS COUNCIL**
President: Donna Greyer
Chair: Terry Desjardins
Senator: Jim Turner
Secretary/Treasurer: Ron Roche
Women’s Representative: Sharlene Lance
Youth Representative: Katie Baltzar
Councilors: Wilfred Roshon
Gary Lovell
Robert Desjardins

**MNO CLEAR WATERS MÉTIS COUNCIL**
President: Jerry Clarke
Chair: George Fleury
Senator: Maryjane Buttenham
Secretary: Don Kennedy
Women’s Representative: Linda Winstanley
Youth Representative: Jared Clarke
Councillor: Andrew Buttenham
Matthew Lumberton
Josh Clarke

**MNO CHAPLEAU MÉTIS COUNCIL**
President: David Hamilton
Chair: John Bruneau
Women’s Representative: Janique Labelle
Councillor: Chad Byce

**MNO GRAND RIVER MÉTIS COUNCIL**
President: Jennifer Parkinson
Chair: David Skene
Senator: Carol Lewis
Secretary/Treasurer: Leslie-Anne Muma
Women’s Representative: Colleen Brunelle
Youth Representative: Rebecca Leitch
Councillor: Alicia Hamilton

**MNO THUNDER BAY MÉTIS COUNCIL**
President: Joan Cunnard
Chair: Robert Graham
Senator: Ken Simard
Women’s Representative: Lonnie LaForme
Youth Representative: Janine Landry
Councillor: Megan Tiernan
Karen Drake

**MNO GREAT LAKES MÉTIS COUNCIL**
President: Peter Couture
Chair: Robert LeClair
Senator: John Van Wyck
Secretary: Helen Marietta
Treasurer: James Neil Couture
Women’s Representative: Carla Macdonald Van Wyck
Councillor: Pat Van Wyck
Murray Hillyer

**Obituary**

Zakary Bergeron

The family announces with great sorrow the passing of Zakary Bergeron on Saturday, September 24, 2016 at the age of 23 years. Beloved son of Kenneth and Julie-Anne (née Gray) Bergeron of Hamner. Cherished grandson of Claude & Yollande Bergeron and Adèle Guy (late Normand) all of Nashville. Dear brother of Shawn Bergeron (Danielle) of British Columbia. Sadly missed by his nieces and nephews Ryan, Kyra, Chase, Emmatlee, Adelynn and Joey. Lovingly remembered by many aunts, uncles, cousins, relatives, co-workers and friends. Zak was a Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen and an avid hunter and fisherman.

Donations can be made to the Canadian Diabetes Association.
Locations set for the 2017-2019 MNO AGAs

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is excited to announce the locations of the next three MNO Annual General Assemblies (AGAs)!

- 2017 – Kenora
- 2018 – Peterborough

The MNO would like to thank the respective MNO Community Councils for their interest in hosting the AGA! After concluding the largest MNO AGA in our 23 year history this past August, we are excited to see what the future has in store for our Métis Nation! More information on the MNO AGA will be posted on the MNO website as it becomes available.

Back By Popular Demand!

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO
CANOE EXPEDITION
MAY - AUGUST 2017

STARTING MAY 2017

as part of the Métis Nation of Ontario’s (MNO) contribution to the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of Confederation, the MNO is staging another exciting MNO Canoe Expedition. This summer a group of modern Voyageurs, following historic fur trade routes, will travel the length of Ontario to educate Ontarians and Canadians about Métis contributions to Canada and the continued role of Métis people and communities in the contemporary social, cultural and political realities of Ontario and Canada.

The 2017 MNO Canoe Expedition is both a once-in-a-lifetime adventure and the best summer job ever! While immersed in the great outdoors, Métis youth selected for the Expedition will learn about their culture and heritage and share their amazing journey both with communities along their route and with MNO citizens everywhere through social media. Within a few months the MNO will be looking for proud Métis youth who are ready to challenge themselves in an epic canoe trek; ready to connect Métis communities with their past and future; and ready to learn skills that will help them secure future jobs and advance their careers.

Summer jobs as part of the MNO Canoe Expedition will be posted on the MNO website in the coming months. We will be looking for one experienced Expedition Guide as well as a communications member, a crew of paddlers/presenters and two ground support personnel.

If you are interested in more information, please contact Scott Carpenter, MNO Manager of Education, Way of Life and Special Projects: SCOTTC@METISNATION.ORG

To get a sense of what a MNO Canoe Expedition is like, please visit: www.metisnation.org/programs/education-training/canoe-expedition-2014
The Manitoba Metis Federation’s (MMF) Child and Family Services organizations have recently made national news for providing an innovative program that helps keep children out of the Child Welfare System. Canada has some of the highest rates of children in care in the world; on any given day, there are more than 10,000 Manitoba children in care.

MMFs Live-In Family Enhancement (LIFE) program offers a unique alternative to the apprehension and removal of children from their families. The program focuses on keeping families together by providing the services of a trained foster parent who lives with the family and is therefore able to provide 24/7 support. This live-in mentor works with parents to help restore the strength, health and well-being of all family members and to ensure that there is adequate care provided to children.

The LIFE program was developed in 2008 by the MMF’s Live-In Family Enhancement (LIFE) program. It offers a unique alternative to the apprehension and removal of children from their families. The program focuses on keeping families together by providing the services of a trained foster parent who lives with the family and is therefore able to provide 24/7 support. This live-in mentor works with parents to help restore the strength, health and well-being of all family members and to ensure that there is adequate care provided to children.

The LIFE program was developed in 2008 by the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF). It offers a unique alternative to the apprehension and removal of children from their families. The program focuses on keeping families together by providing the services of a trained foster parent who lives with the family and is therefore able to provide 24/7 support. This live-in mentor works with parents to help restore the strength, health and well-being of all family members and to ensure that there is adequate care provided to children.

**Manitoba**

The Saskatoon Public Library’s newest branch—Round Prairie branch—is set to open in December 2016. The library drew inspiration from the Metis people of Saskatchewan when naming its newest branch. On November 16, 2016, the library announced that the 5,000 square foot library, set to open in December near Preston Avenue on Hunter Road, will be named Round Prairie branch.

“We knew that we wanted to honour Indigenous people with the naming of this new facility,” said Saskatoon Public Library CEO Carol Cooley.

The library system has “firmly committed” to answer many of the calls to action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, she noted.

“The naming of this branch is one step in our journey, and we are proud to honour the legacy of the Round Prairie Metis.”

La Prairie Ronde — or Round Prairie — Metis were a community of buffalo hunters who established a wintering site near Dakota Whitecap in the late 1800s. In the 1920s and 1930s, many migrated to Saskatoon for work. Over the next two decades, they established a permanent community near the site of what is now La Prairie Road. Two branches of the community saw their lands seized by the Crown before the Crown forced them to relocate.

Source: Saskatoon Star Phoenix

**Saskatchewan**

The Saskatchewan flag at the BC Parliament Buildings in Victoria.

Many joined to witness the raising of the flag which provided affordable housing for Metis families in Edmonton and Calgary, business partners and cousins Orval and Dr. Herb Belcourt along with Georges Brosseau, poured $13 million into an endowment fund to help Metis Albertans pursue post-secondary education. Contributions have since come from partners such as Telus, Enbridge, Syncrude, Alberta Health Services and individual donors. In 2016, the fund delivered $625,000 in awards to 158 recipients.

Applicants must be Metis, demonstrate financial need and intend to pursue a program of study in Alberta. But their interests are far-reaching—alumni include doctors, engineers of all kinds, lawyers, artists, a funeral director and an aerospace engineer.

Original article by Alex Migdal, Postmedia

**Alberta**

Since 2001, the Belcourt-Brosseau Metis Awards have provided more than $56 million in student funding to 1,000 Metis Albertans—the largest non-governmental source of funding for Metis students in Canada.

After liquidating their housing portfolio, which provided affordable housing for Metis families, the fund delivered $625,000 to 158 recipients.

It’s grown exponentially and beyond our wildest dreams,” said Georges Brosseau, Q.C. “It’s a wonderful thing to be able to help our Metis people who were historically the forgotten people, to help them get an education.”

Applicants must be Metis, demonstrate financial need and intend to pursue a program of study in Alberta. But their interests are far-reaching—alumni include doctors, engineers of all kinds, lawyers, artists, a funeral director and an aerospace engineer.

Original article by Alex Migdal, Postmedia

**British Columbia**

On November 16, 2016, the British Columbia (BC) Government renewed their commitment of working with Metis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) through the signing of the Metis Nation Relationship Accord II. The Accord was first signed in 2008 and set out objectives to address health, housing, education, economic opportunities, Metis identification, data collection and opportunities for a trilateral partnership with the federal government. In addition to recommitting to the original objectives, the updated Accord references the Daniels decision and includes four additional subjects: children and families, information sharing, justice, and wildlife stewardship.

The BC Government also acknowledged the importance of Louis Riel as one of the foremost historical Metis leaders by proclaiming November 16 as Louis Riel Day. Many joined to witness the raising of the Metis flag at the BC Parliament Buildings in Victoria.

“As the new president of Metis Nation BC, I am heartened by the provincial government’s willingness to recommit to working together to make life better for every member of the Metis community in B.C.,” said President Marc Dalton.

Source: Government of British Columbia and Metis Nation British Columbia
Silent Flight
submitted by
Anne Huguenin

The night skies are mine to adore, I spread my wings and freely soar. I am peaceful in my silent flight, Royal and resplendent, especially at night.

Sound enhanced, my ears so in tune, the trees are my friends, and so is the moon. I watch while nature scurries about, below my talons, no doubt.

Wisdom is not all that makes one wise, I hear my owlets, hunger cries. I clutch, amass and grasp up too, below my talons, no doubt.

Soon the skies will be yours to wander, A great noble nocturnal hunter. Rest oh wise one, siesta in light, by darkness comes your silent flight.
Migratory Birds and the Métis Way of Life

submitted by Brian Tucker
MNO Associate Director of Education and Way of Life

The Métis are a people with a close connection to the land and water, and the health of Métis people and the vibrancy of the Métis way of life are dependent on the health of the ecosystem. The Métis also have common values of conservation and stewardship for natural resources and ecosystems; sustainable use and conservation of natural resources helps ensure that future generations will be able to practice the Métis way of life.

Unfortunately, a number of species in Canada are under threat from a wide range of stressors. Over the years, this has led to government action to try and protect such species. One such initiative is the federal Species at Risk Act (SARA). There are more than 500 plant and animal species at risk in Canada (according to the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada), and more than 11,000 through-out the world.

The information below provides some information on the Act and about species at risk.

The Purpose of SARA

The purposes of the Act are to prevent Canadian indigenous species, subspecies, and distinct populations from becoming extirpated or extinct, to provide for the recovery of endangered or threatened species, and to encourage the management of other species to prevent them from becoming at risk.

Below are some of the most prevalent environmental factors contributing to species decline:

• Habitat Loss and Degradation
• Genetic and Reproductive Isolation
• Suppression of Natural Events
• Environmental Contamination
• Over harvesting and excessive trade
• Climate Change
• Disease
• Invasive Species

The species at risk information above is located on the SARA Registry: www.registrar-sararegistry.gc.ca. If you would like further information on SARA, please visit the SARA Registry website. If you would like to share information, please contact Markus Tuoimaa, Traditional Knowledge Coordinator, at 1-800-256-2595 or by email at markus@metisnation.org.

Migratory Birds

Some species of migratory birds are an important source of food for Métis people in Ontario. These species, as well as other migratory birds, are part of the interconnected ecosystems that support the Métis way of life and the well-being of the Métis people.

Environment and Climate Change Canada is responsible for migratory birds and it focuses its efforts on monitoring species status and trends, protecting high-quality habitat, identifying species that need more attention, ensuring that data and analysis is broadly shared to inform research and conservation, and tracking the success of species management activities.

This year, Canada and the United States are celebrating 100 years of partnership of conservation of migratory birds in North America. The Migratory Birds Convention was signed in 1916 between the two countries to address the serious issues that were surrounding migratory birds.

Overuse of natural resources, habitat destruction and unregulated harvest for various industries was devastating the populations of migratory birds which included the extinction of the passenger pigeon; once the most abundant bird species in North America.

Today, the conservation efforts between Canada and the US has seen successes in protecting and conserving bird species and habitats, but several challenges still lie ahead. Visit the Migratory Birds Convention website to learn eight ways you can help to conserve migratory birds: https://goo.gl/5wKv2r.

Here are ten simple and concrete things that you can do to help protect species at risk:

1. Learn as much as you can about species at risk: explore the SARA website, join an environmental group, and visit parks, zoos, and botanical gardens that house species at risk.
2. Offer your help to teams working to recover species at risk in your area. They sometimes need a helping hand for specific activities.
3. Install bird feeders, especially in places where there are very few mature trees.
4. Grow native plants in your garden, while making sure to buy them from producers that do not harvest them directly from the wild.
5. Question residential area plans that could destroy the habitats of species at risk.
6. Reduce your contribution to the greenhouse effect: walk, ride a bicycle, or take public transportation to work. Choose an economical car, or carpool.
7. Do not use pesticides around the home.
8. When travelling, remember that it is sometimes illegal to bring back, without a permit, souvenirs made from plants and animals.
9. Reduce, reuse and recycle. Consume less and buy from companies that are involved in protecting the environment.
10. Respect laws and regulations regarding species at risk.

More information on migratory birds can be found on the Migratory Birds page on the Environment and Climate Change Canada’s website: http://biodiversity.gc.ca/migratory-birds.

The MNO Welland office has moved!

Effective November 8, 2016, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Welland office relocated to the following address:

3250 Schmon Parkway Unit 1a
Thorold, ON L2V 4Y6

This office will now be known as the MNO Thorold office. The office was be fully operational as of Monday, November 14, 2016. The new phone number is 905-682-3487 and the fax line is 905-682-1646.

The MNO Niagara Region Métis Council is also based out of this new location.

Métis Nation of Ontario

December 2016, Issue no. 93

Métis Nation of Ontario Commission on Métis Rights & Self-Government

UPDATE AND SCHEDULE:

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Commission on Métis Rights and Self-Government is geared up to begin province-wide community engagement sessions beginning in February and ending in May. The commission will visit all 29 MNO Community Councils as well as the MNO Youth Council, MNO Veterans’ Council and the Women’s Secretariat of the MNO (WSMNO) to discuss key Métis governance issues, how we can better reflect Métis community identity and culture within our governance, protecting the environment, and how we can move forward on harvesting, mobility, and self-government. There will be various ways that our citizens can engage with the Commission and share their thoughts. Every citizen of the MNO is welcome to participate in these important discussions.

The creation of the MNO Commission is both timely and significant. The stars are aligned for Métis in Ontario with recent watershed events including the Daniels decision, the Isaac Report and supportive federal and provincial governments, that are the culmination of decades of dedicated effort and reflect the collective aspirations of the Métis Nation. These events provide opportunities for once-in-a-generation advances on Métis rights, Métis land claims and modern day Métis treaties with the Crown.

To prepare for these discussions, we are working diligently with the Commissioners as well as the PCMNO to put together background resources for our communities and citizens, which will be distributed in advance of the sessions. These resources will be made available through the MNO website and through local MNO offices.

A draft schedule of community engagement sessions is included below; please visit the MNO website frequently as the Commission works progresses over the coming months.

I look forward to attending each of the community engagement sessions and hearing directly from citizens across Ontario. As the conclusion of the province-wide consultations, the findings of the Commission will be presented in a What We Heard Report that will contribute substantially to the MNOs ongoing efforts to extend and build upon the remarkable achievements of the past 20 years in advancing Métis rights and self-government.

The What We Heard Report will be presented at the Annual General Assembly in 2017 and will greatly assist the MNO in moving forward with the MNO’s Métis rights and self-government agenda in the years to come. We will work together to consolidate the accomplishments of those who have come before us, and to lay a solid foundation for those who will follow.

Your voice as a citizen of the Métis Nation of Ontario is important and we look forward to your participation with the MNO Commission on Métis Rights and Self-Government in the coming months. Please join us when we are in your community and be a part of developing this vision for our nation.

M. Margaret Froh
President, Métis Nation of Ontario

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Remembrance Day throughout the province:
MNO veterans and citizens remember

submitted by
Joseph Paquette
MNO Veterans’ Council President

Throughout the province, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) veterans and citizens attended Remembrance Day ceremonies to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice for the freedom we enjoy today. In solemn remembrance of our fallen comrades, many MNO wreaths were laid at these local ceremonies. Below is a collection of several pictures of MNO veterans and citizens attending local Remembrance Day ceremonies. The MNO Veterans’ Council would like to acknowledge all of those that sent pictures to the MNO Veterans’ Council. We thank all of you for your service.

We Shall Remember Them.
Lest We Forget.

submitted by
Joseph Paquette
MNO Veterans’ Council President

Moosonee
A collection of Remembrance Day wreaths from the Moosonee ceremony.

Belle River
On November 6, 2016, Don Kennedy, C.D. (MNO veteran and MNO Clear Waters Métis Council [CWMC] Secretary), laid a wreath on behalf of the MNO CWMC at the Glanbrook Cenotaph.

Binbrook
The MNO CWMC wreath (far right) is placed beneath the Glanbrook Cenotaph.

Blind River
(Y to R) Rob Baskey (MNO Veterans’ Council Sergeant-at-Arms and Ontario Provincial Police Officer) proudly wears his Métis sash with Kieran Hiland (Police Constable), William Soloman (Auxiliary Constable), Brett Bowman (Police Constable), and Dan Michaud (Sergeant).

Moosonee
Yvonne Jensen (MNO North Channel Métis Council [NCMC] President) attended a local Remembrance Day ceremony with MNO NCMC Senator Blair Sterling (not pictured).

Binbrook
(L-R) MNO veterans Sharlene Lance (MNO Windsor-Essex-Kent Métis Council [WEKMC] Women’s Representative), Matthew Bombardier (MNO Infinite Reach Facilitator), and Shelly Claus (MNO Veterans’ Council Women’s Representative) salute at a Cenotaph after laying a wreath.

Barrie
The MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council’s wreath that was laid at a local Remembrance Day ceremony.
On November 6, 2016, 16-year-old Métis youth Ciara Lannigan (pictured above) took part in a Remembrance Day ceremony held in Tiverton. Since she was in preschool, Ciara has attended Remembrance Day ceremonies with her grandmother Kathleen Lannigan, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen and MNO Regional Employment and Training Coordinator, and her parents Shawna Hamilton and MNO citizen Patrick Lannigan. Ciara is a Cadet in Kincardine. Her great grandfather John Lannigan was with the Royal 22nd Regiment during the liberation of Holland during WW II. The family is proud of his service and grateful for his safe return. The family is also very proud of Ciara.

On November 10, 2016, MNO veterans Matthew Bombardier (MNO Infinite Reach Facilitator), Shelly Claus (MNO Veterans’ Council Women’s Representative), and Sharlene Lance (MNO WEKMC Women’s Representative) attended a Remembrance Day ceremony on Bkejwanong Territory, Walpole Island First Nation.

Members of the MNO Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council and MNO Citizens attend a Remembrance Day ceremony.

On November 6, 2016, MNO veterans Matthew Bombardier (MNO Infinite Reach Facilitator), Shelly Claus (MNO Veterans’ Council Women’s Representative), and Sharlene Lance (MNO WEKMC Women’s Representative) attended a Remembrance Day ceremony on Bkejwanong Territory, Walpole Island First Nation.

(L-R) Ed Brown (Six Nations) and Don Kennedy, C.D. (MNO veteran and MNO CWMC Secretary).

(L-R) Brian Crowthers (Sergeant), Joseph Paquette (MNO Veterans’ Council President), and Erick.

(L-R) Gary Lovell (MNO WEKMC Councilor), Wayne Smith, M.B., (MNO veteran), Shelly Claus (MNO Veterans’ Council Women’s Representative) and Sharlene Lance (WEKMC Women’s Representative) attended the local Remembrance Day ceremony. Also in attendance, were Robert Desjardins (MNO WEKMC Councilor) and Donna Graye (MNO WEKMC President).

Canadian flags were displayed in the ground in Windsor in honour of the lost soldiers.
REMEMBRANCE DAY 2016

MNO Veterans’ Council attends Remembrance Day ceremony at Queen’s Park

submitted by
Dr. Alis Kennedy, O.Ont, C.D., O.M.C.
MNO Veterans’ Council Senator

For the sixth year in a row, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans’ Council had the honour of being personally invited by the Office of the Premier of Ontario to the Remembrance Day ceremony at Queen’s Park in Toronto. Representing the MNO at this ceremony were MNO veterans: Harvey Horlock, Todd Ross, MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council Chair (Interim); and, Alis Kennedy, MNO Veterans’ Council Senator. Although it was a bit chilly, the sun was shining, which made the ceremony quite enjoyable.

Among the special dignitaries at the ceremony were the Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Dr. Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs.

The opening prayer was provided by Elder Barry Saull from Mississaugas New Credit Nation. Elder Saull also provided a song toward the end of the ceremony. The Premier as well as the Honorary Lieutenant-General Richard Rohmer, O.C., C.M.M., O.Ont., D.F.C., C.D., Q.C. – Canada’s most decorated soldier and Brigadier-General S.M. Cadden, Commander 4th Canadian Division each spoke at the ceremony.

On behalf of the MNO, Chair Ross placed the Métis wreath at the base of the Veterans Memorial monument. Chair Ross made us very proud! This year, marks the 10th anniversary of monument. As only a handful of veterans are invited every year to join the VIP section, and so it has always been an honour and privilege for the MNO Veterans’ Council to take part in the Remembrance Day ceremony at Queen’s Park.

Métis veteran honoured to represent the MNO on Remembrance Day

by MNO Staff
with files from legion.ca

Every year on November 11, Métis from across the homeland participate in Remembrance Day ceremonies. It is very important for Métis to be a part of these ceremonies because we have contributed to the defence of Canada as far back as the War of 1812 as well as in both World Wars, the Korean Conflict, peacekeeping missions and most recently, in Afghanistan.

Over the years, many Métis have served and many have made the ultimate sacrifice. By making the Métis presence felt at Remembrance Day services, we show our respect for all veterans and we remind all Canadians of Métis service and sacrifices.

Since 2004, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) has laid a wreath at the National War Memorial in Ottawa during National Remembrance Day ceremonies. This year, MNO citizen Richard Lefebvre, C.D., who served in the military for close to 33 years and retired as a Master Warrant Officer, was asked to lay the wreath, with the assistance of his grandson Ethan.

It is an extreme honour to represent my fellow Métis veterans,” said Lefebvre. “I think it is important to let the public know that there are Métis veterans who have proudly served in the past and are still serving.”

Lefebvre assisted his daughter, Chief Warrant Officer (CWO) Jaime Lefebvre, C.D., L.L.B. and his grandson Ethan with the laying of the wreath last year. Ethan is in the Royal Canadian Air Cadets and plans to follow in the footsteps of his mother and grandfather, both of whom are MNO citizens, and join the army.

Lefebvre says that he is proud to wear his sash on November 11th every year and is happy that the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) has had regulations in place since 2011 to ensure that Aboriginal members are able to practise their specific Aboriginal customs and traditions, such as the wearing of the Métis sash, with their uniforms.

Lefebvre has been an important advocate for Métis veterans as he has been laying a wreath on behalf of the MNO for the past eight years at the National Military Cemetery at Beechwood in Ottawa during the National Memorial Ride (NMR).

The NMR is an annual commemorative event that brings together motorcycle enthusiasts and supporters on the first Sunday of June to remember and commemorate Canada’s fallen veterans. This event was started by the National Memorial Riders and was taken over by the Royal Canadian Legion. Lefebvre’s group is the only motorcycle group allowed in Beechwood cemetery.
REMEmBRANCE DAY 2016

Windsor-Essex-Kent Métis Council presents to Grade Four students at St. Pius X Catholic Elementary School in Tecumseh on November 21, 2016.

During his presentation, Wilfred was accompanied by his son Jon Rochon, who is also the MNO WEKMC Secretary/Treasurer, as well as his granddaughter Sienna Rochon. Sienna, who is no doubt very proud of her grandfather and all of his accomplishments, proudly wore her Métis sash to school that day.

MNO Council recognizes the work of Métis veterans

submitted by
Donna Grayer
MNO Windsor-Essex-Kent Métis Council President

On September 28, 2016, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Windsor-Essex-Kent Métis Council (WEKMC) presented a certificate of appreciation to Wilfred Rochon, MNO veteran and the MNO WEKMC Councilor, for his dedication and commitment to the Council. Councilor Rochon has been a dedicated volunteer to the Council for a number of years, he was one of the founders of the Council and is a past President.

A few weeks later on November 13, 2016, the MNO WEKMC held a Remembrance and Louis Riel Community meeting, where several MNO veterans were presented with Louis Riel medals and certificates. It was decided by the Council that in order to emphasize the Council's gratitude to Councilor Rochon, they would again present him with the certificate of appreciation during this special meeting.

The meeting began with MNO veteran being led by a piper and a Colour Guard, which included MNO Infinite Reach Facilitator Matthew Bombardier. MNO WEKMC Senator Jim Turner then led guests in an opening prayer. MNO WEKMC Councilor Garry Lovell next took to the stage to read a message from MNO President Margaret Froh addressed to the veterans where she stated: "On behalf of the Métis Nation of Ontario, it is with great honour that I convey this message paying tribute to our Métis veterans in the Windsor area. As we gather this month to mark Remembrance Day and commemorate Louis Riel Day we are reminded of those that have given so much to protect our freedom."

President Froh’s words were very heart felt and appreciated by all. Each MNO veteran received a copy of President Froh’s speech to take home with them.

MNO Veterans’ Council President Joseph Paquette next led the presentation of Louis Riel certificates and medals to the following MNO veterans: Sharlene Lance (MNO WEKMC Women’s Representative), Shelly Claus (MNO Veterans’ Council Women’s Representative), Terry Desjardins (MNO WEKMC Chair), Steve Cadotte (MNO citizen). Recipients who were absent from the meeting include Wayne A. Smith and William (Bill) Majovsky. As President Paquette handed out the awards, he told a personal story about each one of the veterans.

Jon Rochon, MNO WEKMC Secretary/Treasurer and son of Councilor Rochon, next read a letter addressed to Councilor Rochon from President Froh thanking him for his service to Canada and the MNO WEKMC. In the letter, President Froh stated: "I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge you for your selfless service as a veteran of World War II, for that leadership that you brought home to your community as a founding council member of the Windsor-Essex-Kent Métis Council, and for your years of dedication to the Métis Nation volunteering on council and within the community. Your leadership has been greatly appreciated and is being celebrated by many today."

MNO staff members from the MNO Windsor office hosted a delicious turkey lunch for guests. After lunch, a meeting was called to order. PCMNO Region 9 Councilor Peter Rivers was kept busy with many questions concerning issues and upcoming events for this area. The discussion was great and the pumpkin pie definitely sweetened the meeting up!

At the end of the meeting, President Paquette was presented with a gift to thank him for making the trip out to Windsor for this special ceremony. President Paquette was left momentarily speechless and was very appreciative at the thought that went into this. The meeting was very well attended with the focus being on the gratitude towards our MNO veterans. On to the next event! ☝️

MNO WWII veteran speaks to students

submitted by
Jon Rochon,
MNO Windsor-Essex-Kent Métis Council Secretary/Treasurer

On the heels of Remembrance Day, 90 year old World War II (WWII) veteran and Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Windsor-Essex-Kent Métis Council (WEKMC) Councilor Wilfred Rochon gave a presentation to Grade Four students at St. Pius X Catholic Elementary School in Tecumseh on November 21, 2016.

Dressed in full regalia, Wilfred shared his personal experience of WWII with the very curious students. Wilfred also talked about his work as one of the founding members of the MNO WEKMC and his role as the Council’s first President. At the end of presentation, he was more than happy to answer the many questions from the class.

During his presentation, Wilfred was accompanied by his son Jon Rochon, who is also the MNO WEKMC Secretary/Treasurer, as well as his granddaughter Sienna Rochon. Sienna, who was no doubt very proud of her grandfather and all of his accomplishments, proudly wore her Métis sash to school that day. ☝️
**MNO Veterans’ Council honours with Eagle feathers at 2016 AGA**

Submitted by
Greg Garratt
MNO Veterans’ Council Secretary and Region 7 Captain of the Hunt

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans’ Council received a great honour at this year’s AGA in North Bay when they were each presented with an Eagle feather. The feathers were a gift by the MNO Veterans’ Council newest representative, Shelly Claus, who serves as Women’s Representative.

Claus chose to present the Council with this special distinction to recognize their many accomplishments over their last four-year term. In particular, she wished to recognize their unwavering commitment to honour and acknowledge Métis veterans and their passing of the torch of remembrance to Métis youth.

A few of the Council’s recent accomplishments include: the publishing of the MNO veterans book, *Fighting For Canada Before There Was A Canada: Ontario Métis Veterans Pass the Torch*; their attendance at the Welland Museum grand opening with 105 year old Métis veteran Alex Boucher; the presentation of the Korean Ambassador for Peace Medal to Métis veteran Jack Cadeau; the 100th anniversary of Vimy Ridge project and many more!

“It takes teamwork, dedication, personal money and time to pull these and other events together.”
— Greg Garratt

**Veterns’ Senator Kennedy presents the MNO Veterans’ book to Minister Bennett**

Submitted by
Dr. Alis Kennedy, O.Ont., C.D., O.M.C.
MNO Veterans’ Council Senator

On September 6, 2016, Alis Kennedy, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans’ Council Senator, was invited to attend an event at a Toronto Synagogue. Senator Kennedy proudly displayed her Métis pride at the event by wearing a Métis sash pin.

Upon hearing that the Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs, would be in attendance, Senator Kennedy decided to bring three copies of the MNO Veterans’ book—*Fighting For Canada Before There Was A Canada: Ontario Métis Veterans Pass the Torch*—to the event. Senator Kennedy presented Minister Bennett with the MNO Veterans’ book on behalf of the Council. Minister Bennett was delighted to receive the book. Senator Kennedy also asked Minister Bennett if she could give a copy of the book to the Honourable Harjit Sajjan, Minister of National Defence, and the Honourable Kent Hehr, Minister of Veterans Affairs, to which she said she would be honoured to do so.

**MNO Veterans’ Council meet with Lieutenant Governor Dowdeswell**

Submitted by
Joseph Paquette, MNO Veterans’ Council President

On October 5, 2016, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans’ Council met with Lieutenant Governor Dowdeswell, O.C., O.Ont., Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. This special meeting was arranged by Joanne Meyer, MNO Director of Intergovernmental Affairs. After a brief interview was completed, a copy of the MNO veterans book—*Fighting For Canada Before There Was A Canada: Ontario Métis Veterans Pass the Torch*—was presented to Her Honour in acknowledgment of her support of the book. Her Honour graciously provided a letter of endorsement, which was published in the MNO veterans’ book in August 2015.
MNO reps attend the Landscape of Nations memorial event

submitted by
Joseph Paquette
MNO Veterans’ Council President

On October 2, 2016, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans’ Council had representation at the unveiling of the Landscape of Nations: Six Nations and Native Allies Commemorative Memorial event held at Queenston Heights Park in Niagara-on-the-Lake. This event commemorated the Six Nations Peoples and their Native Allies who participated in the War of 1812. The Métis were recognized as being their allies and participated in the Commemorative event by flying the Métis flag and their 1812 banner as part of the Veterans’ Honour Guard. The Métis flag was carried by Joseph Paquette, MNO Veterans’ Council President, and the 1812 banner was carried by Derrick Pont, MNO Niagara Region Métis Council President; such pride in people’s hearts!

The MNO was included in this commemorative event thanks to the efforts of MNO citizen Michele-Ellie Burnett, who is also the daughter of MNO founding member Suzanne Rochon-Burnett, and Brian Kon, MNO Niagara Region Métis Council President. Both Burnett and Kon were a part of various committees who helped with the planning of this event. The MNO Veterans’ Council would like to thank all of the organizers and volunteers that saw this great project to fruition.

MNO Veterans’ Council salutes the MNO GBMC

submitted by
Greg Garratt
MNO Veterans’ Council Secretary and Region 7 Captain of the Hunt

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans’ Council have started a campaign to recognize the efforts of MNO Community Councils to support the Vimy Ridge project. Métis veterans and youth will attend the 2017 Vimy Ridge project. Métis veterans and youth will attend the 2017 Vimy Ridge remembrance service taking place in Ottawa to mark the 100th anniversary of this important historical event. The MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council (GBMC) have always been a great supporter of the MNO Veterans’ Council and its initiatives, including programs with youth and the first-ever MNO Veterans’ book. The MNO GBMC also presented the MNO Veterans’ Council with a decorated canoe paddle at their Annual General Meeting in 2012. The paddle was designed as part of a project that brought Métis youth and elders together and included Danielle Callander, MNO GBMC Secretary.

MNO Veteran participates in walk to honour residential school survivors

submitted by
Rob Baskey, MNO Veterans’ Council Sergeant-at-arms

His past September, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans’ Council Sergeant-at-Arms Rob Baskey participated in Northern College’s Every Child Matters walk. During the walk, participants were encouraged to wear orange shirts to commemorate and remember those impacted by residential schools.

The walk was co-sponsored by the Timmins Native Friendship Centre (Moosonee Site). The keynoter speaker at the walk was residential school survivor Elder Rachel Chakasim. Rachel’s daughter Sharon Ross, who is the Site Manager at the Timmins Native Friendship Centre, also attended the walk. Both Rachel and Sharon made very emotional testimonies on the impact residential schools had on their family.

Every year September 30th is Orange Shirt Day, in recognition of the harm the residential school system did to children’s sense of self-esteem and well-being. Orange Shirt Day grew out of Phyllis (Jack) Webstad’s story of having her shiny new orange shirt taken away on her first day at a residential school.
MNO citizens continue to support the Vimy Ridge Project

Submitted by
Joseph Paquette
MNO Veterans’ Council President

Over the past year, fundraising for the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans’ Council Vimy Ridge Project have been going strong! This project includes many special activities that will help mark the 100th anniversary of the battle of Vimy Ridge. Throughout the year, sisters Shelly Claus, MNO Veterans’ Council Women’s Representative, and Sharlene Lance, MNO Windsor-Essex-Kent Métis Council Women’s Representative, have been busy organizing various events to support the Vimy Ridge Project. Some of the events they have planned include a steak dinner, raffles, lotteries and more.

“Over 100 people attended the steak dinner, we sold out of tickets for the raffle prizes and approximately 85 people attended each auction,” said Shelly.

The MNO Veterans’ Council would like to thank all of the MNO citizens, friends and families that bought tickets and donated money. They would also like to thank all of the volunteers for their help at these events, especially Shelly and Sharlene for all of their fundraising efforts.

To learn more about the MNO Veterans’ Council Vimy Ridge Project, please visit the MNO website.

Veterans’ Council meet with Speaker of the Ontario Legislature

Submitted by
Joseph Paquette
MNO Veterans’ Council President

Representatives of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans’ Council recently met with the Honourable Dave Levac, the Official Speaker of the Ontario Legislature, MPP for Brant and a proud Métis.

During their visit, the MNO Veterans’ Council presented Speaker Levac with the MNO Veterans’ book – Fighting for Canada before there was a Canada. Ontario Métis Veterans Pass the Torch – as a way of thanking him for his support of this project.

Speaker Levac provided a formal letter of endorsement which was published with the book in 2015. Following the presentation, the MNO Veterans’ Council were honoured to be invited by Speaker Levac for lunch in the Speaker’s State. Conversation over their meal included the positive impact that the MNO Veterans’ Council have made over the years and will continue to make moving forward. It was also discovered that Speaker Levac and members of the MNO Veterans’ Council share some of the same ancestors going back to the 1600s. It was a very exciting day to a wonderful visit.

MNO Veterans’ Council

MNO Veterans’ Council attends the Suzanne Rochon-Burnett street name unveiling

Submitted by
Joseph Paquette
MNO Veterans’ Council President

adapted from a story by
Joseph Paquette

submitted by
name unveiling

MNO Veterans’ Council on October 4.

On October 4, 2016, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans’ Council attended a special ceremony at Brock University to officially rename the Glenridge roundabout to Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Circle after MNO citizen Dr. Suzanne Rochon-Burnett, C.M., O.Ont.

The street naming ceremony was one of three Indigenous-themed events held at Brock University’s campus on October 4.

Suzanne was a founding member of the MNO and was instrumental in the advocacy for Métis recognition, both at the provincial and federal levels. Named to the Order of Canada and the Order of Ontario, Suzanne was a member of the Council of Canada and was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by Brock University where she served on the Board of Trustees.

She was a recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation and the first woman inducted into the Aboriginal Business Hall of Fame.

Suzanne passed away in 2006. To honour her memory and recognize her outstanding service as a volunteer, in 2009, the MNO named Suzanne as the first recipient of the inaugural Volunteer of the Year Award, which now bears her name.

“Suzanne dedicated much of her time to the Métis here in Ontario and we will not forget her dedication,” said Joe Paquette, MNO Veterans’ Council President.

“We thank Suzanne Rochon-Burnett for the many personal and business accomplishments, for the contributions to Brock University, and for her efforts for the betterment of Aboriginal students at Brock and across the country. Having personally known Suzanne, she was a great mentor, achiever, supporter and most of all a good friend.”

Earlier that morning, the MNO Veterans’ Council also attended a ceremony at the Cairns Family Health and Bioscience Research Complex to officially open the Brock Healing Garden. Healing gardens are green spaces that offer a therapeutic setting where visitors can sit to reduce stress. At the ceremony, Michele-Elise Burnett, MNO citizen and Suzanne’s daughter, had the opportunity to speak about her mother and Indigenous peoples.

Through the efforts of Michele-Elise, Suzanne’s achievements continue to be recognized. Michele-Elise currently sits on Brock University’s Board of Trustees and is clearly following in her mother’s footsteps and living her legacy.

The MNO Veterans’ Council also attended the third event at Brock University, which was the official opening of the Aboriginal Student Services office’s new location, which is now on the north-east corner of Market Hall.

“All in all,” says President Paquette, “it was a very emotional day, accompanied by many memories, friends and great weather.”

As a way of thanking him for his support of this project, Speaker Levac provided a formal letter of endorsement which was published with the book in 2015.

Following the presentation, the MNO Veterans’ Council were honoured to be invited by Speaker Levac for lunch in the Speaker’s State. Conversation over their meal included the positive impact that the MNO Veterans’ Council have made over the years and will continue to make moving forward. It was also discovered that Speaker Levac and members of the MNO Veterans’ Council share some of the same ancestors going back to the 1600s. It was a very exciting day to a wonderful visit.

(L-R) Guy Mandeville C.D., MNO Veterans’ Council Chair; Dr. Alis Kennedy, O.Ont., C.D., O.M.C., MNO Veterans’ Council Senator; the Honourable Dave Levac, Official Speaker of the Ontario Legislature and MPP for Brant; and, Joseph Paquette, MNO Veterans’ Council President.
The Lodge was completed less than a year later on September 8, 2016. Sergeant Euper and the 81 CEF members dedicated many hours of extensive research to understand the significance of a traditional longhouse, and while it wasn’t possible to construct one on the CFB Trenton site, the Caribou Lodge effectively represents many traditional features.

The thought and care put into the project is obvious, from the ranch board exterior siding used to make it look rustic to the sky-lights that were used to simulate the holes that allowed the fire pit smoke to escape. Near the end of the project, the 81 CEF personnel worked many long hours to reach its completion. This included starting their shifts earlier than normal in order to lay the shingles starting their shifts earlier than normal in order to lay the shingles during the cooler hours of the day.

The Lodge effectively represents a multi-branch unit with members of all ages from the different branches, which include Sparke’s, Brownses, Guides, Pathfinders and Rangers. Mandeville and Thompson brought along, MNO Métis Education Kits to assist them with their presentation, which Mandeville says was an asset. The youth asked many excellent questions, which both Mandeville and Thompson were more than happy to answer. Overall, the presentation was a very rewarding experience for all involved.

MNO Veterans’ Council Chair Guy Mandeville, C.D. (back row, far right) with youth from the 10th Tweed Girl Guides Unit.

Girl Guides get a glimpse of Métis culture

submitted by
Guy Mandeville, C.D.
MNO Veterans’ Council Chair
with files from Ross Lees, Contact Trenton

O n October 18, 2016, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans’ Council Chair Guy Mandeville, C.D., and PCMNO Region 6 Councilor Tom Thompson paid a visit to the 10th Tweed Girl Guides Unit to lead a workshop on Métis history and culture in Ontario. The 10th Tweed Girl Guides is a multi-branch unit with members of all ages from the different branches, which include Sparke’s, Brownses, Guides, Pathfinders, and Rangers. Mandeville and Thompson brought along MNO Métis Education Kits to assist them with their presentation, which Mandeville says was an asset. The youth asked many excellent questions, which both Mandeville and Thompson were more than happy to answer. Overall, the presentation was a very rewarding experience for all involved.

The Lodge is a simulated long-house structure that will provide a place for Indigenous personnel to conduct ceremonies and interact with their cultures. It is located in the Three Sisters Garden behind the Officers’ Mess at the 8 Wing Canadian Forces Base.

MNO Veterans’ Council recognizes work of 81 CEF

submitted by
Guy Mandeville, C.D.
MNO Veterans’ Council Chair
with files from Ross Lees, Contact Trenton

The Lodge began in December 2015 with the laying of a concrete foundation. The laying of a concrete foundation began in December 2015 with the laying of a concrete foundation.