Another Awesome MNO March Break Camp
Putting Métis youth in touch with their culture
See more on pages 8-9

MNO signs historic accord with Canada
Page 3

#beadworkrevolution
Join the Revolution
Page 7

Region 9 tours Wind facility
Page 9
A Message from the President
The last few months since the last Métis Voyageur have been a busy and exciting time for the great Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and our citizens.

Canada-Métis Nation Accord

Only a few weeks ago Métis Nation leaders from across the homeland participated in the first ever Canada-Métis Nation Summit. At this Summit, I was one of the signatories with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of the historic Canada-Métis Nation Accord which, among other things, put in place a permanent bilateral mechanism between Métis Nation leaders, the Prime Minister and members of his cabinet. This Accords will help move the reconciliation between Canada and the Métis Nation and is a tremendous step forward. (See story on page 3).

Métis Self-Government

Since the last edition of the Métis Voyageur, I have had the opportunity to participate in many community engagement sessions with my fellow Commissioners on the MNO Commission of Métis Rights and Self-Government. Hundreds of citizens have taken an active role in Métis governance by attending these sessions and sharing their hopes and aspirations for the future of Métis in Ontario. (See story on page 5). Our work will continue on this front as we look forward to attending the remaining sessions.

Métis Youth

Métis youth are front and centre at the engagement sessions and their leadership is strongly demonstrated in this Voyageur as well. Our cover story focuses on the 25 Métis high school students who gathered at the Canadian Ecological Centre in Mattawa for the 2017 MNO Inclusive Reach March Break Camp. It is fantastic to see these young people connecting with their Métis heritage while at the same time learning about how to succeed at the postsecondary level (see story on pages 8-9).

While the March Break Camp provides the opportunity to introduce new young leaders to the MNO, our current crop of young leaders are already very active. In this issue we learn about the MNO Youth Council's # beadworkrevolution challenge. This is an initiative that encourages all Métis youth to pick up their needles and embrace their Métis culture and, by doing so, strengthen our identity. I am so proud of our youth leaders for launching this amazing initiative (see story on page 28).

President Froh with Métis Nation British Columbia Vice President Lisa Smith at the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge in Ottawa.

Vimy Memorial

I was very proud this April when Métis youth joined with Métis veterans to participate in the MNO Veterans’ Council Vimy Commemoration Project. The veterans and youth honoured the sacrifices made by Métis and all veterans at the Battle of Vimy Ridge one hundred years ago in April 1917. (See story on pages 14-15).

Senators

At the same time as we are very happy with the leadership of our younger people, I also want to recognize the efforts of our senior citizens and I want to especially thank PC MNO Executive Senator Joseph Poitrast for initiating the Senators’ Spotlight feature that is premiering in this issue. Senator Poitrast has asked MNO Senators to provide stories about their lives so that we can all learn from their experience and wisdom. This feature features a remarkable story from Senator Jim Turner of the MNO Windsor Essex Métis Council (see story on page 10).

Advancing Métis Rights

As usual this Voyageur is a testament to the strong leadership in place across the great Métis Nation of Ontario. A small sampling of innovation and commitment includes: the largest ever Collaborative Forum held between MNO and industry leaders (see page 4); the signing of a new agreement with Vale (see page 14); and the work of the University Ottawa Working Group in the area of Métis research (see page 4).

Community

Most importantly, the paper is packed with stories from our Métis communities and with Métis success stories. Nothing is more encouraging than: reading about how our citizens are getting out in their communities and increasing awareness about the Métis, getting together with fellow citizens to promote and celebrate our heritage and culture, and working with industry, education and health care to build a stronger future for Métis and for all Canadians (see stories on pages 20-23).

It is equally heart-warming to learn about Métis who are achieving success in school and in their careers. While it is excellent academically or in a sport or by meeting their own challenges and then finding ways to help others, the individuals highlighted in our MNO success stories are a true inspiration (see stories on page 21 – 23).

Coming Soon

This issue also shows that there are many exciting projects on the horizon. Most notably the first MNO Household Survey (see page 7) that is starting in May and the upcoming 2017 MNO Annual General Assembly (see page 8) in Kenora this August.

Wishing all MNO citizens and friends of the MNO a lovely spring and summer!

Marcie,

Margaret Froh President, Métis Nation of Ontario

The recommended length for a submission is between 400 and 600 words. Submissions longer than that may be edited for length.

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 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.

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May 19, 2017
September 8, 2017
November 3, 2017

Recently moved or moving soon?
Don’t forget to change your address with the Registry so that you will continue to receive your Voyageur and updated information from the MNO.

Call 1-855-799-1006 ext. 2 or send an email to registry@Metisnation.org

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Métis Nation signs historic accord with Canada

During the morning of Thursday, April 13, 2017, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Margaret Froh attended the inaugural meeting of the Crown-Métis Nation Summit — a permanent bilateral process between Métis Nation leaders, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and members of his cabinet. During the meeting, President Froh and the leaders of Métis Nation governments signed the Canada-Métis Nation Accord.

“I was honoured, on behalf of the Métis Nation of Ontario, to participate today in the first ever Crown-Métis Nation Summit and sign the Canada-Métis Nation Accord on behalf of Ontario Métis,” stated President Froh. “This Accord sets up a permanent bilateral process that marks the beginning of a new relationship between the Crown and the Métis Nation based on recognition, rights and respect.”

The permanent bilateral process established in the Canada-Métis Nation Accord includes annual meetings with the Prime Minister, semi-annual meetings with the Minister of Indigenous Affairs and key Cabinet Ministers, and quarterly meetings with various Assistant Deputy Ministers and other senior officials on joint issues of concern to the Métis Nation.

“This kind of accountability and access will significantly advance reconciliation between Canada and the Métis Nation,” predicted President Froh. “The MNO will use these new mechanisms and our exploratory discussions process with the federal government to strengthen our role in improving the lives of Métis people in Ontario. We will continue to work to support Métis community health and well-being, creating opportunities for our Métis children and youth to be the best they can be; protecting and promoting the Métis Way of Life and the environment; advancing the self-sufficiency and sustainability of our nation; and stimulating economic development for our citizens. At the heart of everything that we do are our MNO citizens, families and communities,” said President Froh.

The Ministers who participated in the Crown-Métis Nation Summit were each selected based on the roles their Ministries play in advancing the immediate priorities of reconciliation through a nation-to-nation, government-to-government relationship with the Métis Nation.

Canada was represented by:

- Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister
- Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs
- Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould, Minister of Justice and Attorney-General of Canada
- Honourable Scott Brison, President of the Treasury Board
- Honourable Jane Philpott, Minister of Health
- Honourable Patricia Hajdu, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour
- Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development

This Accord sets up a permanent bilateral process that marks the beginning of a new relationship between the Crown and the Métis Nation based on recognition, rights and respect.”

Margaret Froh, MNO President
Excitement is building for the 2017 AGA! Métis from across Ontario to gather in beautiful Kenora

by MNO Staff

More excitement is building every day for the 24th Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Annual General Assembly that will be taking place August 19-21, 2017 in beautiful Kenora Ontario! Kenora sits on the world renowned Lake of the Woods, which is best known for its pristine and rugged landscape that stretches across a number of shorelines to a vast undisturbed wilderness area. Kenora and the Lake of the Woods are rich in Métis history and culture, which will be on display during the AGA.

The primary venue for AGA 2017 will be the Kenora Recreation Centre located near Lake of the Woods and the hotels where most AGA delegates will be staying. The primary AGA hotel will be the Clarion Inn Lakeside, which is directly across the street from the Kenora Recreation Centre where it affords its guests with amazing views of Lake of the Woods. Other hotels where AGA delegates will be staying include the Comfort Inn, Days Inn, Travelodge, Waterview Inn, Super 8, Perch Bay, Natures Inn, Lake Vu Hotel, Selah Motel, Brewers Inn and Tomet Resort/Yellow Bird Lodge.

As in the past, the MNO will be coordinating accommodations and travel for MNO citizens designated to attend by MNO Community Councils, which will include Presidents, Senators, Youth and Women’s Representatives as well as the members of the MNO Youth and Veterans’ Councils and the Women’s Secretariat. Council designated citizens will be contacted by the MNO directly in the coming weeks for registration purposes.

The MNO AGA is open to all citizens and non-delegates will be able to register via the MNO website in coming weeks. The MNO encourages citizens who may be travelling to Kenora to book accommodations (hotel or camping) as soon as possible, as facilities are limited and it is at the height of tourist season.

As in the past, the Forum will be taking place at Anicinabe Park, which is only five minutes from the Clarion Inn Lakeside Hotel. You can learn about the park at www.anicinabepark.ca and book spots or make inquiries at 1-877-318-2267 or scott@greenadventures.ca. Additional camping is available at Rising River Provincial Park, which is about 20 minutes from Kenora. To reserve space at this park call the Ontario Provincial Parks call centre at 1-888-668-7273.

As is tradition, on the Friday, August 18, prior to the start of the formal AGA the next day, AGA delegates will gather at Anicinabe Park to cheer on the arrival of the Voyageur canoes that will be paddled by the MNO leadership, special guests and other dignitaries. This year’s arrival will be all the more exciting as the MNO Canoe Expedition members will conclude their 2400 kilometre trek across Ontario at the AGA. After this epic entrance everyone will be in the mood to celebrate under a tent with a number of talented Métis entertainers.

For the first time, prior to the opening of business each day of the formal AGA from August 19-21, the MNO will be offering Canoeing demonstrations and instructions from a professional paddler. It will be an exhilarating way to get to start every morning!

AGA business sessions will run all day Saturday, August 19, the mornings of Sunday, August 20 and Monday, August 21. Saturday evening will feature a delicious fish fry and entertainment at Anicinabe Park, while Sunday afternoon at Anicinabe Park will include a wide assortment of Métis cultural activities and games including jigging, trapping demonstrations, fishing, canoeing and fiddling.

Throughout the AGA there will be a trade show and starting on Thursday, August 17 and until the end of the AGA on Monday, August 21, Cultural Cafe, which are adult supervised children’s activities will be available for the children of delegates.

More details on these activities and announcements about even more activities will be in the next Voyageur newspaper and posted on the MNO website as it becomes available.

MNO Collaborative Forum is another big success

by MNO Staff

On February 16, 2017, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) held a Collaborative Forum with industry at the Sheraton Centre Hotel in Toronto. The Forum included over 100 attendees and was described by many participants as the best Collaborative Forum ever. These attendees included MNO’s Regional Consultation Committee members, government officials, Métis business people and representatives from the mining, energy and forestry sectors. The Forum was an excellent opportunity for all attendees to get together, strengthen working relationships and network.

The Forum provided opportunities for a collaborative dialogue on a range of consultation related matters of interest to all participants. The event included greetings from MNO President Margaret Froh, MNO Chair France Picotte, Ontario Prospectors Association Executive Director Garry Clark and Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers Ontario Advisor David Sword. In addition, presentations were made by such speakers as Métis Infrasity Investments LP CEO Scott Patties Richardson, New Gold Business Development Manager Chris Reeves, Economic Development Indigenous Affairs of Union Gas Manager John Bonin, Aboriginal and Government Affairs of Detour Gold Vice President Derek Teevan and Bruce Power Manager of Communications and Media Relations John Peveree.

Another highlight was a presentation by Thomas Isaac, a nationally recognized authority in the area of Aboriginal law, who advises business and government clients across Canada on Aboriginal legal matters and related environmental assessments, negotiations, regulatory and constitutional issues. In June 2016, Isaac delivered a report entitled A Matter of National and Constitutional Import: Report of the Minister’s Special Representative on Reconciliation with Métis Section 35 Métis Rights and the Manitoba Métis Federation Decision to the Honourable Dr. Carolyn Bennett, the federal Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs.

(left-right) MNO Chair France Picotte, Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers Ontario Advisor David Sword and MNO President Margaret Froh.
On the road
The voices of Ontario Métis are being heard

Province-wide consultations of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Commission on Métis Rights and Self-Government began on February 28 and by the end of April, 19 of 32 had been completed. The remainder will be completed by the end of June.

The MNO Commission is made up of seven well respected citizens of the MNO, supported by a team of three additional citizens, with representation from the north and south, youth and seniors, men and women, harvesters and veterans, including French and Michif speakers. The Commissioners are joined by MNO President, Margaret Froh, and MNO Chair, France Picotte in leading conversations with all MNO citizens across the province on key issues such as MNO governance, how we can continue to build Métis identity, culture community, harvesting (including co-management, enforcement of MNO laws and mobility of rights), and what the MNO should be focusing on as it advances Métis rights, including self-government, in Ontario.

The Commission is travelling throughout the province and engaging with citizens in all 29 Chartered Community Council areas across Ontario, and will join the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Regional Councilor and Regional Captain of the Hunt (COTH) in listening to citizens’ concerns, suggestions, hopes and aspirations for the nation on these critical and timely topics.

“We have been delighted with the reception that MNO Commission on Métis Rights and Self-Government has been receiving at the sessions so far,” stated President Froh. She added, “The turnout of our MNO citizens was outstanding at all sessions. Our citizens are so engaged and truly care about the future of our communities and the broader MNO. A fundamental component of good governance is ensuring that all of our citizens feel they have a voice and an opportunity to be heard. And that is exactly what we are doing through this Commission.”

Margaret Froh, MNO President

A fundamental component of good governance is ensuring that all of our citizens feel they have a voice and an opportunity to be heard. And that is exactly what we are doing through this Commission.

Margaret Froh, MNO President

launched, and the first ever MNO Household Survey that we will soon be launching.”

Each engagement session has started with President Froh and the Commissioners leading citizens in a rousing chorus of the MNO song “We Aspire.” Based on the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose and written by MNO citizen and award-winning singer/songwriter Amanda Rheaume, “We Aspire” is always the perfect way to put citizens in the mood to talk about the exciting future of Métis in Ontario.

President Froh also provides an overview at the start of each session that puts the entire context of Métis history and its relationship to our current opportunities and challenges in perspective. “A lot of the work we are doing right now is telling our story,” explained President Froh. “Telling the story of who the Métis are, telling the story of our historic Métis communities here in Ontario. It is important that we start with that history – we start with those foundations of who we
are where we come from – that is in fact the foundation of all the recognition that we have right now. The recognition of us as a rights-bearing people, it all flows from our history.”

President Froh also discusses the significance of many current developments to the ongoing story of the Métis in Ontario. “The stars truly are aligning for the Métis Nation,” as she is fond of say. “Only one month ago, the MNO signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Canada on Advancing Reconciliation. The timing of the launch of the MNO Commission could not have worked out more perfectly. Through the Commission process we are hearing directly from our citizens on the key issues that are important to them as we continue our way forward on the road of self-determination and it will help inform everything that we’re doing, including in the exploratory discussions process with government and the negotiations that will follow.”

President Froh also explains how the MNO’s MOU with Canada builds on several recent advancements for the Métis Nation, including the Supreme Court decision in Daniels v Canada (April 2016) and the report from Tom Isaac, A Matter of National and Constitutional Import: Report of the Minister’s Special Ministerial Representative on Reconciliation with the Métis-Section 35 Métis Rights and the Manitoba Métis Federation Decision (July 2016).

“This is an important and extraordinary time for the Métis Nation. Working together, with all of our citizens and communities, we will build on these opportunities to create an even stronger, healthier future for our Métis families, communities and our entire nation,” stated President Froh. “Through the Commission process we had citizens come out and be a part of the discussion, ranging in age from 9 years old, to the 104 year old World War II Métis veteran, Corporal Alex Boucher, who attended the session with Moon River Métis Council,” stated President Froh. “This Commission, along with other initiatives we are leading to increase communication across the nation, is Métis good governance in action.”

At the conclusion of the province-wide consultations, the findings of the Commission will be presented to MNO citizens in a What We Heard Report that will contribute substantially to the MNO’s ongoing efforts to extend and build upon the remarkable achievements of the past 20 years in advancing Métis rights and self-govern-ment.
MNO signs Relationship Agreement with Vale Canada

by MNO Staff

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) has signed a Relationship Agreement with Vale Canada Limited pertaining to Vale’s current Sudbury operations.

Vale’s Sudbury operations include six mines, a mill, a smelter, a refinery and nearly 4,000 employees, which make it one of the largest integrated mining complexes in the world. Vale’s products include nickel, cobalt, platinum group metals, gold and silver.

Vale has demonstrated a strong commitment to environmental sustainability and is internationally recognized for progressive environmental reclamation and emissions reduction initiatives.

Vale’s Clean Atmospheric Emissions Reduction (AER) Project for example is the largest single environmental project in the history of Sudbury. This one billion dollar investment will reduce sulphur dioxide by 85% from current levels as well as reduce metals and particulate emissions by 35 to 40%.

Vale has been working with the MNO Mattawa/Lake Nipissing Traditional Territory Consultation Committee for the dedication and efforts in building this collaborative and constructive relationship with Vale. As volunteers, the Committee truly exemplifies the commitment of all our MNO elected leaders to the protection and promotion of our heritage, culture, way-of-life and collective rights.

In the Relationship Agreement, Vale makes clear commitments to discuss employment and procurement opportunities for the region’s Indigenous job seekers and to accommodate the MNO’s success in the future.

First-ever MNO Household Survey starts in May!

The MNO is excited to announce the launch of its highly anticipated MNO Household Survey. The Household Survey is set to begin in May and will continue over the summer of 2017. The Survey will provide each and every MNO citizen with a unique opportunity to voice their service needs and concerns in the areas of health, housing, education, employment, social justice and other areas. Survey results will be used to advocate on your behalf with federal and provincial governments and other MNO partners, and to address service gaps for MNO families and communities across Ontario.

HOW DO I PARTICIPATE?

The MNO Household Survey is primarily an online survey. To make sure everyone has the fairest opportunity to participate, MNO citizens who do not have a current email address on file with MNO will soon receive a letter from President Froh inviting them to go online and register for the survey at a special web address provided for that purpose.

Once registered, citizens will be emailed a link to the full online survey which will be rolling out over July and August.

Don’t miss out! If you have not provided your email address to MNO you will not be able to participate in this very important MNO event! For all MNO citizens who have already provided their email address to MNO, you will be emailed the survey link directly.

If you have any questions about the survey, please contact Jane Bilerman, MNO Regional Director, janeb@metisnation.org or 613-798-1488.

MÉTIS STUDENT EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The MNO is providing an opportunity for Métis university students to be directly involved in the research process paid employment with the University of Waterloo Survey Research Centre (UW-SRC), who have been contracted by MNO to assist with data collection.

Please visit https://uwaterloo.ca/survey-research-centre/employment for more information.

All applications or questions can be directed to Mariam Mobasher mmobasher@uwaterloo.ca.

PRIZE DRAW

All citizens who complete both the registration form and the survey by saying: “The MNO Mattawa/Lake Nipissing commitment to working in collaboration with Vale is important because it clearly demonstrates an ongoing commitment of all our MNO elected leaders to the protection and promotion of our heritage, culture, way-of-life and collective rights.”

In the Relationship Agreement, Vale makes clear commitments to discuss employment and procurement opportunities for the region’s Indigenous job seekers and to accommodate the MNO’s success in the future for not just the Métis, but for all Canadians.”

MNO and University of Ottawa Working Group moves forward

by MNO Staff

Dr. Brenda Macdougall, Chair of Métis Research at the University of Ottawa, speaking at a Louis Riel Day event in 2012.

The MNO Household Survey is providing an opportunity for Métis university students to be directly involved in the research process paid employment with the University of Waterloo Survey Research Centre (UW-SRC), who have been contracted by MNO to assist with data collection.

Please visit https://uwaterloo.ca/survey-research-centre/employment for more information.

All applications or questions can be directed to Mariam Mobasher mmobasher@uwaterloo.ca.
The week of March 12-16, 2017, was an exciting one for 24 Métis youth who gathered from all over Ontario to participate in the annual MNO Infinite Reach March Break Camp. Every year more high school students come to this remarkable event to learn about postsecondary opportunities and discover more about their Métis heritage. As has been the case for the last several years, the March Break Camp took place at the Canadian Ecology Centre (CEC) near Mattawa.

“It’s really an awesome way to connect with other Métis youth,” said participant Reagan Sicard, “and to learn about the history and our culture and even opportunities for postsecondary. It brings us together as a community.”

Students were kept hopping from the time they arrived on Sunday night until they left on Thursday. Activities included workshops on the value of postsecondary education, the MNO Infinite Reach program and Writing Resumes and Cover Letters. They also learned about MNO programs and services including Urban Aboriginal Strategy Research and Healing Moccasins.

Senator Ray Bergie who was one of the elders in attendance enjoyed being with the youth who made him feel young again. “It [the camp] brings youth together and let’s them know they are part of a larger family [which is important because] they are our strength and our future.”

The students spent a lot of time learning about their Métis culture and way-of-life. This included sessions learning how to jig to fiddle music, finger weave sashes and create Métis dot art. Métis harvesters Nelson Montreuil and Roger Labelle taught the students about trapping, furs and how to skin a beaver and stretch a beaver pelt. Senator Robert Lloyd provided instructions on making Sumac sap spiles and the students also made, cooked and ate bannock. The location of the CEC near the Ottawa River made connecting with Métis history particularly easy as Vic Brunelle, a Commissioner on the MNO Commission on Métis Rights and Self-Government explained: “You are in a location where your ancestors and the Voyageurs passed – right there in front of you [referring to the river] – that is what is very unique about this place.”

The highlight for many of students was all the time they spent outside getting in touch with nature and the land. This included campfires, snowshoe hikes where they were introduced to their voyageur heritage and winter ecology and on their...
1) Participants enjoying some traditional Métis voyageur games. 2) Participants listen closely to a presentation by Métis Knowledge Holder Nelson Montreuil. 3) Métis Knowledge Holder Nelson Montreuil. 4) Beadwork was a favourite activity for many of the participants. 5) Gathering around a campfire was a great way to cap off an amazing day. 6) Métis youth Rebekah Trudel and PCMNO Senator Ray Bergie. 7) MNO Commissioner on Métis Rights and Self-Government Vic Brunelle and PCMNO Senator Verna Porter-Brunelle lead a nature walk. 8) Jigging is always an essential part of every March Break Camp.

Last night the Creatures of the Night Wolf Howl led by the CEC staff. Participant Hunter Mageau commented: “It’s been a lot of fun and I am enjoying being outdoors and learning about my heritage and everything that my ancestors did and how they lived. It’s important to know about your history.”

Throughout the Camp, the students benefited from the teachings and guidance from Senators Verna Porter-Brunelle, Dr. Alis Kennedy, Ray Bergie and Commissioner Vic Brunelle, Infinite Reach Facilitator Heather Bell, as well as the support from a team of MNO staff members including Alicia Blote, Anne Trudel, Wanda Botsford, Melody Chisletti-Morris, Alyssa Lewis, Michael Smith, Scott Carpenter, Marsha Depoier and Steve Gautreau.

Senator Porter-Brunelle spoke about the value of the Camp saying: “A lot of students don’t get the opportunity to live the Métis way-of-life so this is a way of becoming a big family and learning about the Métis way-of-life and maybe bringing it back to their communities. The Métis Nation of Ontario is going strong – We aspire.”

All the excitement of the March Break Camp was captured by a videographer and has been produced into a short video that has been posted on the MNO website and social media pages. Pictures from the camp have also been posted as an album on the MNO Facebook page.
Everyone’s life is a book

Senator Jim Turner shares his story

submitted by
Jim Turner
MNO-Windsor-Essex Métis Council Senator

I want to tell you who some of my ancestors are. My fourth great-grandfather was Sir George Simpson, Governor of the Hudson’s Bay Company. All of our lives we had always heard about good old Sir George. My mother was so proud of him, he was famous, white and accomplished. She never talked about the Métis and First Nation side of the family. It was always Sir George this and Sir George that. Well, it is a fact that he is my grand-father and had children with Margaret Taylor, a half-breed from York Factory. Her mother was a Swampy Cree. Her father was George Taylor, a schooner captain that took the hides and pelts over to England on his ship. She talked a lot about him to ‘They had children, a son, John MacKenzie Simpson who married Emilie Fuller. They had a boy, Charles who married Adeline Deing. They had children, and one, a girl, Alice Simpson was my grandmother.

On the other side of the family, Dr. George Deing married Alisa MacClinton. Their son Edwin Thomson Deing took an Assiniboine wife, Hakkeeskaweya up to Manitoba, where they spent the remainder of their lives.

Jim Turner
Métis Voyageur
May 2017, Issue no. 95

Jim Turner submitted by

Let me start out by quoting the beginning of a book called Quiet Revolution West. The birth of Métis Nationalism. They had their memories but kept them hid -

Howard Adams from Pochinquin. He said at recess she would go and lay it on the desk and read it out again for the rest of her life.

My ancestors as from Manitoba, The Red River Settlement, Pilot Mound, Morden, Brandon, Rossburn, Rock Lake, and other places. Those days were noisy for my family. If the white people found out you were a Métis, when it was assumed you must be a sympathizer for Louis Riel. You were being in the streets or worse. My mother went to a one-room schoolhouse in Rossburn. The students were Métis, white and a few First Nation kids. She told me once that the First Nation children didn’t want anything to do with her and the white kids would have nothing to do with her so she kept to herself and talked to the few Métis children who didn’t know they were Métis. She sat at recess she would go and lay it in the flowers out in the field and watch the clouds go by and imagine shapes and forms and wished she could ride one to a better place. She eventually did. She met my dad during the Depression. He rode the rails out west from his home near Ridgetown, which was a long way to go to travel to look for work. They corresponded for a long while and eventually married and moved back to the Windsor area, where he got a job at the Ford Motor Company. He later drove a semi-truck in Michigan.

Our ancestors reeled their accomplishments, hopes and dreams to the trash bin. They had their memories but kept them hid, even from their own families.

I was born in 1951. I grew up with very little knowledge of who we were or what we were. It was our turn to show the world who we are and we won’t hide any longer.

My great-grandparents and an uncle had scrip lots on the Assiniboine River near the Forks. I have all that information, photographs and all the documents. St. Boniface did a very thorough job of researching everything.

I also have a book written by a cousin of mine, Fred by their wings. It is the complete story about our history and ancestry from the beginning to the present. There is also another book about Sir George entitled The Little Emperor, which tells of all his adventures. He actually was quite a man, but he didn’t really like Native people, even though he was married to one.

There were many other Native people in our family as I was about to find out but they are not numerous to mention here.

One of my relations escaped from the house where the Frog Lake massacre happened. They dressed him up as a woman and apparently walked out with the females to safety.

The Indian agent, Mr. Scott was killed along with others.

Before I close, I want to quote another paragraph from Quiet Revolution West. Here Weinmeister, Rick Hardy, the former President of the Métis Association of the Northwest Territories.

I don’t think that anyone, without having gone through the fire, can understand the feeling of being Métis. Belonging to both, but in reality neither. Growing up in Fort Norman in the 50’s, I went through the fire! White and Indian accepting you on the surface, but rejecting you from the heart and soul. Imagine the feeling of a person being called a Goddamned half-breed. So for a while we did what we thought was a smart thing. When we were with the whites, we were white. When the Indians came, we became Indians! But, this could only go on for so long without splitting ourselves apart trying to be two people.

Remember, be proud of who you are. It’s our turn to show the world who we are and we won’t be ashamed any longer. We are here to stay. Our identity and spirit thrive and we won’t hide any longer.
COMMUNITY

Métis Family Wellbeing Program launched in Thorold

submitted by Amanda Pont-Shanks,
MNO Métis Family Wellbeing Coordinator

On Thursday February 2, 2017, the staff at the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Thorold office had their official grand opening and launched the MNO Métis Family Wellbeing Program in their community. The event was hosted by MNO Métis Family Wellbeing Coordinator Amanda Pont-Shanks with the help of her fellow MNO staff members, Glen Lipinski, Tammy Wintle, Rebecca Vander Sanden, and Terry-Lynn Longpre. The MNO Niagara Region Métis Council (NRMC) also provided support for the launch. The event began with the official grand opening of the new MNO Thorold office. The opening was emceed by Glen Lipinski who welcomed the excited crowd. MNO NRMC Senator Gary Laframboise provided a prayer and a blessing to the new building. Welcoming remarks were provided by St. Catharines Member of the Provincial Parliament (MPP) Jim Bradley, MNO NRMC Thorold Councilor Henry D’Angela, MNO NRMC Welland Councilor Paul Grenier and Mayor of the City of Thorold Ted Luciani. Member of Parliament (MP) for Niagara centre, Vance Badawey was unable to attend that night, however he visited the new office and welcomed the new MNO Métis Family Wellbeing Coordinator and MNO staff to their new building the next morning.

MNO NRMC President Derrick Pont provided opening remarks and expressed how excited he was to see how much the Métis Nation has grown in the Niagara region in the past 10 years. President Pont then presented Mayor Luciani with a sash and welcomed him to the facility, Amanda Pont-Shanks.

The evening also had a healing activity and create their own paper towel with essential oils. Participants made their own soothing bath salt make and take where participants made their own soothing bath salts with essential oils. Children were able to explore their creativity and create their own paper canoe. Event attendees also had the opportunity to win door prizes.

Overall the event was a huge success with over 70 people in attendance. There were a lot of positive reviews from citizens, service providers, members of local government, MNO staff, and members of the MNO NRMC.

If you have any questions about the MNO Métis Family Wellbeing Program in the Niagara Region, please contact Amanda Pont-Shanks 905-682-3487 ext. 302 amandap@Métisnation.org

MNO Region
9 visits
CS Wind Canada

submitted by Jennifer Parkinson
MNO Grand River Métis Council President

On October 14, 2016, MNO Grand River Métis Council President Derrick Pont, MNO NRMC Treasurer Leslie Muma, MNO GRMC Women’s Representative Gisele Legiehn and MNO NRMC Senator Gary Laframboise welcomed the excited crowd. MNO Thorold office and welcomed the new MNO Thorold staff celebrating the official opening of the new MNO office in Thorold and the launch of the MNO Métis Family Wellbeing Program, (Left-right) MNO Healthy Babies Healthy Children Rebecca Vander Sanden, MNO Family Wellbeing Coordinator Amanda Pont-Shanks, Mayor City of Thorold Ted Luciani, President Niagara Region Métis Council Derrick Pont, MNO Community Relations Coordinator Glen Lipinski, MNO Community Wellness Co-ordinator Terry-Lynn Longpre and MNO Community Support Service Coordinator Tammy Wintle.

On October 14, 2016, MNO Grand River, Windsor-Essex and Niagara Region Métis Council members had the opportunity to tour the CS Wind Canada plant in Windsor. This plant fabricates the tower structures that support wind turbine generators and blades. The plant starts with steel plates that are over one inch thick and it cuts, bends, bevels and welds them into the towers. These plates are then blasted with heat in preparation for painting, prior to mounting the internal components before shipping.

Project Managers SK Yoon and Paula Piumino hosted the tour and presented the members with mugs and baseballs upon leaving the facility.
MNO Council to be part of All Nations Health Care System project

submitted by
Theresa Stenlund
PIC/MNO Region 1 Councillor

February 16, 2017, Metis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Kenora Metis Council (KMC) Chair Elizabeth Boucha was among the Indigenous and non-Indigenous leaders in the Kenora area, attending the signing ceremony for the development of an All Nations Health Care System. Part of the system will include the construction of an All Nations Hospital to improve health outcomes for all people of the region. The signing ceremony celebrated the collaboration of leadership within the area and among local health care agencies.

The ceremony opened with Elders Clifford Skid and Elda Skid, along with welcoming remarks from Chief Chris Skid. In addition to Chair Boucha, the signing ceremony also included speakers from the Grand Council Treaty #3 Ogiichidaa Francis Kavanaugh, Mayor of the City of Kenora Dave Canfield, Mayor for Sioux Narrows and Nestor Falls Jerry O’Leary, Mayor for the City of Kenora David Canfield and Grand Chief of Grand Council Treaty #3 Francis Kavanaugh.

In January of 2016, a project was completed in January of this year, a storytelling event entitled Storying Together. St. German and Simmons were given the opportunity to organize an interactive on-campus event that centered on the work of the MNO TYRMC. Reflecting on their own personal journeys, they hoped to explore more closely the ways in which we take part in, write and are affected by stories, as well as to invite more people into the work of the MNO TYRMC. As such, they conceived of Storying Together. Storying Together was made possible thanks to the generous partnering of Hart House, New Colleges Community-Engaged Learning course, First Nations House and as well as the Centre for Community Partnerships and the Faculty of Kinesiology and Physical Education’s Equity Ideas Fund.

Storying Together happened as part of the UT’s Indigenous Education Week and endeavored to capture the power of story-telling, also, the part it plays in forming, finding and recombining identities. Story was presented in a variety of forms at this event as a short documentary on the MNO TYRMC’s Youth Committee’s Weaving the Sash project, which explores how urban Métis youth connect to identity and community through culture and tradition, as digital stories created and produced by Metis community members, and as an in-person sharing circle facilitated by St. German and Simmons. They held two circles concurrently because so many people shared at the event. There was a palpable sense of urgency felt by all in attendance to collectively work towards reconciliation with Indigenous peoples at a personal and community level. Many people turned out for this event; it was remarkable to see how Storying Together’s central themes spoke to an array of people and how they all came together for such a successful evening. As the night came to a close, many individuals expressed an interest in volunteering with and learning more about the MNO TYRMC. St. German and Simmons felt so privileged to have helped to facilitate these new partnerships and to have deepened our existing ones. Thrill Starling of Hart House generously supported the students in organizing the event while Sheila Larouge, a self-identified Métis and UT alumni, helped to facilitate it. Virginia Barter, Metis storyteller, generously permitted that her digital story be shared. Had St. German and Simmons not been placed with the MNO TYRMC, this event would never have been conceived.

The Metis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is seeking Métis community members who are interested in volunteering their time as members of Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) or Métis Awards Committee (MAC). These roles offer an opportunity to make a valuable contribution to the Métis community across Ontario. RAC and MAC members assist in the review of employment and training services in keeping with program principles, policies and procedures.

**Roles and Responsibilities**

- RAC members review and recommend training proposals through an anonymous review process with the assistance of the Regional Employment and Training Coordinator (RETC). Reviews are ongoing; however time commitment is limited in nature.
- MAC members are required to review bursary applications once or twice a year.
- AFRAC and MAC business is to be completed by fax, email and/or telephone where possible. MNO will provide the tools necessary to assist us with making informed decisions.
- RAC/MAC work is strictly voluntary.

If you are interested in this position or would like to know more please contact:

Jade Bouronnière
jdab@metsnation.org
1-800-263-4889

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[Image 475x937 to 756x1151]
Métis Voyageur
May 2017, Issue no. 95

T he Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Toronto and York Region Métis Council (TYRMC) has been awarded a grant to hold Toronto and York region's first Métis Rendezvous! With a generous grant from the Toronto Foundation's 150th Fund, the Council, along with community volunteers, will be hard at work over the next several months planning for this exciting event.

The Rendezvous will be a large scale celebration of the extensive contributions that the Métis Nation has made to Canada's past, present, and future. The celebration of Métis culture and history will include a spectacular opening ceremony followed by an afternoon of activities that will feature Métis musical and dance performances, Métis food, Métis craft vendors, children activities, Métis heritage demonstrations and Métis cultural displays. The event will have a parading component with a ceremonial group formed and proceeding to the American side of the border to honour the Métis contributions to that aspect of our history. The event will feature Canada 150 decorations, Métis flag raising, and a special flag raising ceremony performed by Senator Fraser.

The MNO TYRMC anticipates a large turnout for the Rendezvous so they need the help of committed, passionate, and dependable volunteers! Those hoping to get involved in a 2017 Rendezvous Planning Committee are asked to submit a short statement outlining your interest and any experience you have with similar initiatives.

It is anticipated that the celebration will take place in the fall of 2017. Please join the email list (council@tyrmc.org) or check out the Facebook (Toronto & York Region Métis Council) and Twitter (@TOYTYRMC) page to stay updated on the developments of the Rendezvous.

The MNO TYRMC would like to acknowledge all the Discovery Harbour staff [on how] polite, respectable and well behaved they were. They are great ambassadors of the MNO GBMC and the MNO is proud of them," he concluded.

~ MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council plan Rendezvous for Canada 150 submitted by Elise St. Germain Gabriele Simmons Placement Students for MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council (TYRMC)

Métis youth experience adventure at Discovery Harbour submitted by Larry J. Ferris, MNO GBMC Chairperson

On March 1 and 2, 2017, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Georgian Bay Métis Council (GBMC) youth and chaperones took part in an adventure at Discovery Harbour in Penetangoushene. The youth conducted themselves as Métis and performed Métis tasks such as making Métis bark, a traditional craft, and Métis flag raising.

Following the presentation, a ceremonial group formed and proceeded to the forest near CFB Borden. There the group harvested cedar to be added to the Eagle Staff. All of those in attendance assisted in the harvest and prayers were offered.

The Eagle Staff is expected to be completed by May 25, 2017, and will be used during the Grand Entry parade as part of the CFB Borden's Aboriginal Veterans Day.

Defense Aboriginal Advisory Group receives Eagle Feather from MNO GBMC Senator submitted by Greg Garrett, MNO Veterans' Council Secretary

On February 28, 2017, at Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Borden near Barrie, Senator Ken Fraser of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Georgian Bay Métis Council (GBMC) presented Jimmy Tailbot with the Defense Aboriginal Advisory Group (DAAG) Eagle Feather. Senator Fraser presented the Eagle Feather to the DAAG on behalf of the Georgian Bay Métis community and it will be added to DAAG's Eagle Staff. Senator Fraser was assisted during the ceremony by MNO Veterans' Council Secretary Greg Garrett.

The mission of the Defence Aboriginal Advisory Group is to advise Commanders on significant issues affecting the lives of Aboriginal people working at the Department of National Defence (DND) and serving in the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF). The members of the Group support the chain of command in their mandates to foster awareness of Aboriginal issues, recruiting and retention issues and also provide a forum for Aboriginal peoples to gather and support one another as they exercise their unique cultural, spiritual and traditional identities within DND and the CAF.

The presentation was meaningful as the feather that Senator Fraser presented was the only Eagle Feather that he possessed. Senator Fraser also presented Tailbot with a small Métis moccasin and a medicine bag. Another gift that Senator Fraser provided to Tailbot was a book so that each keeper of the Eagle Staff can record its history, including where each element of the staff originated.

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~ Defense Aboriginal Advisory Group receives Eagle Feather from MNO GBMC Senator

GIF
April 9, 2017, marked the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. One of the most consequential battles of the First World War and one in which Canadian troops played a pivotal role. The Battle of Vimy Ridge was commemorated in Vimy, France, in Ottawa and all over Canada. For over two years, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) veterans worked hard on their Vimy Commemoration Project. They planned and fundraised to bring Métis veterans together with Métis youth for Vimy commemoration events in Ottawa the weekend of April 9.

Starting the evening of Friday, April 7, ten MNO veterans were joined in the national capital by seven Métis youth from Ontario as well as six Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) veterans and one Métis youth from British Columbia. The following Saturday, the group toured the Canadian War Museum and the Canadian Museum of History during the day and attended a special banquet in the evening.

At the banquet, the veterans and youth heard from MNO President Margaret Froh who presented a number of Louis Riel medals to MNO veterans while MNO Veterans’ Council President Joseph Paquette presented Louis Riel certificates to the same individuals. The evening, the MNO Veterans’ Council also presented certificates of appreciation to the MNO and by

MNO Staff
Métis Voyageur
May 2017, Issue no. 95

7) MNO President Margaret Froh in front of the National War Memorial. 8) MNO Veterans’ Council Chair Guy Mandeville and PCMNO Youth Representative Katelyn LaCroix. 9) MNO veteran Robert Desjardin receives his Louis Riel Certificate from President Froh (left to right) Chair Mandeville, President Froh, Robert Desjardin, President Paquette. 10) President Froh accepts artwork from the MNO Veterans’ Council in appreciation for her support of the Vimy Commemoration Project. (Left to right) Senator Alis Kennedy, Chair Guy Mandeville, Women’s Representative Shelly Claus, President Joe Paquette and Sgt-At-Arms Brian Black.

Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans and youth honour the fallen

MNO President Froh for their support of the Vimy Commemoration Project. The MNO Veterans’ Council also presented President Froh with the original artwork used to create a Métis memorial erected in Penetangushine MNO Ottawa Region Métis Council President Benny Michaud and Senator Parmilia Bergie were also presented with certificates of appreciation for their Council’s support of the Vimy Commemoration Project.

Another highlight of the evening was a presentation from police veteran and MNO Great Lakes Métis Council Senator Ralph Wolf Thistle, who spoke about his experience with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

On Sunday morning the veterans and youth attended the national ceremony to remember the Battle of Vimy Ridge at the National War Memorial. Two MNO citizens had direct roles in the ceremony. During the ceremony “The Act of Remembrance,” is traditionally read by veterans in English, French and Michif. MNO Veterans’ Council Chair Guy Mandeville read the Act in Michif. The “Commitment to Remember” that follows was also read in English, French and Michif and PCMNO Post-Secondary Representative Katelyn LaCroix read the Commitment in Michif.

The MNO Veterans’ Council plans on providing an extensive article about all the events that were part of their Vimy Commemoration Project, which will be posted on the MNO and MNO Veterans’ Council websites and published in an upcoming edition of the Métis Voyageur newspaper.
Métis youth host Thunder Bay’s inaugural Spring Festival

submitted by
Paul Robitaille, Commissioner, MNO Commission on Métis Rights and Self-Government

On March 18, 2017, over 40 Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizens participated in the first-ever Thunder Bay Spring Festival. The Festival was organized by Métis youth from the community with the generous support of the MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council. For many who came, the Festival was their first time participating in a MNO event. Highlights of the Festival included free food, music, traditional games and a Beaded Infinity Button Workshop led by local facilitators from the MNO Infinite Reach Student Solidarity Network. The workshop, which was part of the MNO Youth Council’s beadwork resolution was held to help flood the Thunder Bay community with positive expressions of Métis identity and culture. The Métis youth of Thunder Bay would like to extend a warm thank you to all who made the Spring Festival a stunning success including the MNO Thunder Bay Council, MNO citizens David Harel for his wonderful photography and to Métis youth Madeline Dennhardt for her leadership in organizing the event as well as to all of the hardworking members of the MNO public service.

An evening with Tony Belcourt at Trent University

submitted by
Christa Lemelin, MNO PDWMC Chair

On February 14, 2017, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council (HSSMC) completed the wolf quilt, which they had started on January 6, 2015. Betty Sims, wife and mother of a local Métis family, volunteered her time to purchase and sew the quilt together. MNO HSSMC Women’s Representative Shirley Loubert completed the project. The quilt features a picture of wolves in grey, brown and black tones. The wolf quilt represents that Métis people are still present and thriving in today’s world. The MNO HSSMC used the quilt for a fundraiser in support of the local Métis community. Tickets were sold for the quilt and the proceeds went to the MNO HSSMC Metis Crafting Corner and the MNO Dance Club. Shirley takes an active role in the Métis Crafting Corner. This past fall she has volunteered her time and material to interested community members wanting to learn how to do a “Crooked Rail Fence” pillow quilt.

MNO Council holds quilt fundraiser

submitted by
Anne Trudel, MNO Citizen

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An annual Pow Wow Gathering at the Rapids

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

On March 4-5, 2017, The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Historic Sault Ste. Marie Metis Council, in partnership with Algoma University, participated in the 12th Annual Gathering at the Rapids Powwow. The Powwow was held at Algoma University and was a very exciting, cultural and meaningful event. The event included drumming, dance and old style jingle dress competitions.
Making Turtle Rattles in Midland

On February 21, 2017, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Community Wellness Coordinators Tracy Bald and Tera Lynn Moreau Vivian, alongside with MNO Family Wellbeing Coordinator Kayla Daquappe, hosted a Turtle-Rattle-Making workshop. The event took place at the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council (GBMC) and the workshop brought in over 20 attendees. The three hour workshop filled up fast where participants enjoyed a lesson about the turtle, shared in a delicious meal and created their own turtle rattles.

submitted by
Tracy Bald,
MNO Community Wellness Coordinator

Celebrating historic ties between Métis and First Nations peoples

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Grand River Métis Council (GRMC) had the honour to be invited to a City of Cambridge reception for Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth Dowdeswell. The reception was part of an official visit to the City of Cambridge by Her Honour. After receiving flowers from two lovely young girls, Mayor Doug Craig introduced the Lieutenant Governor to members of the MNO GRMC and First Nations Elder Lois MacDonald. MNO GRMC President Jennifer Parkinson presented a blue Métis pin to Her Honour on behalf of the MNO GRMC. Her Honour spoke highly of the MNO and proudly wore the Métis pin for the rest of the reception.

submitted by
Rubecka Davidson
MNO Métis Family Wellbeing Coordinator

MNO Council meets Ontario’s Lieutenant Governor

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submitted by
Rubecka Davidson
MNO Métis Family Wellbeing Coordinator

Lots of smiles at Gravenhurst gathering

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Métis-Family Wellbeing program based in the new MNO office in Gravenhurst had its first Stop by and Say “Hi” gathering on March 15, 2017. As Gravenhurst is one of the new MNO offices that opened up recently there was sure delight in having folks come out to visit! Hot chili was ready for any March breakers trying to beat the cold weather and the children enjoyed doing crafts at the ‘Creation Station.’ Métis music played in the background while MNO citizens shared conversation and ‘it’s a small world’ talk.

submitted by
Rubecka Davidson
MNO Métis Family Wellbeing Coordinator

A participant works on a turtle rattle at the workshop in Midland.

A MNO PDWMC President Andy Dufrane (centre) with Mary Lynch-Taylor (left), Trustee; and Jack Nigro (right), Superintendent; both with the Kawartha Pine District School Board.

Celebrating historic ties between Métis and First Nations peoples

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

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council (PDWMC) hosted a Friendship Feast at the Holiday Inn in Peterborough on Friday, March 24, 2017. The Friendship Feast was an evening to celebrate the historic friendship between Métis and First Nations peoples and was an opportunity to dialogue about potential collaboration on common interests and goals as well as learn about, and from, one another.

Highlights included a fantastic meal of traditional foods including bannock and jams that was enjoyed by all. Almost as popular was a presentation about the activities and services of the MNO by the dynamic James Wagar, the MNO Manager of Natural Resources and Consultation. To recognize the current and continuing friendships between the MNO PDWMC and the First Nations leaders who attended the Friendship Feast, MNO PDWMC President Andy Dufrane presented sashes to Mary Lynch-Taylor, Trustee of the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board (KPRDSB) for the Alderville First Nation, Curve Lake First Nation and Hiawatha First Nation and to Jack Nigro, Superintendent of Education for Student Achievement for First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education at KPRDSB.

The MNO PDWMC looks forward to continuing to build important relationships with First Nations people and collaborating on common interests between Métis and First Nations peoples of the community.

submitted by
Christa Lemelin,
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submitted by
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Governance and finance a priority for MNO Councils

J anuary and March 2017 were big months for the MNO Community Relations team as they offered Governance and Finance Training to four MNO chartered Community Councils. The Community Relations team consists of Manager Hank Rowlinson and Community Relations Coordinators Glen Lipinski and Beth Botos, with different team members offering the course at different times. The Councils that participated in the training were the MNO North Channel on January 27-28; the MNO Great Lakes on March 4-5; the MNO Niagara Region on March 18-19; and the MNO Grand River on March 25-26.

Governance and Finance Training is one of the ways the MNO supports its hundreds of Council volunteers. The MNO benefits immensely from these dedicated volunteers who spend hundreds of hours building and strengthening their Métis communities.

Through funding provided by Ontario’s New Relationship Fund, the MNO has been able to develop and deliver a Governance and Finance Course that helps community councils perform their important work.

The course is a two-day seminar held locally that explains the role of community councils as the MNO’s local governments, whose structure and purpose is coordinated through each council’s charter agreement with the MNO. The course covers everything from how to run effective meetings and engage citizens in council activities to budgeting and the various financial practices, regulations and legislation that community councils follow.

In addition to the four most recent training workshops, since the MNO has offered this training, the following community councils have participated: the MNO Moon River, Sunset Country, Kenora, Northwest, Windsor-Essex, Clear Waters, High Land Waters, North Bay, Temiskaming, Northern Lights, Thunder Bay, Attikankaok, Peterborough and District Wapiti, Credit River, Toronto and York Region, Sudbury, Ottawa Region and Georgian Bay Métis Councils.

The MNO will be updating these training programs in the coming months based on feedback from Community Councils.

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Financing up to $1,000,000 for resources and related sector businesses

Rates & security customized to promote Métis business success

Contributions for business plans and ongoing support

submitted by
Glen Lipinski, MNO Community Relations Coordinator

Glen Lipinski and Beth Botos, with different team members offering the course at different times. The Councils that participated in the training were the MNO North Channel on January 27-28; the MNO Great Lakes on March 4-5; the MNO Niagara Region on March 18-19; and the MNO Grand River on March 25-26.

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Through funding provided by Ontario’s New Relationship Fund, the MNO has been able to develop and deliver a Governance and Finance Course that helps community councils perform their important work.

The course is a two-day seminar held locally that explains the role of community councils as the MNO’s local governments, whose structure and purpose is coordinated through each council’s charter agreement with the MNO. The course covers everything from how to run effective meetings and engage citizens in council activities to budgeting and the various financial practices, regulations and legislation that community councils follow.

In addition to the four most recent training workshops, since the MNO has offered this training, the following community councils have participated: the MNO Moon River, Sunset Country, Kenora, Northwest, Windsor-Essex, Clear Waters, High Land Waters, North Bay, Temiskaming, Northern Lights, Thunder Bay, Attikankaok, Peterborough and District Wapiti, Credit River, Toronto and York Region, Sudbury, Ottawa Region and Georgian Bay Métis Councils.

The MNO will be updating these training programs in the coming months based on feedback from Community Councils.
Métis Dance Club performs at Sault Ste. Marie cultural festival

On February 20, 2017, The Métis Dance Club of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council (HSSMC) performed to a packed audience at The Machine Shop in Sault Ste. Marie. The performance was part of the Bon Soo festival, which coincides with Passport to Unity 2017. Passport to Unity is a yearly cultural event held in Sault Ste. Marie celebrating all ethnic groups calling Sault Ste. Marie their home. In 2016, Bon Soo the Sault Ste. Marie Winter Carnival added Passport to Unity to their schedule events. The Bon Soo festival typically features food booths and displays along with cultural entertainment. Since its early days, the Sault Ste. Marie Métis community has participated in the Bon Soo. The MNO HSSMC involvement started with Councillor Carla Labee serving bannock with strawberry jam, while the Métis Dance Club performed on stage. More recently, the dance performance has expanded to include songs that encourage audience participation.

This year, some of the youth performed the Heel Toe Polka and the Seven Step while the youngest in attendance played the spoons. They were joined by adult members singing Voyageur inspired songs. The two songs selected were Vive La Compagnie and Alouette. Like the name of the winter carnival Bon Soo, Bon being the French word for “good” and Soo being the local colloquial term for Sault Ste. Marie, these songs reflect the mixed heritage of the Métis. The lively tune and unchanging refrain in both familiar songs made it easy for audiences to participate. It also gave the attendees an appreciation for the long days put in by Métis voyageurs and how they used songs to speed them towards their destinations.

submitted by Anne Trudel, MNO Citizen

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submitted by Anne Trudel, MNO Citizen
MNO Windsor-Essex Métis Council and local museum educate public about Métis

submitted by
Donna Grayer
MNO Windsor-Essex Métis Council
President

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Windsor-Essex Métis Council (WEMC) worked with the Chumauk Museum in Windsor to develop a small Métis display as part of two displays being exhibited at the Museum. The display is called There’s Indian in the Family and Métis Hall Breed People, and the text and maps used were taken from the MNO Education and Training Métis Education Kit and included Métis contributions during the War of 1812, which was an important event in the Windsor area.

The MNO WEMC was part of a planning committee that the Museum formed to encourage groups within the Windsor area to share their stories through artifacts and personal collections. MNO WEMC Senator Jim Turner often provided a smudging prayer at the planning committee meetings and by March 1, 2017, the Métis display was ready. The MNO WEMC was very pleased with the final result.

The main purpose for the display was to promote the MNO WEMC and encourage local Métis citizens to be proud of their Métis history. The second display is still under construction. It will be larger and will focus on the Métis historical timeline. It will also feature some updates about the most recent Métis rights cases and Margaret Finsh, the first woman to become MNO President.

The second display will also look at the contributions of Métis to Canada and Ontario within the context of Canada 150. This will include the achievements of Ontario Métis, the Red River and Northwest Resistances and Manitoba’s entry into Confederation. The MNO WEMC respects that there is varied views on Canada 150, so the second display will show Métis progress within Ontario and also respect the contributions of Métis veterans.

Details: www.OntarioAboriginalHousing.ca or call 1.866.391.1061 and ask for FIMUR program.

FIMUR 2014/20

ASSISTED HOME OWNERSHIP & HOME REPAIR

Do you dream of owning your own home?

Do you qualify for a mortgage, but you just can’t seem to save up the down payment?

Do you already own a home, but it’s in need of repair?

Do you identify yourself as a First Nation, Métis or Inuit person?

Apply today by calling or emailing us at cconnor@oahssc.ca or kbenford@oahssc.ca

We will send you an application and explain how the program works.

You do not need to provide proof of your ancestry or have a Status, Métis or Inuit Card to apply and qualify.

ASSISTED HOME OWNERSHIP PROGRAM

A forgivable loan opportunity providing up to $30,000 to assist individuals and families in the purchase of an Off-Reserve home in Ontario (outside of the GTA). Applicants should be low to moderate income, qualify for a mortgage and may not own real estate at the present time. You do not have to be a first time home owner. Priority applicants include people escaping situations of violence and living in Social Housing.

HOME REPAIR PROGRAM

A forgivable loan opportunity providing up to $25,000 to assist low to moderate income homeowners to repair their Off-Reserve homes. Applicants are reviewed in order of receipt. Priority will be given to homes with emergency repair such as health and safety concerns, accessibility repairs, energy efficiency upgrades and those below the poverty level.

Details: www.OntarioAboriginalHousing.ca or call 1.866.391.1061 and ask for FIMUR program.

Members of the MNO WEMC who worked with the Chumauk Museum (left-right): MNO Veterans’ Council Women’s Representative Shelly Claus, Senator Jim Turner, Women’s Representative Sharlene Lance, President Donna Grayer and Morgan Bailerigeon.
This is the story of how Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Great Lakes Métis Council (GLMC) Senator Ralph Wolf Thistle took on post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and addiction. PTSD is an anxiety disorder that can develop after experiencing or witnessing a traumatic event, or learning that a traumatic event has happened to a loved one.

Senator Ralph Wolf Thistle is a retired 30-year veteran of the Toronto Police Service and has worked in homicide and missing people squad, criminal investigation bureau, youth bureau (child sexual assault investigator) and was also a training officer for recruits.

After numerous traumatic events Thistle was diagnosed with PTSD, alcoholism and depression.

Thistle started his journey of recovery six years ago by embracing his Métis culture. The MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council (TYRMC) and the MNO Credit River Métis Council (CRMC) have loved and nurtured him back to spiritual health. He is repaying his debt of kindness by being an active citizen in the MNO.

Senator Thistle was invited to Malibu California by a United States (US) veterans group called The Sparta Project (Spiritual Process and Resiliency Training Association). Senator Thistle took part in this innovative program, which combines holistic and alternative methods to provide help in working through suicide and self-destructive behaviour. The Badge of Life Canada, which is a peer-led national non-profit volunteer organization committed to supporting police and corrections personnel who are dealing with psychological injuries suffered in the line of duty, assisted Thistle in fulfilling his dream of attending this event.

The Sparta Project is a common sense experience that allows the warrior to participate again in life. The program is designed to help returning warriors find personal meaning from their own experiences and translates them into a new sense of purpose.

Senator Thistle spent five days with US Marines, Army, Air Force and Navy veterans. It was a hero’s journey of warriors helping warriors to stand down, come home and rejoin their communities, families and loved ones. Senator Thistle and the American veterans gathered in the Mojave Desert, where he received therapy, which he found spiritually fulfilling. Also there was the healing power of mediation, assisted counselling and an adventure program.

Armed with this knowledge and teaching, Senator Thistle hopes to help other Métis first responders and veterans deal with their PTSD, addiction and mental illness.

The Sparta Project is a common sense experience that allows the warrior to participate again in life.
Métis youth to sing in new production of Louis Riel opera

JOANNA BURT

Métis youth Joanna Burt will be making her debut with the Canadian Opera Company (COC) in the role of Louis Riel’s sister Sara in the upcoming COC production of Louis Riel. Hailing from Lindsay, Ontario, Joanna has been part of Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Summer Youth Cultural Program and is well-known throughout the MNO for her cultural performances. She is currently completing the Artist Diploma program of The Glenn Gould School of Music at The Royal Conservatory of Music. Joanna is part of an all-Canadian cast that features 39 named characters portrayed by 30 artists led by renowned opera singer Russell Braun in the title role of Louis Riel. This new production of Louis Riel is co-produced with the National Arts Centre in anticipation of Canada’s sesquicentennial and runs for seven performances by the COC on April 20, 23, 26, 29, May 2, 5, 13, 2017 at Toronto’s Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts. This production will have its premiere in Ottawa by the NAC on June 15 and 17, 2017. Composed by Harry Somers for Canada’s centennial in 1967, Louis Riel is a uniquely Canadian contribution to the opera world. Louis Riel was the first opera written by a Canadian to be presented by the COC and the COC is the only professional opera company to date to have ever performed it. Louis Riel is sung in English, French, Michif and Cree with English and Cree SURTITLES™.

Perhaps the most considerable challenge in staging this opera is the Eurocentric tradition of opera as a form and its collision with the voice, culture and representation of indigeneity in this history,” says Louis Riel director Peter Hinton. “It is a delicate balance of renewing the theatrical spirit of the opera with contemporary perspectives in order to revise the opera’s colonial bases and bring forward its inherent strengths and powers.”

A group of Indigenous men and women have been cast as a physi-
cal chorus known as the Land Assembly. On stage throughout the opera, the Land Assembly is a ste-
fent chorus in protest, and stands for the people for whom the opera has not provided a voice. The Land Assembly shift and transform in response to the actions on stage and are a constant, physical representation of the Indigenous men and women who are directly affected by the outcomes, victories and losses of Riel. Among the individuals joining the Land Assembly for the Toronto presentation is acclaimed theatre creator and artistic leader Cole Alvis of Métis heritage from the Turtle Mountains in Manitoba.

Thirty-five members of the COC Chorus will be Métis. The chorus is the T urtle Mountains in Manitoba. The Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts. This production will have its premiere in Ottawa by the NAC on June 15 and 17, 2017. Composed by Harry Somers for Canada’s centennial in 1967, Louis Riel is a uniquely Canadian contribution to the opera world. Louis Riel was the first opera written by a Canadian to be presented by the COC and the COC is the only professional opera company to date to have ever performed it. Louis Riel is sung in English, French, Michif and Cree with English and Cree SURTITLES™.

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Peter Hinton
Director, Louis Riel

Métis Youth wins gold

COMMENCING APRIL 1 TO MAY 13, 2017
THE FOUR SEASONS CENTRE
145 QUEEN ST. W., TORONTO
TICKETS: WWW.COC.CA
Sung in English, French, Michif, and Cree with English SURTITLES™.

Photo by Erik White/CBC

The MNO is proud of Chasity and wishes her the best at the national level.

As previously reported on the MNO website, Chasity achieved gold medal standing for the Provincial Youth Bowling Canada (YBC) Championship in February 2016, won a team combo silver medal in 2015. Chasity has been bowling since she was eight years old and has attended the National YBC competitions in 2014, 2015 and 2016. The MNO is proud of Chasity and wishes her the best at the national competition.

Photo by Tammy Webb

Photo by Gilles Boucher

MNO citizen wins Sudbury Game Design Challenge

Joanna is part of an all-Canadian cast that features 39 named characters portrayed by 30 artists led by renowned opera singer Russell Braun in the title role of Louis Riel. This new production of Louis Riel is co-produced with the National Arts Centre in anticipation of Canada’s sesquicentennial and runs for seven performances by the COC on April 20, 23, 26, 29, May 2, 5, 13, 2017 at Toronto’s Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts. This production will have its premiere in Ottawa by the NAC on June 15 and 17, 2017. Composed by Harry Somers for Canada’s centennial in 1967, Louis Riel is a uniquely Canadian contribution to the opera world. Louis Riel was the first opera written by a Canadian to be presented by the COC and the COC is the only professional opera company to date to have ever performed it. Louis Riel is sung in English, French, Michif and Cree with English and Cree SURTITLES™.

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Photo by Gilles Boucher

Métis Youth King holds up the 2017 Sault St. Marie Junior Girls Youth Bowl Provincial Champions Banner.

Photo by Erik White/CBC

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MNO citizen Rebekah Trudel continues her success in high school wrestling

Submitted by
Anne Trudel
MNO Citizen

MNO citizen Rebekah Trudel of Sault Ste. Marie is enjoying great success as a high school Steelhawk athlete, in particular as a wrestler. Most recently, on March 3, 2017, in Brampton, Rebekah won a gold medal at the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations (OFSAA) wrestling championships. OFSAA is the pinnacle of high school wrestling championships. OFSAA Athletic Associations (OFSAA) are the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations. OFSAA is the pinnacle of high school wrestling championships. OFSAA Athletic Associations (OFSAA) are the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations. Rebekah is one of the top six seated wrestlers, because she won a silver medal for the 72 KG class in 2016. Rebekah is an honour roll student at Superior Heights Collegiate and Vocational School. Rebekah’s wrestling head coach Brent Fryia, assistant coaches Sarah Frewchuk, Ted Fryia and Kevin Shepley are very proud and happy for her success. Rebekah accredits her success to her coaches, Steelhawk teammates and her faith. Rebekah Trudel is considered a multi-sport athlete playing basketball, wrestling, and track and field. Outside of regular school activities she belongs to the Algoma University Wrestling Club and volunteers with Steel City Slam basketball camps for elementary age students. Rebekah has received the Referee’s Award in 2015 for senior women’s basketball ability and sportmanship. In 2013 and 2016, she received the Wrestling Award at Sault Ste. Marie women’s Athletic Awards Banquet. Rebekah has been offered the opportunity to play for Simon Fraser University’s wrestling team in Vancouver, British Columbia. The MNO wishes Rebekah the best of luck on her future competitions as well as on her decision on whether to accept Simon Fraser’s offer.

READ MORE AND SEE REBEKAH IN ACTION:

Rebekah Trudel OFSAA 2017
CHVCS Youtube channel: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dv82VAhcebE

Métis youth receives award from Conestoga College

Submitted by
Jennifer Parkinson,
MNO Grand River Métis Council President

On February 18, 2017, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Kate Pieredder, was presented the 2017/18 Aboriginal Award for achievement at the Seventh Annual Pow Wow at Conestoga College. Kate is a very hard working student studying for her Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Conestoga College. This is a collaborative program with McMaster University held at the College. In her first semester in Nursing, Kate maintained a 10.8 out of 12 GPA. The Award required Kate to demonstrate academic excellence and she also was required to write two essays, one on financial need and the other on her educational and career goals. Conestoga College Aboriginal Services Manager Myeengun Henry, presented Kate her award at the Pow Wow. Each year the Pow Wow features drumming, singing and dancing, artisans and craft vendors, traditional food, and sacred fire. The MNO Grand River Métis Council (GRMC) is very proud of Kate’s achievements and were honored to be at the Pow Wow to cheer Kate on! Kate is also the niece of MNO Women’s Secretariat Representative, Cora Bunn.

Meek brothers excel in sports and academics

Submitted by
Jennifer Meek

Benjamin (Ben) and Samuel (Sam) Meek, the sons of Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Blaine Meek have both been very successful in sports and academics.

Ben is studying Bachelor of Business Administration at Acadia University in Wolfville, Nova Scotia where he majors in Accounting and aspires to become a Professional Chartered Accountant. Ben was awarded Academic All-Canadian for the 2015-16 academic year. The Conference of Independent Schools (CIS) introduced Academic All-Canadians to honour student-athletes who achieve an academic standing of 80% or better while playing on one of their university’s varsity teams. Ben achieved this impressive designation by harmoniously integrating academic excellence and varsity sports through discipline and tenacity both on the field and in the classroom.

Sam is currently attending University of Southern Illinois on a golf scholarship and is studying for a Bachelor of Business Administration. He is a member of the National Honour Society where he has achieved 3.6 grade point average in his first semester. Sam has played golf internationally as a member of the Team Ontario and received a scholarship from the Peterborough Sports Hall of Fame. He was also crowned the 2015 Canadian Junior Boys Golf Champion.
Métis Voyageur
May 2017, Issue no. 95

Clarence Woods was born January 1, 1918 to Peter Woods and Cleofus Bonneville. He was raised by his grandmother, Agatha Bonneville, after his mother was taken by the Spanish influenza only days after she gave birth to him.

From a young age, Clarence was taught to hunt, trap, fish and shoot; only stopping to eat, sleep and attend the first grade. He was an avid reader and eager student and was devastated when at eleven years old, his father came to the small white schoolhouse in Port Severn and announced to Mrs. Bourrie his intention to leave for the big city in Casa Loma, he met his future wife. Faye Conkright. Clarence and his brothers left to find work in Toronto. He made tea and you could smell the fresh fish and sliced home fries from a small guide boat led by their favourite Muskie King. Clarence cooked on an open fire with a little Coleman stove. He made tea and you could smell the fresh fish and sliced home fries with onions cooking in a mile off shore. Clarence was an entrepreneur, was kind and was full of wisdom and laughter.

During the last few years of his life, he truly embraced who he was; a humble and proud Métis man. Ten days before he passed, he requested one last boat ride with his daughters aboard the Miss Midland. He was up at the front, in his wheel-chair, looking out over the bow and in complete silence he said thank you and goodbye to the water, the islands, the fish and the creator, for all they had given him. It was a perfect send off for the Muskie King. Clarence’s life philosophy was to be kind to others, live a good life, work hard and let the Lord look after you. He believed you should always leave a person, place or thing in better condition than when you found it! He respect the land, water and the animals for without them they would be finished.

The Muskie King

Métis guide Clarence Woods harvested on Georgian Bay for 65 years

Fishing started in April as soon as the ice went out and continued to late November. There was Muskie and pickerel fishing as well as duck, deer and moose hunting.

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Clarence caught as many as ten muskies in one day, earning him the name of “Muskie King.” He often would say: “Not all were keepers but a great day in all.” One of Clarence’s biggest fans was John Power, the great outdoorsman writer for the Toronto Star. John loved to write articles about Clarence focusing on his knowledge and natural instincts. He was impressed with Clarence’s knowledge of muskies, his understanding of the animals and respect for the land and his overall entrepreneurial spirit.

Generations of families came to love Clarence and his guiding year after year! When Clarence took you out, you were always guaranteed to have a very skilled and always cheerful guide. From all around the world, people came to see the Thirty Thousand Islands from a small guide boat led by their favourite Muskie King. Clarence cooked on an open fire with a little Coleman stove. He made tea and you could smell the fresh fish and sliced home fries cooking in a mile off shore. Clarence was a hardworking man who lived a good life doing what he loved and provided for his family against all odds. He was an entrepreneur, was kind hearted, had a strong belief in the Lord God, loved his family, nature, mankind and was full of wisdom and laughter.

If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Ms. Mardelle Woods at 613-894-3607 or email at maradelle.woods@gmail.com.
MNO citizen Albertine Roussin 100 years young

submitted by Janet Hipfner, MNO Community Support Services Coordinator

MNO citizen Albertine Roussin celebrated a true milestone. Her family organized a special celebration at the Dryden Regional Training and Cultural Centre to commemorate that she turned one hundred years old on March 2, 2017. Albertine was born in 1917 in Ste. Amelle, Manitoba. She was the seventh child of Marion and a Maria Marion and had thirteen siblings. During the celebration, Albertine shared stories with the community such as when her family moved to Ontario in 1938 in a wagon. The trip to Ontario took about three months. While travelling to Ontario her husband Wilfred took on odd jobs and Albertine said “I took on other working men’s laundry to earn extra”. Albertine raised nine children and opened her home to eight foster children. Among her children was the late Alvina Cimon, a former President of the MNO Northwest Métis Council. To this day, Albertine still enjoys knitting and canning. Albertine was pleased to see many members of her community come out to wish her a happy birthday. She said “Well look at all these people. You think I was a good girl.” The MNO was pleased to be a participant in the celebration. In honour of Albertine’s centennial, she was presented with a certificate from MNO President Margaret Fosh as well as a beautiful bouquet of flowers, which included a sash.

The Beadwork Revolution

Increasing concentration and style

submitted by Katelyn LaCroix, PCMNO Post-Secondary Representative

You may have noticed a growing trend at MNO conferences and meetings. Beadwork is becoming more commonplace, especially among the youth of the Métis Nation. Some might view beadwork as a distraction from important discussions, but for many people, doodling, fidgeting, or knitting helps to increase their memory test” (Andrade 2010). Not only is beadwork helpful for increasing attention span, but it is also great way for youth to connect with their traditional cultures and express their Métis pride. So next time you see someone heading during a meeting, don’t think they’re ignoring the speaker! You might even want to ask them to join you during the break. I’m sure they’d be more than happy to share their knowledge and passion with you.

If you are interested and would like more information, contact Mardelle: marcelle.woods@gmail.com
Building the MNO Team

The MNO is pleased to welcome a new staff member and announce two current staff members moving into exciting new positions.

BONNIE BARLETT
Energy Policy Analyst • Toronto

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is pleased to announce that Bonnie Bartlett, formerly a Consultation Assessment Coordinator in the Land, Resources and Consultations (LRC) Branch of the MNO, was the successful candidate in the competition for the position of Energy Policy Analyst in the LRC Branch. Bonnie will be working in the MNO’s Toronto office.

Bonnie has five years of professional experience in planning, including most recently as a Transportation and Urban Planner with Arup, a large engineering and planning firm. In this position, Bonnie worked on environmental assessments and hearing processes for large-scale infrastructure projects. In 2012, Bonnie graduated from the University of Toronto with a Master of Science in Planning. Prior to 2010, Bonnie worked as an environmental non-profit organization as a Strategic Planning Program Manager.

Bonnie is excited about her new role with the MNO’s LRC Branch and looks forward to working on energy-related files on behalf of the MNO.

We wish Bonnie all the very best in her new role with the MNO and look forward to continuing to work with Bonnie as the Energy Policy Analyst. Submitted by Aly N. Athabasca, Director, Land, Resources and Consultations Branch.

JACQUELINE BARRY
Consultation Assessment Coordinator • Thunder Bay

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is pleased to welcome Jacqueline Barry to the position of Consultation Assessment Coordinator in the Lands, Resources and Consultations (LRC) Branch. Jacqueline will be working out of the MNO Thunder Bay office.

Jacqueline is from Thunder Bay and has an Honours Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology with a minor in French and a Master of Environmental Studies at the University of Toronto. She is especially interested in the role of First Nations communities in environmental decision-making and has studied the effects of the oil and gas industry on Indigenous communities. She is a proven leader and has experience in project management and community engagement.

We are very pleased to welcome Jacqueline to the MNO and the LRC Branch where she will be working primarily to support the Regional Consultation Committee. Submitted by Aly N. Athabasca, Director, Land, Resources and Consultations Branch.

JADE BOURBONNIÈRE
Supervisor of Projects • Ottawa

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is pleased to announce that Jade Bourbonnière, who held the position of Operations Coordinator in the Education and Training Branch, was the successful applicant for the position of Supervisor of Projects with the Education and Training Branch. Jade will continue to work out of the MNO office in Ottawa.

Jade has been with the MNO now for over two years in the position of Operations Coordinator with the Education and Training Branch. Jade brings her leadership, dedication, and organizational skills to this new position, as well as her past experience as last year’s Intern Supervisor of the Summer Youth Cultural Program (SYCP).

Jade is eager and excited to start this new journey with the MNO. Submitted by Jennifer St. Germain, Director of Education and Training.

Council Corner

T he 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.

MNO councils are important communication hubs that play a significant role in fostering community empowerment and development for MNO citizens living within the geographic territory of that council.

Since February, 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 Credit River Métis Council
- President: Karen Dercher
- Chair: Dale Bulston
- Senator: Wayne Copeland
- Secretary: David Neville
- Treasurer: Darlene Lent

MNO High Land Waters Métis Council
- President: Scott Lloyd
- Chair: Marlon Lloyd
- Senator: Robert Lloyd
- Secretary-Treasurer: Candice Lloyd
- Councilor: James Grand
- Trudy Connors

MNO Northern Lights Métis Council
- President: Doug Hull
- Chair: Urél Courville
- Senator: Eugene Contant
- Secretary-Treasurer: Denis Beaulne
- Councilors: Jamie Mageau
- Aurel Courville
- Christopher Lalonde

Amid a Forest

Submitted by Anne Huguenin

Once I was strong, tall and free
I challenged the winds that mused through me
I drank up the rain that nourished my soul
And accepted the winners that were so cold

Welcomed the warmth of hot summer sun
Adored with cones, this coniferous one

Mighty roots stretched over tuber miles
So please allow me to weep for a while
From a seedling I was born
Now it’s time for me to mourn
There is still a great purpose I do not hide
To cradle the spiritual staff with honour and pride

Ingrained in me, I am not gone
For my Spirit is alive and will always live on.

Correction notice:
On page 25 of the March 2017 edition of the Métis Voyageur the poem “Brittle” by Anne Huguenin was published with an error that was the fault of Métis Voyageur staff. The last line was missed and an earlier line was reproduced in its place. We apologize for this error. Below is the poem in its entirety published without that mistake.

Brittle

Submitted by Anne Huguenin

I’ll make you feel uneasy to the groove,
You’ll watch each step, your every move
Unbalanced, slow pace you must proceed
Unready task for you to heed
I am clear but sometime black
Wise to purchase a salt sack
I sometimes come without warning
On my window something knocks

I will make you feel a little rocky
Like headlights to a deer
I sometimes come without warning

A skating rink type of morning
Get up early to sand those walks
On my window something knocks

Motherhood

Submitted by Anne Huguenin

A mother you can talk each and every day
She can even hear the words you do not say
A mother gives all she has and a little more
Her children are her everything she loves them to the core

A mother is a person who loves to have you around
She’ll make you laugh till you’re rolling on the ground
A mother makes you special in the way that you should feel
She will see you inside and cook your favourite meal
A mother gladly invites your friends to join you at the table
And happily prepares a feast any time that she is able
Brace yourself, a fall brings pain
I sometimes come without warning

Get up early to sand those walks
On my window something knocks

A mother is always proud of you no matter what you do
She is there to love, support and forever encourage you
A mother calls you up for no reason but to say hello
In a mother’s eyes

And when the day is said and done it’s true
There is no stronger bond then a mother and her children
And there is always pride in my children
For there is no stronger bond then a mother and her children
And when the day is said and done it’s true

I always want to be this Mom to you.

* For Mitchell and Jade
**Métis Voyageur**

May 2017, Issue no. 95

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Chapleau Métis Council

David Hamilton, President of the MNO

David Hamilton, President of the MNO

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**I**n a romantic version of history, our Métis ancestors in Ontario subsisted primarily on a diet of moose, caribou and deer. In actual fact, big game was scarce and was not as important to our people as many believe. Moose, for example, were not present in the Chapleau area until the 1920s and although woodland caribou were present, they could not be found in great numbers. It is for this reason that small game and fish were the primary sources of protein for our ancestors. The rabbit and whitefish were as important to the Métis of the east as the bison were to the Métis of the west.

While the term “rabbit” is the popular term, the animal I am referring to as rabbits are technically snowshoe or varying hares, which are not rabbits at all but members of the hare family; in French it is the lapin, in Michif um Hiyii, and in Cree wabusi or waspu. The difference between rabbits and hares is that new born hares, called leverets, are fully developed at birth, furred with open eyes. Newborn rabbits, called kits, however, are born undeveloped with closed eyes and no fur. Since “rabbit” in the popular term though, I will use it in this article.

Breeding season for these animals starts in March and may continue into the summer. Litters of about four young are born to each doe (female) about 35-40 days after mating. A doe may breed several times during the year; some having as many as four litters. This fecundity is a major factor in the large population changes that occur over the years. Métis trappers know that when rabbit populations are high, it will be a good year for trapping fur bearing animals like the lynx that prey upon them.

The harvesting of rabbits by snaring is a very easy skill that anyone can acquire. I encourage everyone to teach their children and youth this very basic of Métis bush skill. Start by preparing your snares ahead of time to save on time and cold hands. With pliers, cut a 16”-18” piece of 22-24 gauge wire, either brass or steel. I use steel wire that you buy at the Dollar Store for $1.50 a roll. Form a small loop in one end. A perfect loop can be made by twisting a two inch common nail until tight and then remove the nail. Feed the other end of the wire through the loop and your catch. Rabbits are creatures of habit and follow the same paths through their territory; these paths are used year after year by different rabbits.

Rabbits can be snared all year long but the best time is in the late fall and early winter when snow on the ground makes finding their paths easier and the cold weather will preserve your catch. The paths the rabbits travel have different names depending on what part of the country you live in. I have heard them called trails and leads but here in Northern Ontario they are referred to as runs.

I like to set 12-20 snares at a time, so, as to make the harvest worthwhile. A good ratio of snares to rabbits is three to one as not all your sets will produce the first night. The longer your snares are set the better the chances are of a catch. Rabbits are more active on cold clear nights.

Start looking for rabbit runs in areas of good habitat such as stands of young jack pine trees with a ground cover of bunched, poplar and willow. Cedar swamps and tag alder areas are also good areas to look for runs. Once you have found a promising track, make sure the rabbit has used it more than once as snares set on a single track rarely produce. A good run will be well packed trail five to six inches wide. Look for pinch points where the rabbit passed between two trees or has gone under a leaning branch.

Place your snare in the middle of the run about four inches off the ground. The loop of the snare should be about three and a half inches in diameter or about the size of your fist. If it is too large the rabbit may get caught around the waist as opposed to the neck. If the loop is too small the rabbit will merely push it aside. Tie the end of your snare off to a solid green branch or tree at least a half inch in diameter. If a suitable tie-off is not available, you can tie your snare to a drag by cutting a limb with your axe about 18” long and one inch in diameter. Stick one end in the snow adjacent to the run on an angle and tie your snare off to the drag. Place a few dead sticks on either side and underneath your snare to help guide the rabbits head into the loop. If you use green live sticks the rabbit will stop for a snack and may not get caught. When you make a catch the drag stick will entangle in the surrounding vegetation resulting in a quick kill. Mark each one of your snare locations with a piece offlagging tape. Rabbits caught around the neck will die within minutes. There are occasions however, when your catch will be alive in the snare. They can be quietly and humanely dispatched with a sharp blow behind the ears with the handle of your axe or even the bottom of your open hand like a karate chop. Always check your snares on a daily basis, if you don’t then other predators will discover your catch and eat it, particularly lynx, foxes and owls. Lynx and owls see the struggle of the rabbit at night with their keen eye site and swoop in to steal your catch. They leave tell tail wing marks in the snow and an empty snare to let you know they were there. The North in winter is very hungry country and nothing goes to waste.

Prepare your catch as soon as it has thawed. I use the skin and entrails for lynx bait when trapping otherwise it should be returned to the land and never thrown in the garbage. Rabbit meat is a very lean meat high in protein and low in fat. You would have to eat a lot of them to get your daily caloric intake. They can be prepared many ways from soups to stews, fried or baked with salt pork.

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**RABBIT SNARING**

**RABBIT STEW**

**Ingredients:**

1. rabbit
2. 1 tbsp cornstarch
3. 1 onion, chopped
4. 4 carrots
5. 1 small turnip
6. medium potatoes
7. Oil for frying
8. Water for simmering

**Instructions:**

- Cut rabbit into serving-sized pieces, roll in cornstarch, place in pot with a small amount of oil.
- Add onion, frying until brown.
- Add water, carrots, and turnip, simmering for 30 minutes.
- Add potatoes and cook for another 20 minutes.
- Add salt and pepper to taste, serve with scones or bannock.

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**A rabbit snare**

**A wild snowshoe hare.**

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The opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily represent the views of the Métis Nation of Ontario

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**Rabbit Stew**

**Preparation:**

1. Place you snare in the middle of the run on an angle and tie your snare off to the drag. Place a few dead sticks on either side and underneath your snare to help guide the rabbits head into the loop. If you use green live sticks the rabbit will stop for a snack and may not get caught. When you make a catch the drag stick will entangle in the surrounding vegetation resulting in a quick kill. Mark each one of your snare locations with a piece of flagging tape. Rabbits caught around the neck will die within minutes. There are occasions however, when your catch will be alive in the snare. They can be quietly and humanely dispatched with a sharp blow behind the ears with the handle of your axe or even the bottom of your open hand like a karate chop. Always check your snares on a daily basis, if you don’t then other predators will discover your catch and eat it, particularly lynx, foxes and owls. Lynx and owls see the struggle of the rabbit at night with their keen eye site and swoop in to steal your catch. They leave tell tail wing marks in the snow and an empty snare to let you know they were there. The North in winter is very hungry country and nothing goes to waste.

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**Setup:**

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**Instructions:**

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- Add onion, frying until brown.
- Add water, carrots, and turnip, simmering for 30 minutes.
- Add potatoes and cook for another 20 minutes.
- Add salt and pepper to taste, serve with scones or bannock.
Métis have long been known for our beautiful floral beadwork, so much so that we were known by the Lakota people as “the flower beadwork people.”

For so long, Métis communities in Ontario were hidden and severed from our relatives in the western part of the homeland. Racism and Canada’s colonialist policies historically led to many Métis people not expressing their identity publicly. For the past 40 years, and especially since the founding of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) our people have been making a comeback. Our culture is making a resurgence and while our beadwork is becoming more visible, it is still too often absent.

Our beadwork is one of the best ways for us to show the world who we are and for us to express our unique Métis identity. At the last MNO Annual General Assembly, MNO Youth Council President Mitch Case issued a challenge to Métis Youth to pick up their needles and express themselves. Youth were called on to lead a “beadwork revolution” to “reclaim the art of our people, the art we created and to proclaim to the world that we are proud to be Métis.”

A challenge was also issued to other MNO citizens to join the youth in their work and to support the youth artists in their communities.

We invite all Métis youth, from Ontario and across the homeland to send us pictures and stories of their beadwork. We will post their art with the story and artist acknowledgement. Let’s work together to inspire each other to create beautiful things, because we are beautiful people!

As part of our #beadworkrevolution, the MNO Youth Council is holding a contest to encourage Métis Youth to create beautiful things with their beads and to share them with the world. For every photo a Métis Youth sends us of their beadwork, they will be entered into a draw to win a beadwork kit. Multiple entries are encouraged!

Photos will be posted to the MNO Youth Council Facebook and Instagram feeds to encourage and inspire other Métis youth!

The beadwork kit includes 20 colours of size 11 beads, three types of material (black velvet, black melton and brown melton), Pellon backing, needles, thread and a few floral patterns.

Photos should include artist’s name, a description of the beadwork, and the youth’s home community. The draw will be made on June 21st, giving youth lots of time to send many pictures or to start a new project in time.

All Métis youth are invited to send in photos of their beadwork, to be entered into a draw for beading supplies!

Direct Message your photos to us on our Facebook page or on our Instagram page!

The MNO Oshawa and Durham Region Métis Council presents:

11th Annual Métis Heritage Celebration

June 24, 10am to 8 pm; June 25, 10am to 4 pm
Memorial Park, Oshawa

Grand Entry and Opening Ceremonies
Noon, Saturday, June 24th

Activities include: Performances by ARIKO, cultural entertainment, fiddling, jigging, drumming, storytelling, presenters, children’s activities, games, arts and crafts, Aboriginal vendors and food.

This is a FREE, FUN FAMILY event! Come and experience Métis culture at its finest!