A message from the MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

By MNO President Margaret Froh

The time between this Métis Voyageur and the last one has been less than two months, which makes the amount of activities that has taken place across the great Métis Nation of Ontario all the more amazing!

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH

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Submission Deadlines:
September 8, 2017
November 3, 2017
January 19, 2018

Recentely 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 1-855-798-1006 ext. 2 or send an email to registryclerk@Métisnation.org

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

With the exception of letters to the editor and submissions to the family section, all submissions should NOT be written in the first person.

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

MNO COMMISSION ON MÉTIS RIGHTS AND SELF-GOVERNMENT

While this paper report on the beginning of the Canoe Expedition it also covers the end of the engagement sessions of the MNO Commission on Métis Rights and Self-Government. I would like to thank the Commissioners and MNO staff who did so much work during the 15 weeks of the engagement sessions. I would also like to thank the thousands of MNO citizens who came out to tell us how hopeful they are about the future of the MNO and share their ideas on how to build a stronger nation. We are all very excited to see their report at the AGA in Kenora (see page 3).

MO CANOE EXPEDITION

The biggest story is of course the MNO Canoe Expedition! Our crew of modern Voyageurs have already visited numerous communities on their exciting journey across Ontario and will visit many more before they finish their amazing trek at the Annual General Assembly (AGA) in Kenora (see page 5).

NEW MNO SENIOR MANAGEMENT

The report from the Commission will outline the vision of MNO citizens for their future and two people who will be working very hard to make sure that vision becomes a reality will be our new Chief Operating Officer Joanne Meyer and new Chief Strategy Officer Jennifer St. Germain. I have very excited to be working with these two impressive women (see page 3).

COMING SOON

The next issue of the Voyageur will be out shortly after the AGA and the conclusion of the MNO Canoe Expedition. It is going to be a very active and very exciting summer! I hope to see you all at the AGA!

ACHIEVEMENTS

As always, the Voyageur is also filled with stories that give us a source of pride. So many of our fellow citizens are finding success in many different fields; from government and business to art and theatre and so much more. (page 19-21)

The financier of Choice for Métis Entrepreneurs in Ontario

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Chief Operating Officer and Chief Strategy Officer

MNO welcomes new senior management

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is proud to announce that Joanne Meyer is the new MNO Chief Operating Officer (COO) and Jennifer St. Germain is the first MNO Chief Strategy Officer (CSO). Both positions report directly to the MNO President and CEO. The COO and CSO will work in collaboration with each other to move the MNO forward in keeping with the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose.

With the leadership of the Chief Operating Officer, the MNO will leverage opportunities and relationships in order to make progress on closing the gap between Métis children, youth, families and communities and other Canadians in many key areas including health, child welfare, housing, justice, education and employment. Key areas of responsibility of the Chief Operating Officer are: program planning, policy advice and services, delivery of central services including financial management, budget preparation, human resources, information technology, office administration, research, MNO governance system, partnerships and work with the Métis National Council and its governing members.

The Chief Strategy Officer will help drive MNO’s rights agenda, contribute substantially and equally to broader strategic planning for the MNO and to enhance intergovernmental relations and partnerships. As well, the CSO will play an important role in the development of a robust and coordinated policy unit within the MNO, one which will bring together key policy and applied research functions that, to date, have been branch specific and operationally independent, into an integrated single entity under the direction of a dedicated policy, research and evaluation director. Key areas of responsibility of the Chief Strategy Officer are: strategic planning, policy and advice, research and evaluation, MNO governance system, as well as the Intergovernmental Relations; Lands, Resources and Policy Evaluation director. Key areas of responsibility of the Chief Strategy Officer are: strategic planning, policy and advice, research and evaluation, MNO governance system, as well as the Intergovernmental Relations; Lands, Resources and Policy Evaluation director. Joanne’s work led to large numbers of contributions agreements between the MNO and numerous partners that have been used to advance the Métis rights agenda, improve services to Métis people and strengthen MNO Métis communities.

Prior to joining the MNO, Joanne was the Senior Policy Advisor, Ipperwash Response Team Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, as the MNO Director of Intergovernmental Relations since 2008, which was also when she started with the MNO. During her time at the MNO, Joanne worked closely with the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) in order to advance the rights, interests and aspirations of Métis families and communities throughout Ontario. She developed close relationships with MNO chartered community councils. Joanne’s work led to large numbers of contributions agreements between the MNO and numerous partners that have been used to advance the Métis rights agenda, improve services to Métis people and strengthen MNO Métis communities.

Chief Operating Officer and Chief Strategy Officer

The Métis Nation of Ontario Commission on Métis Rights and Self-Government concludes engagement sessions

MNO completes land use study of proposed East West Tie project

submitted by Linda Norheim, MNO Lands, Resources and Consultations Manager

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) has completed a land use study of the proposed East West Tie transmission line project. The study was conducted to understand the land use of MNO citizens and to inform the project's development.

The study involved focus group sessions in Marathon and Thunder Bay in February and March 2017. A total of 24 MNO citizens attended the sessions to discuss their land use and provide feedback on the proposed transmission line.

The results of the land use study are now complete and will be used to inform the Environmental Assessment of the project. The study will help the MNO to better understand the impact of the transmission line on their traditional lands and to ensure that the project meets their needs and aspirations.

MNO and Hydro One share their mutual aspirations

submitted by Joanne Meyer, MNO Consulting Officer

The engagement's objectives were to bring Hydro One and MNO together to share cultural aspirations and discuss the issues that matter to the MNO. Hydro One representatives explained that the company is changing the way it does business. They have a new leadership team and a renewed commitment to work more effectively with all of its customers.

The overarching objective was to have a constructive dialogue that allows MNO and Hydro One to learn from each other. The engagement's success is critical to the mutual understanding of how citizens exercise their Aboriginal rights, and it also helps to support the ongoing consultations with the Ontario government regarding this project.

The results of the Land Use Study were included in the Environmental Assessment of the East West Tie project, which will be reviewed by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change later in 2017.
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.

Venue and accommodations

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 allows 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, Nature’s Inn, Lake Vu Hotel, Selah Motel, Brewers Inn and Totem Resort/Comfort Inn.

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 Provincial Council 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 shortly for registration purposes.

Registration

The MNO AGA is open to all citizens and non-delegates will be able to register via the MNO website. 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.

If you are considering camping there are excellent camping grounds and RV facilities 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 Rushing 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.

Opening ceremony

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 2,200 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 a 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 demonstration, 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 Care, 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 posted on the MNO website as the AGA get closer.

CORRECTION NOTICE

On pages 14-15 of the May 2017 Métis Voyageur, MNO Veterans’ Council President and MNO Veterans’ Council Secretary-Treasurer Greg Garratt were not listed on the caption for the group picture on those pages. The caption and picture appear correctly above and we apologize for the error.

MNO Senators attend feather ceremony in Parry Sound

submitted by
Verna Porter-Brunelle
PC(MNO) Senator

On Friday April 7, 2017, Provincial Council, Métis Nation of Ontario (PC(MNO)) Senator Verna Porter-Brunelle attended a feather celebration in Parry Sound. As an elder on the Indigenous Justice Committee, Senator Porter-Brunelle was honoured to have witnessed the ceremony. Also in attendance was Regional Senior Justice of the Peace Theodore A. Hodgins and Justice of the Peace Cornelia Mews.

With the help of Richard Clouter and staff, a celebration and smudging of the feather was performed. MNO Moon River Métis Council Senator Larry Duval and Senator Porter-Brunelle were present during celebration. Senator Duval presented Justice Mews with a sash and a copy of Wicce and Traditions of Our Ancestors, a coffee table book produced by the MNO Senator Porter-Brunelle also explained the meaning behind the colours of the Métis sash.
COMMUNITY

Métis culture night in Kitchener

submitted by
Leslie Anne Muma, MNO Grand River Métis Council Treasurer

On March 15, 2017, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Grand River Métis Council (GRMC) worked with Fauzia Colacci-Fines to host the Métis Family and Culture Night in Kitchener to host the first ever Métis Culture Night.

As part of the event, MNO GRMC President Karen Derocher and Treasurer Leslie Anne Muma presenting Métis 101 for the 80 participants in attendance. MNO GRMC Women’s Representative Colleen Brunelle, with the assistance from the new MNO Métis Family Wellbeing program Coordinator Jennifer Zeinstra, were kept busy teaching Métis Dot Art: Following a history lesson on Métis culture, the Family Centre supplied dinner for everyone.

One of the highlights of the evening was the cultural smudging ceremony, “I was very excited about the interest in our smudging ceremony and was delighted that the children present were very interested and wanted to learn more about our cultural smudging ceremony,” said Treasurer Lent.

“The event began with a chance to network with other individuals and service providers who had community tables set up to offer information on their services. After a delicious buffet dinner, attendees Gajant Jayaingam from Newcomer who provided a slide show for the event as well as Métis colouring pages and crayons for the children. Colacci-Fines provided a slide show for the event as well as Métis colouring pages and crayons for the children. Corbett and Colacci-Fines also held workshops to create healing blankets for the brave survivors who shared their stories and the performers who kept everyone entertained. The healing blankets were offered to empower the women and let them see the strength within themselves. At the end of the night Corbett and Colacci-Fines received an outpouring of love from the recipients of the blankets and other attendees even asked if they could purchase some of the blankets. The event concluded with President Derocher sharing a closing prayer. The audience was very respectful and welcoming to Métis culture. Honouring women is part of the event, MNO GRMC Brampton Healing and Wellness staff’s influence during the International Women’s Day event reminded all the attendees that they are important, cared for and loved within the Métis Nation. They look forward to collaborating with PCAWA in the future.”

MNO citizens celebrates International Women’s Day in Mississauga

submitted by
Karen Derocher
MNO Credit River Métis Council President
Catherine Corbett
MNO Brampton Métis Family Wellbeing Coordinator

On March 8, 2017, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Credit River Métis Council (GRMC) President Karen Derocher and Treasurer Darlene Lent, opened up the sold out International Women’s Day event at Sagan Convention Centre and Banquet Hall in Mississauga. The event was hosted by the Peel Committee Against Woman Abuse (PCAWA). The MNO is a proud partner of PCAWA in Brampton. It was an evening of celebrating women’s achievements and declaring bold actions that will drive change and end violence against women. Several local community agencies, female entrepreneurs and survivors attended the event and were asked to #BeBoldForChange.

The event began with a chance to network with other individuals and service providers who had community tables set up to offer information on their services. After a delicious dinner, the audience was entertained. The healing blankets were offered to empower the women and let them see the strength within themselves. At the end of the night Corbett and Colacci-Fines received an outpouring of love from the recipients of the blankets and other attendees even asked if they could purchase some of the blankets. The event concluded with President Derocher sharing a closing prayer. The audience was very respectful and welcoming to Métis culture. Honouring women is part of the event, MNO GRMC Brampton Healing and Wellness staff’s influence during the International Women’s Day event reminded all the attendees that they are important, cared for and loved within the Métis Nation. They look forward to collaborating with PCAWA in the future.”
MNO Grand River Métis Council 
hosts moose mitt workshop

submitted by 
Leslie-Anne Muma 
MNO Grand River Métis Council 
Treasurer

On January 21, 2017 at the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) office in Kitchener, the MNO Grand River Métis Council (GRMC) held the first session of a Moose Mitt Workshop. It was facilitated by MNO GRMC Treasurer Leslie Anne Muma with the assistance of Councilor Alicia Hamilton. The first session taught beading, for those unfamiliar with the skill, as well as the two needle beading method. Everyone worked hard on their designs some drew their own while others used some ideas and designs the GRMC provided. The very enthusiastic students got busy with their beading for the rest of the afternoon. While there were a few minor mishaps, band aids were on hand for those needing them. There were a lot of laughs and everyone had a great time. 

The second session was on February 12, 2017. MNO GRMC President Jennifer Parkinson assisted with this section, which focused on attaching the fur to the mitts, sewing them together and sewing the straw inserts together. Most were able to get at least one glove completed during the afternoon. The GRMC’s very own Senator Carol Leviss completed both her mitts within about a week or so of the workshop. Job well done Carol! ☺


New MNO office officially opens in Gravenhurst

submitted by 
Rose LePage, MNO Moon River Métis Council 
Secretary-Treasurer

The new Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) office in Northbrook officially opened on May 6, 2017. The office will serve as the headquarters for the MNO Moon River Métis Council and the new MNO Métis Family Wellbeing program.

The opening of an MNO office in the Moon River area was a long awaited event with debates going back as long as ten years about where the office should be located. As the area is very large geographically; covering many small towns that are spread apart it was important to find a location that was centrally located so none of the local MNO citizens felt disadvantaged. While it was a challenge to find such a location, it is felt that Gravenhurst fits the bill and will serve as a central spot to raise awareness, provide daily accessibility and foster connections between and within the many Métis communities in the area.

There was excitement in the air as the office was full of MNO citizens and honoured guests who braved the rainy weather to be there. Included was the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Region 7 Councilor Pauline Richardson, Honourary MNO Senator Ruth Wagner, MNO Moon River Métis Council President Tony Muscat and Senator Larry Duval as well as Gravenhurst Mayor Paisley Donaldson. Mayor Donaldson thanked the MNO for being part of the community and local media also attended to learn more about the Métis and spread the news to the larger community.

The MNO office is now home to a full-time MNO Métis Family Wellbeing Coordinator, Rubecka Davidson, who offers targeted services across the whole Moon River area. The MNO Moon River Métis Council wishes to thank Davidson, Councilor Richardson, Mayor Donaldson and all the other guests, citizen volunteers and speakers who attended the opening. ☺

The official ribbon cutting of the new MNO office in Gravenhurst. [Left to right] Gravenhurst District Councillor Paul Kelly, Gravenhurst Mayor Paisley Donaldson, PCMNO Region 7 Councilor Pauline Richardson, Honourary MNO Senator Ruth Wagner, MNO Moon River Métis Council President Tony Muscat and Senator Larry Duval.

Métis Family Wellbeing Program launch in Northbrook

submitted by 
Laurie Hannah, MNO Métis Family Wellbeing Coordinator

The new Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) office in Northbrook was officially opened May 10, 2017. The office will serve as the headquarters of the MNO High Land Waters Métis Council (HLMWC) and the new MNO Métis Family Wellbeing program.

The opening included music, dancing, jigging, and an office dinner feast.

The community of Northbrook and surrounding area have been supportive and welcoming of the new Métis Family Wellbeing program and is happy to now have access to a safe and supportive space where citizens can go and receive support and information. ☺
MNO Windsor-Essex Métis Council partner with museum to educate public about Métis

submitted by
Dona Grayer, MNO Windsor-Essex-Kent Métis Council  

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Windsor-Essex Métis Council (WEMC) worked with the Chumzuk 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/Half 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 of the display was to promote the MNO WEMC and encourage local MNO citizens to be proud of their Métis history.

The second display was still under construction. It will be larger and will focus on 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.

participants learning at one of the Turtle Island Heritage Festival workshops.

MNO Grand River Métis Council takes part in Turtle Island Heritage Festival

submitted by
Colleen Brunelle, MNO Grand River Métis Council Women’s Representative

During the week of April 24 to 27, 2017, members of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Grand River Métis Council (GRMC) took part at the annual Turtle Island Heritage Festival in Wellington.

The County of Wellington Museum and Archives in Aboyne played host to students of the Upper Grand District School Board by offering a series of workshops celebrating First Nations, Métis and Inuit culture and heritage.

Over 1118 students between grades 3-12 were in attendance this year. More than 50 teachers and volunteer parents also partook in the festivities.

Daily opening ceremonies gave students the opportunity to orient themselves and witness the traditions of drumming, singing and prayer circles. Elders shared their knowledge and explained the values held within Métis culture. George and Ron Parkinson were the Firekeepers.

Workshops offered throughout the day included: Medicine Pouch Workshop with MNO GRMC; Inuit Culture Workshop with Nijanani Novalinga; Sky Buffalo Drum Workshop with MNO citizen John Somosi; Dance Workshop with Tribal Vision; Voyageur Games Workshop with MNO Community Relations Manager Hank Rowlinson; MNO Beading Workshop with Naomi Smith; Residential School Survivor with Geronimo Henry; and Métis Fur Trapping with MNO citizen Jim Tolles.

Students were eager to participate. The hands-on approach to many of these activities gave them a better understanding and connection. Inquisitive students asked numerous questions with topics including the Métis sash, Louis Riel and the physical abilities of the Voyageurs.
MNO partners with North Hastings food program

submitted by Robin Simpson
MNO Métis Healthy Babies Healthy Children Coordinator

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) has become a partner in the North Hastings Food for You: Food for Two program. On May 4, 2017, the program was offered for the first time at the MNO office at 91 Chem- auhigon Road in Barcroft. Food for You: Food for Two is the local name for the broader Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program (CPNP), a community-based program funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) and delivered through Hastings Prince Edward Public Health (HPEPH). The program was designed to improve the health and well-being of pregnant women and infants who may require additional support. A comprehensive bundle of services was available to program participants including, nutrition education and supplementation, supports for healthy infant/parent attachment, child development and positive parenting education and breastfeeding support. “We are excited about our new partnership with the MNO, through which we will continue to offer the same great support services available through Food for You Food for Two,” says Jackie Whittingham, Program Manager, Hastings Prince Edward Public Health. “Relocating the program [to the MNO office] will ensure the program is accessible to all current and future families, including those of Indigenous descent and those living in rural areas.”

At the weekly drop-in program, families are provided a healthy snack, receive free items such as groceries, milk and prenatal vitamins and have the opportunity to consult with Public Health Nurses and Dietitians with questions and concerns about infant feeding. “Our program promotes positive maternal mental health as well as provides opportunities for social support,” says Nancy Quintron, Public Health Dietitian. “Participants learn about healthy eating for mom and baby, maintaining a healthy pregnancy and how to care for their newborn.”

At the weekly drop-in program, families are provided a healthy snack, receive free items such as groceries, milk and prenatal vitamins and have the opportunity to consult with Public Health Nurses and Dietitians with questions and concerns about infant feeding. “Our program promotes positive maternal mental health as well as provides opportunities for social support,” says Nancy Quintron, Public Health Dietitian. “Participants learn about healthy eating for mom and baby, maintaining a healthy pregnancy and how to care for their newborn.” The MNO is thrilled about this new partnership and is excited to welcome Food for You: Food for Two participants and share Métis culture with them.

MNO Credit River Métis Council hosts first workshop in new office

submitted by Darlene Lent
MNO Credit River Métis Council Treasurer

The new Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Credit River Métis Council (CRMC) hosted a loom beading workshop at the MNO official’s office in Brampton on March 26, 2017. The free workshop offered novice and experienced beaders an introduction to the loom beading process. Participants received instructions on how to set up a beading loom and create a beaded bracelet. The workshop had a full house of 18 participants including Provincial Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario Senator Ray Bergie’s great-granddaughters Natalie and Gabriella Estevez, as well as Wyatt Lougheed, the great-nephew of workshop facilitator MNO CRMC Treasurer Darlene Lent. They provided stories, laughter and great expectations of how the workshop will enrich and promote the Métis Nation in the future. This workshop is one of many public events hosted by the MNO CRMC with the help of an Ontario Trillium Fund Grant to promote Métis culture, way of life and community spirit.

The mid-day break included a delicious and healthy lunch provided by the new MNO Healing and Wellness Coordinators Rose Collect-Fitzes and Catherine Corbett. Special thanks to them and to Ed Hass, MNO Grand River Métis Council (GRMC) past-Senator for providing a closing prayer at the end of the day.

Everyone left with a handmade wooden loom kit, new friendships, smiles and a nurturing sense of community.

Learning the Métis jig in Kitchener

submitted by Jennifer Parkinson
MNO Grand River Métis Council President

Every other Wednesday between 6:30 and 7:30 pm, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Grand River Métis Council (GRMC) brings in a Métis jigging instructor to the Kitchener MNO office to teach MNO citizens and community members how to jig. Young and old are eager to learn some jigging moves from Métis Jigger, Sterling Laverigne. Sterling learned her jigging skills in British Columbia. The community is fortunate that she now lives in our area and is eager to share her knowledge.

The official ribbon cutting of the new MNO office in Haileybury.

MNO office officially opens in Haileybury

submitted by Liz Morland
MNO Temiskaming Métis Council Office Manager

The new Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) office in Haileybury was officially opened on March 23, 2017. The office will serve as the headquarters of the MNO Temiskaming Métis Council (TMC) and the new MNO Métis Family Wellbeing program. The MNO Temiskaming Métis Council (TMC) originally opened an office in Haileybury in 2001 and in 2004, the MNO TMC was pleased with the signing of the MNO/MINR Interim Harvesting Agreement, which recognized the MNOs Harvester Card system. For the most part, the MNO TMC office was managed by volunteers and Council members and was only open part-time. Recently, however, because of the new MNO Family Wellbeing program needing an office in the TMCs jurisdiction, the MNO TMC is able to share the office with the MNO Family Wellbeing staff members allowing the office to be open full-time and provide better service MNO citizens.

The office is now very busy and is a centre of activity for the community.
In May 15, 2017, the Metis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Georgian Bay Metis Council (GBMC) completed another Conservation Project by planting 50 Butternut and 20 Cedar trees. The Butternut tree can be used for medicine to treat constipation, asthma and arthritis. It can also be a food source. The Cedar is known as one of the four sacred medicines. The Butternut tree has been on the Endangered Species List since 2007. It has suffered due to the popularity of its beautiful wood for furniture and as of late a canker (fungus) that kills the trees has been a problem.

In 2017, the tree planting allowed the GBMC to partner for the first time with Beausoleil Island First Nations (BFIFN) on their reserve on Christian Island. The MNO GBMC volunteers travelled by ferry to the island, where they were greeted by First Nations members and other volunteers. The trees were carefully planted in the churchyard.

Once the planting was completed, the Council celebrated by having a BBQ and everyone had the opportunity to meet each other during the celebration. The good ideas discussed about future conservation projects.

Later 10 Butternuts were planted on Georgian Bay Islands National Park property in three locations where seed crops will be developed for future Butternut trees. The MNO GBMC has already placed two large trees on Georgian Bay Islands National Park property.

The Metis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Peterborough and District Wapiti Metis Council (PDWMC) hosted a workshop at Trent University on May 27-28. The two-day workshop focused on creating resilient councils that achieve their objectives. The workshop instructor was Certified Professional Co-Active Coach and Facilitator Tara McDonough of “What’s Possible. The community councils with members present included the MNO Ottawa Region, Oshawa Durham Region, Credit River, Toronto-York and Niagara Region Metis Councils. The first day focused on building resilient Councils. Tara coached participants on how to be resilient, adapt effectively to stress as well as how to identify strengths of each council member in order to maximize the potential of the entire council. The second day was focused on time management skills, how to run meetings more effectively and taught participants how to balance council duties with family, careers and every-day life.

Participants expressed gratitude for the opportunity to gather together and learn as a collective and to bring the knowledge back to share with their councils and community.

With partnerships with different service clubs and a core of wonderful volunteers, the Council managed to help plant over 18,000 trees over the past seven years. The volunteers have done everything from the physical planting of the trees to the organization of events. A single tree can absorb 48 pounds of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions per year, which results in 864,000 pounds of CO₂ emissions neutralized per year. The Council has done other projects besides tree planting, its worked with great clubs like the Georgian Bay Basmasters who taught them about fish habitats. They teamed up with the Basmasters and Scouts Canada to put together and place about 50 fish habitats in the Georgian Bay area. These will protect small fish until they mature by forming artificial reefs for them to hide in.

The MNO GBMC thanks all the great volunteers who came out and made things happen for the betterment of the environment.

The Council also thanks Ontario Power Generation for their generous donations to the MNO GBMC to finance these projects over the last two years. Without their financial support it is very hard to get these type of projects done.

Children’s arts and crafts during a Cultural Knowledge through Generations Workshop in Windsor.
Métis Cultural Awareness Training in Owen Sound

submitted by
Megan Ellis
MNO Community Wellness Coordinator

On March 21, 2017, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) staff in Owen Sound hosted 40 service-providers at a full day Métis Cultural Awareness Training session. The event took place at the Grey Bruce Health Unit and was designed to help service providers in non-Indigenous organizations gain a better understanding of Métis citizens and the services provided at the MNO Owen Sound office.

Service providers were treated to a traditional opening and prayer of MNO citizens and the services provided at the MNO Owen Sound office. Service providers were treated to a traditional opening and prayer. Service providers were treated to a traditional opening and prayer. The importance of service providers was also discussed. The importance of service providers was also discussed. Participants were given the opportunity to gain a better understanding of how to be more effective in their work with Métis clients.

Healing moccasins workshop in Sudbury

submitted by
Dale Xilon
MNO Métis Healthy Babies, Healthy Children Coordinator

On March 29, 2017, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) staff joined clients and community members from the Sudbury region for a Healing Moccasins Workshop. MNO Métis Healthy Babies and Healthy Children Coordinator Dale Xilon and MNO Family Wellbeing worker Stephanie Kehoe led the Workshop and guided participants through a self-healing journey. Workshop participants shared thoughts and feelings on the varied roles of women as caregivers, spouses, family members and friends.

After a prayer was shared each woman was asked to write a message inside their moccasins. These messages represented something inside them that connects to each step in their life journey. All the messages were individual and unique. Some participants chose to share the meaning behind their messages.

Métis learn self-defense and scam-avoidance in Windsor

submitted by
Audrey Bayliss
MNO Windsor-Essex Métis Council Community Wellness Coordinator

On February 23, 2017, Cpl. Cheryle Hayden of the Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) travelled to Windsor to facilitate a Don’t Be Fooled workshop. The workshop included a self-defence teaching where participants had the opportunity to take part in various techniques and movements to enhance one’s self-protection. The interactive workshop was well received by all who attended. Cheryle was very enjoyable and kept the participants engaged while providing individual feedback.

The workshop was organized by MNO Community Wellness Coordinator Audrey Bayliss along with Métis Healthy Babies Healthy Children Coordinator October Foster, Can Am Urban Native Homes Elayne Isaacs, Southern Ontario Health Access Centre Melissa Thomas, Urban Aboriginal Healthy Living Healthy Kids at Can-Am Indian Friendship Centre (CAIFC) Mercedes Rodriguez, and Urban Aboriginal Healthy Living Program at CAIFC Michelle Nahdeo. Cheryle has 30 years of service as a police officer with the RCMP, working throughout many parts of Canada. She has worked a large variety of different jobs including general police duties, commercial crime, surveillance, teaching and training, Aboriginal policing and Métis Liaison.
On the morning of May 23, twelve modern voyageurs embarked from Britannia Beach in Ottawa on an adventure of a lifetime. A crowd of over 50 people including Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Chair France Picotte and Ontario Attorney-General Yasir Naqvi gave the 2017 MNO Canoe Expedition a big send-off that included traditional Métis dancing and fiddling.

The official launch of the 2017 MNO Canoe Expedition started with a procession as the Expedition members carried their canoe to the Ottawa River. They were followed by a procession of dignitaries and MNO citizens and friends of the Métis including Chair Picotte, Attorney-General Yasir Naqvi, Region 6 Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (RCAMNO) Councilor Tom Thompson, Ottawa Region Métis Council Senator Parmalilla Burgie and High Land Waters Métis Council Senator Robert Lloyd.

Métis youth and MNO Communications Assistant with the Canoe Expedition, Melissa St. Amant was master of ceremonies for the launch and introduced Senator Burgie, who provided a beautiful opening prayer. Chair Picotte then brought greetings from MNO President Margaret Froh, who was unable to attend. Chair Picotte explained that in the next 100 days as the MNO Canoe Expedition travels from Ottawa to Kenora that its members will “…educate Canadians about Métis contributions to Canada and the continuing role of Métis people and communities. This expedition is about telling our story.”

Chair Picotte also took the time to recognize the funders who were supporting the MNO Canoe Expedition. This included Ontario 150, the provincial ministries of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation and Tourism, Culture and Sport and the federal ministry of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour.

Attorney-General Naqvi indicated that the MNO Canoe Expedition is part of the “…reconciliation journey that we are on that requires that we have more robust conversations with Indigenous people and that we hear their stories directly.” Speaking directly to the Canoe Expedition members, he stated: “You are part of that reconciliation journey. Some lively fiddle music from Emily Ingram, part of the support team for the 2017 Canoe Expedition and a member of the 2014 Canoe Expedition, was accompanied by jigging by other Canoe Expedition members, which inspired the crowd to clap along.

Two Expedition members, Will McLean and Courtney Vaughan then shared their thoughts as they prepared to start their amazing trip across the province, Courtney, said: “I am personally very excited to be part of this voyage because I have the opportunity to connect with the lifestyle of my ancestors, I have the opportunity to connect with the great waterways and with the land, to live off of it and to be shaped by it. I am also really thankful to have the opportunity to connect to communities along the way, as our ancestors did and to learn from each Métis person along the way.”

Will stated: “I think it is such an incredible thing today to see how committed we are as Métis youth to bettering our culture and how committed we are to ourselves, as Métis citizens. We are spending three months doing something so difficult away from the comforts of life today, our homes and our families. We are committed to gaining a firsthand understanding of our culture in order to educate ourselves and others and pursue our way of life for future generations.”

“After these inspiring words, Senator Lloyd provided a thoughtful closing prayer and the Canoe Expedition members and the MNO leadership presented forming article and unfurled on the journey ahead. Then the big moment arrived as the Expedition members said their good-byes to the family and friends who had gathered to see them off and boarded the canoe. The crowd cheered enthusiastically as they launched into the River and before going on the first leg of their trek gave a hearty voyageur salute.

The MNO website, Facebook and Twitter pages will all feature regular updates as the MNO Canoe Expedition makes its way across the province.
“This expedition is about telling our story.”

France Picotte, MNO Chair

The Métis Nation of Ontario Canoe Expedition paddling the Ottawa River near Mattawa on June 2, 2017.
A Phenomenal Opportunity

The 2017 MNO Canoe Expedition launched at Britannia Beach in Ottawa on May 23. Part of the ceremony included remarks by two members of the Canoe Expedition, Will McLean and Courtney Vaughn. Below is the text of their comments:

COURTNEY: Bonjour, Boozhoo, Aani, tanmush. Will McLean and Courtney Vaughn. Below is the text of their comments:

COURTNEY: Bonjour, Boozhoo, Aani, tanmush. Will McLean and Courtney Vaughn. Below is the text of their comments:

COURTNEY: I personally am excited to be engaging with our communities and to share and hope that you will meet with us on our journey to learn from us as we hope to learn from you. Please connect with us on route, or even on Facebook! There are many ways to follow us as we progress through this historic and exciting adventure.

WILL: What a phenomenal opportunity for us, as the Métis Nation of Ontario, to celebrate our history and future, to celebrate our resilient culture and people who have stayed strong, proud, and distinct for over 150 years. Canada wouldn't exist as it does without the contributions of the Métis people. We are excited to engage with our communities and all other Canadians in celebrating our heritage and our culture. We thank you so much for your support today and look forward to seeing you again at some point along our journey. Miigwich. Marsi. Thank you.
MNO Canoe Expedition 2017

Metis youth paddle across the province

Submitted by
Alexander Young & Melissa St. Amant
MNO Canoe Expedition Communications Assistants

This summer, 17 Metis youth from across Ontario will take part in a once in a life-time adventure. In the course of 86 days, these Metis students will follow the historic fur trade routes of their ancestors, covering 2200 kilometers by canoe and portage. On this amazing journey, they will stop at several different communities where they will deliver presentations about Metis culture and history, be interviewed by the media and act as ambassadors of the Metis Nation of Ontario (MNO).

During this incredible trek, the great outdoors will be a classroom and a workplace for the youth to learn skills that they will use to secure future jobs and advance their future careers.

Prior to the launch of the expedition, paddlers received three weeks of extensive training where they obtained their wilderness first aid certification, an introduction to white water safety training and cultural training at Fort William Historical Park. They participated in several safety workshops, many team building activities and were provided with extensive information about Metis way of life.

The MNO Canoe Expedition is an interdisciplinary model of experiential learning that challenges and rewards students as they gain important employment values and skills.

The skills put into practice during the MNO Canoe Expedition provide a foundation for success in future employment settings, as well as valuable experience to enhance employability within today’s labour market. Among the skills participants will develop and enhance are:

- How to overcome adverse situations;
- Effective problem solving skills;
- How to thrive in a team environment;
- How to be a successful leader;
- Effective time management skills;
- Project planning;
- An understanding of natural environments;
- Personal and social development;
- How to promote and preserve Metis culture.

In addition to the paddlers, two Communications Assistants are sharing the responsibilities of photography, videography and providing written descriptions of everyone’s experiences that will be shared through the MNO’s social media and other communications networks.

A team of three Ground Crew members will be following along the journey and supporting the paddlers in every way possible. They will also be in charge of organizing community arrivals and events throughout the summer.

Keep up the MNO Canoe Expedition on the MNO Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages as well as on the special section of the MNO webpage.

1) MNO Chair France Picotte offers her praise and encouragement to the young voyageurs.
2) The Canoe Expedition members prepare to hoist their canoe and take it to the Ottawa River.
3) Ground crew members Emily Ingram provides some fiddling to get everyone in the proper mood.
4) Ontario Attorney-General Yasir Naqvi speaking prior to the launch.
5) Canoe Expedition member Jacob Crawford with his mother Lisa Pigeau.
6) PCMNO Region 6 Councilor Tom Thompson Jr. and MNO High Land Waters Metis Council Senator Robert Lloyd showing their Metis pride.
7) A warm farewell.
Matthew recently graduated from the Border Services Pro-
gram at St. Clair College. It has been his lifelong dream to paddle the routes that his ancestors travelled during the fur trade, and he is humbled to be able to see the world through their eyes. Matthew is dedicating his journey to water, a sacred part of creation and the watercarrier, the women who play an im-
portant and sacred role in Métis communities.

Samantha is a second year stu-
dent at Nipissing University where she is pursuing a Bachel-
or of Science in Biology and a Bachelor of Commerce. She
joined the Expedition in hopes of discovering more about her
culture and herself. Her favour-
ite parts of Métis culture are tradi-
tional songs, dance, and the way everyone comes together for enjoyment and laughter. Sam-
antha feels blessed to have the
topportunity to take part in this journey of self-discovery.

Brett is the MNO Canoe Ex-
pedition’s resident comedian (at least he thinks he is). He
is a graduate of the Minnesota Technical College, where he
was trained to become a Power-
line Technician. Brett is excited to participate in the Canoe Ex-
pedition, make lasting connec-
tions with other Métis youth, and learn more about his cul-
ture. Brett has a passion for ed-
crating and passing on knowl-
edge, which he hopes to be able to do this summer.

Emily is a recent graduate of the Geo-
graphic Information Systems Applica-
tions Specialist program at Sault Col-
lege. She was a paddler on the 2014
MNO Canoe Expedition and is return-
ing to help so the 2017 Expedition runs even more smoothly. Emily was also featured in one of the MNO’s We Are commerce commercials that ran on APTN in 2016. She is a talented violinist and is looking forward to learning the Métis fiddling style this summer.

Alex’s family’s traditional territory is Maesow Lake, Saskatchewan, but
the MNO has been his contemporary Métis family since he was very young. Alex joined the 2017 MNO Canoe Ex-
pedition as a way to give back and use the skills he has developed working in communications, media and design. On a personal level, the Expedition presents an opportunity to connect with his Métis culture, and history. By joining the incredible team of Métis youth Alex hopes to become more confident in his Métis identity.

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MELISSA St. Amant
PENTATEGUSHI
Melissa has been involved with the MNO for the past four years and has
grown to be a very important part of her life. She is passionate about Métis culture and enjoys crafting, dancing and teaching others about her heri-
tage. She considers her job with the MNO Canoe Expedition to be a dream come true as it fits with her background in Communication Studies and her love of the outdoors. She looks forward to learning more about herself on this journey as well as obtaining valuable experience in her field of study.

PENETANGUISHENE

The 2017 MNO Canoe Expedition was thrilled to have a member of the MNO Summer Youth Cultural Program at Sault College. The MNO Canoe Expedition is one of her greatest journeys in the outdoors.

André currently attends Concordia Uni-
versity in Montreal, where he is pursu-
ing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Peo-
ples Studies. She was the Youth Representative for the
Métis-Credit River Métis Coun-
cil before going to university. She
found there was a gap in her program when it comes to Métis culture and wanted to participate in the expedition to
give her a deeper understand-
ing of where she comes from and what was missing from her academic experience.

Samantha’s family is traditionally from Wikwemikong Manitoulin. She is a student at Georgian College where she is taking the Indigenous Social and Com-
munity Development program. Christ-
a is starting the Expedi-
tion with a limited knowledge of Métis culture but is excited for the Expedition to provide her with hands-on learning op-
opportunities and a deeper under-
standing of her culture.

Emily is a recent graduate of the Geo-
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PENETANGUISHENE
MNO Canoe Expedition visiting communities across Ontario

1 & 2) The Canoe Expedition at their first landing in Mattawa. 3) Minister Bennett, MNO President Margaret Froh and Métis Nation of Alberta President Audrey Poitras, preparing to join the Expedition on a trip on the Ottawa River. 4) The Honourable Dr. Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs meeting the Canoe Expedition members in Ottawa. 5) The MNO Canoe Expedition and friends on the Ottawa River. 6) The Canoe Expedition members with Presidents Poitras and Froh and Minister Bennett in Ottawa.
Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) veterans Shelly Claus and Sharlene Lance carrying the Memorial Cup. The Memorial Cup is one of the most prestigious and coveted trophies in North American sport, has a rich tradition that has shaped the way junior hockey is played in North America. The trophy originated in 1919, in remembrance of the many soldiers who paid the supreme sacrifice for Canada in The First World War. In 2010 the Memorial Cup was rededicated to the memory of all fallen Canadian military personnel.

MNO veterans carry Memorial Cup in Windsor Spittfies victory parade

submitted by Donna Grayer
President, MNO Windsor Essex Kent Metis Council

MNO veterans and youth visit Canadian War Museum

submitted by Brian Black
MNO Veterans’ Council Chair

As part of the Vimy Memorial Project that took place from April 9-19, 2017, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans’ Council brought Métis veterans from Ontario and British Columbia together with Métis youth for Vimy commemoration events that took place over that weekend in Ottawa.

On the April 8, the Saturday of the weekend, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Margaret Froh and MNO Veterans’ Council, Métis Youth and Veterans from Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) boarded a bus to the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa.

Upon arrival, the delegation split into two, with a group of Ontario and British Columbia veterans and youth in both groups. The War Museum guides were knowledgeable and led the group on a journey through the Museum.

After the guided portion of the tour, everyone was free to investigate and look around more to see what the Museum had to offer. In the Great Hall, there were tanks, jeeps, personnel carriers, a jet fighter suspended from the ceiling and a variable depth sonar and naval gun. There were also replicas of the statue figurines from Vimy Ridge monument in France set out in a symbolic way with the sun shining through a long narrow but high glass window.

The separate exclusive Vimy Ridge exhibit was breath taking and moving to say the least. The back wall is lit up with 3,908 lights to represent all who fell at Vimy. As the group walked through the exhibit, there were displays of life-sized soldiers and also videos with about the Vimy Ridge Monument. The life-sized soldiers gave the group an incredible feeling as if they were standing with them and there was a loud silence in this exhibit that was very solemn that allowed reflection on what these young men must have been thinking prior to jumping out of their trenches to do battle.

A scale model of the Vimy memorial at the Canadian War Museum.

A MNO citizen and veteran sworn in as Chief of Police

submitted by Joseph Paquette
MNO Veterans’ Council President
Adapted from a story by Emily MacKay
Lanced that originally appeared at intelligentgenera.ca

On Gignac, a Métis Nation of Ontario citizen and veteran, was sworn in as Chief of Police during a news conference at Belleville’s City Hall on January 12.

In a packed courtroom, Justice Stephen Hunter administered the oath of office and oath of secrecy before Mayor Taso Christopher who is also chairman of the Belleville Police Services Board and who presented Chief Gignac with his badge.

“To my fellow citizens of Belleville, we stand on guard for you,” said Gignac, “I am a servant leader but I am not perfect... But I tell you this, I believe in you, I believe in the abilities you have, your ingenuity, your courage and the goodwill I will have witnessed here in Belleville in the last year and a half.”

Gignac has been with the Belleville Police service since July 2015. He was initially hired to fill the then-vacant role of Deputy Chief.

In November 2015, it was announced that former police chief Cory MacKay would retire and that Gignac was set to take on the chief position. In his address to fellow members of the service, Chief Gignac said “you are the finest team in the province, bar none.”

"Policing and keeping our community safe is a 365-day a year effort. Thank-you for standing on the blue line and for standing on the wall here for Belleville, and for your willingness to lay down your life, if need be, for a stranger," Chief Gignac said.

He recognized the presence of members of the Canadian Forces in the room, including 8 Wing/CFB Trenton base Commander Col. Colin Keiver and Chief Warrent Officer Darcy Elder. Chief Gignac also noted the Belleville police would recognize the work and sacrifices of military members by adding a yellow ribbon to police vehicles during the upcoming rebranding process.

“I want to tell you all that I'm all in,” Chief Gignac said. “I'm either all in or not in at all... the day that I'm not all in, I will cease to be your Chief of Police.”

A MNO citizen and veteran Ron Gignac (right) being sworn in by Justice Stephen Hunter (left) as the Chief of Police for Belleville.

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) veterans实体经济 plaß and Sharlene Lance carried the Memorial Cup in a parade in Windsor on May 18, 2017. The special ceremony that was open to the public was held at the Essex County War Memorial in City Hall Square. The Memorial Cup was displayed at the Windsor City Hall for public viewing after it was handed over to the Mayor of Windsor Drew Dilkens by Class and Lance. Class is the Women’s Representative for the MNO Veteran’s Council and Lance is a veteran and Women’s Representative for the MNO Windsor Essex Kent Métis Council (WEMC).

The trophy arrived in Windsor along the Detroit River aboard the Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) Vessel Canaless Carrière before docking at Dieppe Gardens. From there the Cup was up carried by a military parade to the Centennial on University Avenue. The procession included Windsor Police Services, Royal Canadian Legion Colour Party Zone A-1, Sterling Heights Police Colour Party, Royal Canadian Navy, Windsor Regiment, Essex and Kent Regiment, #31 Service Battalion, BCFM, CBHA, Veterans, Cadet Units, Windsor Fire Department and Military G-Wagons, M-37’s and 43 Willys Jeeps.

The Memorial Cup is a junior ice hockey club championship trophy awarded annually to the Canadian Hockey League champion. It is awarded following a four-team, round-robin tournament between a host team and the champions of the CHL’s three member leagues: the Ontario Hockey League, Quebec Major Junior Hockey League and Western Hockey League. Sixty teams are eligible to compete for the Memorial Cup, representing nine provinces and four American states.
MNO citizens set to shine in Toronto Concert Orchestra production

Composer Ian Cusson and singer Rebecca Cuddy are among Indigenous participants

To apply contact:
Infinity Property Services
An agency of the Métis Nation of Ontario
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- The house must require major repairs and/or modifications for persons with disabilities

To learn more about Voice of a Nation and performance information, visit the Toronto Concert Orchestra’s web site: torontoconcertorchestra.com

This is a truly unique opportunity! Confirmed performance dates and locations include:

Thursday Oct. 12 7:30 pm
Peterborough Showplace Performance Centre Peterborough

Sunday Nov. 19 2:00 pm
Gravenhurst Opera House Gravenhurst

Investment in Affordable Housing (2014 Extension)

ACHIEVEMENTS
Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Ashlyn Quesnelle is enjoying great success in her studies and in the pursuit of her career. Ashlyn is from Midland and her entire family have always resided there. She graduated from McMaster University in 2009 with a degree in History and Peace Studies. She later went back to school in Ottawa to pursue an advanced diploma in Applied Studies from Algonquin College, where she recently graduated with a 4.0 GPA.

In the summer of 2016, Ashlyn was the chosen one of 30 Indigenous students from across Canada to participate in a pilot program called Indigenous Youth Summer Employment Opportunity (IYSEO) that was spearheaded by the Federal Government and the Assembly of First Nations. She was appointed to an internship position within the Deputy Minister’s Office at Public Safety Canada. The program was an intensive 10-week introduction to the federal public service. Students were placed across various ministries with the goal of providing meaningful work experience for young Indigenous employees.

It was at the IYSEO where Ashlyn met Gina Wilson. Ms. Wilson is the Associate Deputy Minister of Public Safety and has recently been appointed Deputy Minister of the Status of Women. She was also instrumental in the success of the IYSEO program. Due to the tremendous success of the pilot program, it has not only continued this year but has ballooned to include nearly 120 students. As a graduate, Ashlyn is no longer eligible but has volunteered to remain active with this year’s cohort as an alumnus or mentor.

On April 10, 2017, Ashlyn was one of the five women to receive the 2017 Norton Rose Fullbright LLP Famous 5 Ottawa Mentorship Award. The award’s goal is to provide a platform for young women to engage in public speaking by drafting an introduction for the guest speakers in the Norton Builder series event. The Norton Builder series event is hosted by the Famous 5 Foundation. The goal of the event is to celebrate women’s successes and inspire them to become Norton Builders in the legacy of the Famous 5. Winning this award was especially sweet for Ashlyn because she had the opportunity to provide the introduction to her mentor, Ms. Wilson.

Ashlyn also won a Historical Society of Ottawa Award. 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 (RESTC).
- Reviews are ongoing however time commitment is limited in nature.
- MAC members are required to review bursary applications once or twice a year.
- All RAC and MAC business is to be completed by fax, e-mail and/or teleconference wherever 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 Bourbonnière jadeb@metisnation.org or 1-800-263-4889.

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Nicole Soaness has recently graduated from the Community and Justice Services program at Fleming College.

"Words cannot express how grateful I have been for the help of the MNO throughout these last two years. The support has taken the pressure off and has allowed me to focus entirely on my studies," said Nicole.

Nicole has been on the Dean’s List for four semesters at Fleming College and with the knowledge gained from the program, she now feels completely prepared and ready to enter the workforce.

"I was so stressed about the financial strain that I would have by returning to post-secondary studies. The MNO provided funding support which has relieved so much stress and has taken the pressure off so that I can focus entirely on my studies," said Nicole.

Nicole has interviewed for positions at local community agencies and she is also working her way through the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services recruitment process.

Métis youth becomes Fish and Wildlife Technician

Ashlyn Quesnelle receiving the Historical Society of Ottawa Award.

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Métis youth completes security program at Fleming College

Submitted by Rachelle Brunelle McColl
MNO Employment Developer

Métis Nation of Ontario Employment Developer Rachelle Brunelle McColl submitted by the school’s website with the Aboriginal Student Services at York and her photograph with the Aboriginal community and parents, family, music teachers and Aboriginal community and create her own unique style of teaching about Métis Culture.

On May 18, 2017, Glorée had the honour of teaching about the Métis sash to over 100 students at District School Board of Niagara (DSBN) and Dalewood French Immersion Public School (DIPPS) in St. Catharines. Students at Dalewood participated in a series of Indigenous workshops from various Indigenous groups; including a Métis Dot Art lesson from Niagara Region Métis Council Chair Brian Ikon.

During the presentations, Glorée taught about the traditional uses of the sash and the meaning behind the colours and patterns. Glorée then instructed the students on sash weaving and provided tips and strategies on how to weave. Glorée received praise for her teachings. Dalewood Principal, Jennifer Tyne stated, “Glorée did a fantastic job! She had everyone engaged and she spoke with confidence.” DSBN First Nation Métis Inuit Advisor, Sheila Maracle also provided positive feedback, “I am so proud of Glorée. For someone who is only 17 and to be able to share their culture with over 100 students is an amazing thing.”

Glorée is finishing the 11th grade at the DSBN Academy in St. Catharines. Once she graduates in 2018, Glorée has plans to become an underwater welder and a child and youth worker. When asked if she would like to present again, Glorée stated, “I was nervous at first but once I got into the swing of things I really enjoyed it! I would love to do it again!”

Calvin Trumble.

Calvin has been applying for jobs within security agencies and also considered applying to the military, which is his ultimate goal.

Amanda Cox.

Glorée Hersom was an attendee at the 2017 MNO Infinite Reach March Break Camp during the week of March 12-16, 2017. At the March Break Camp Glorée was inspired by the teachings and history provided by facilitators and after returning home with the assistance from the Métis Family Wellbeing program, she was able to plan, develop and create her own unique style of teaching about Métis Culture.

On May 18, 2017, Glorée had the honour of teaching about the Métis sash to over 100 students at District School Board of Niagara (DSBN) and Dalewood French Immersion Public School (DIPPS) in St. Catharines. Students at Dalewood participated in a series of Indigenous workshops from various Indigenous groups; including a Métis Dot Art lesson from Niagara Region Métis Council Chair Brian Ikon.

During the presentations, Glorée taught about the traditional uses of the sash and the meaning behind the colours and patterns. Glorée then instructed the students on sash weaving and provided tips and strategies on how to weave. Glorée received praise for her teachings. Dalewood Principal, Jennifer Tyne stated, “Glorée did a fantastic job! She had everyone engaged and she spoke with confidence.” DSBN First Nation Métis Inuit Advisor, Sheila Maracle also provided positive feedback, “I am so proud of Glorée. For someone who is only 17 and to be able to share their culture with over 100 students is an amazing thing.”

Glorée is finishing the 11th grade at the DSBN Academy in St. Catharines. Once she graduates in 2018, Glorée has plans to become an underwater welder and a child and youth worker. When asked if she would like to present again, Glorée stated, “I was nervous at first but once I got into the swing of things I really enjoyed it! I would love to do it again!”

Calvin Trumble.

Calvin has been applying for jobs within security agencies and also considered applying to the military, which is his ultimate goal.
**Birth Announcements**

**tenley elizabeth**
**lynn BLANCHETTE**

Submitted by: Roly Blanchette

Rick and Stacey Blanchette are happy to announce the safe arrival of Tenley Elizabeth Lynn on April 11, 2017, weighing at 9.05 pounds and 22.5 inches long. Tenley is going to make a beautiful addition to the Métis family. Rick Blanchette is a MNO citizen and Harvester in Region 4.

**rylan patrick**
**BECKETT-MARSHALL**

Submitted by: Stephanie Beckett

Longtime MNO Head Office receptionist and MNO Citizen Stephanie Beckett and her fiancé Sean Marshall are overjoyed to announce the birth of their son, Rylan Patrick. Rylan was born at 9:31 am on June 12, weighing 10 pounds and 12 ounces. He joins big brother Isaac and big sister Hope.

**Obituary**

**Norman Floyd Morley Horlock**

On May 18th, 2017, MNO Veteran Norman Horlock passed away peacefully in his sleep after being in the hospital for almost four months. He had just celebrated his 80th birthday on May 8th.

He served in The Canadian Forces Military Police (CFMP). He was also a member of the Toronto Scottish Regiment.

Norm is survived by his brother Harvey Horlock of Toronto, also an MNO Veteran, MNO President Margaret Froh and to the MNC President Clément Chartier. As well as all the kind donations made in Ronnie’s name to Jonathan “Butterfly Boy” Pitre’s foundation at debracanada.org.

Would like to give special thanks to Jennifer Lord for Officiating Ronnie’s Service along with her sweet daughters and Sahra McLean for reading a beautiful passage. To Kathleen Stephenson for reading Ronnie’s favorite psalm, to David Turnbull for sharing stories that had everyone laughing and a special thank you to Laurie Fortjong for delivering such a heartfelt eulogy. There are no words that can truly express my gratitude.

To the Byrd Family and to the Sbourgain Family, thank you for traveling such great distances to pay your final respects to Ronnie and to offer your support to myself. Our Son Billy and Daughter-in-law Susan while Ronnie was in the hospital. Thank you to our very special Nephew Mark Kelly for the countless hours you worked on the terrible photos and videos, they were a perfect way to remember all of the good times in Ronnie’s life. To my Brothers, Sisters, Nieces and Nephews as well as our extended Family we are extremely thankful for all your love and support.

Even though Ronnie was not Métis, he was welcomed in to our community without hesitation. He loved to accompany me during the years I served as a MNO Executive Senator and enjoyed participating in any capacity he could. To anyone that has given me words of encouragement, I sincerely appreciate your kindness.

Last but certainly not least I want to thank my loving and devoted Husband for being so selfless, for giving me a wonderful life and for blessing me with his unconditional love.

Forever in my heart and always on my mind.

Submitted by: Reta Gordon

**Remembering Ronnie**

A letter from MNO Honourary Senator Reta Gordon

When you lose the love of your life or someone that has been part of your life for so long and you’re in a state of despair, it comes with great comfort to know that you are surrounded by people that truly care for you. I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone that has reached out to me during this very difficult time. I am overwhelmed by the wonderful outpouring of encouraging words, condolence calls, cards, emails etc not only from our Family and Friends, but from the MNO Community Councils, MNO Citizens, MNO Staff (Past and Present), the MNO Youth, MNO President Margaret Froh and to the MNC President Clément Chartier. As well as all the kind donations made in Ronnie’s name to Jonathan “Butterfly Boy” Pitre’s foundation at debracanada.org.

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Submitted by: Reta Gordon

Métis Voyageur
June 2017, Issue no. 96
Kenneth Smale
October 17, 1944 - May 16, 2017

Ken Smale passed away peacefully with his family beside him at Sault Area Hospital on Tuesday, May 16, 2017 in his 73rd year. Beloved husband for 48 years of the late Marion, special friend of Virginia Rydall. Loving father of Shari Smale, Wade Smale (Maxine) and the late baby Kenneth. Devoted grandfather to Mitchell Case, Samantha Case, Carrie-Lynne Smale and Brendan Case. Special “GG” to Great Granddaughter Lynnea Smale.

Son of the late John Charles “Jack” and Helen May Smale. Brother of Carol Genevieve (Maurice) of London, Ontario; Valerie Harron of Wisconsin; Herb Smale (Sheila) of Bar River; John Smale (Lydelle) and Lynn DeLavalle both of Sault Ste. Marie. Son-in-law of the late Stanley and Lillian Simons. Much loved brother-in-law of Emily Duplin (late Paul), Harold Simons (Linda), Judi Dukes (Bran), Raymond Simons (Angelia) and Brenda Rogers (David). Fondly remembered by Uncle Herb of Winnipeg and Aunt Joyce Huffman of Sault Ste. Marie as well as many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Ken started working at the age of 15 as a labourer for his Great Uncle Jack at Smale Brothers Construction. In the beginning, Ken was given some of the worst jobs in the hopes that he would tire of it and go back to school; however, when the protection crew offered him a real job as part of a crew. He worked his way up on various projects including building fuel storage tanks along the North Shore. After the business was passed down to his sons, Ken spent many years leading Smale Brothers’ crews in the construction of hydro and Bell transmission lines all over Algoma.

In 1987, Ken with his brother John became the third generation to run the family business when they started Double S Construction and for the next 25 years he took great pride knowing that they were employing local workers and supporting the community. Throughout his career, Ken became known as one of the best backhoe operators around. A former coworker and long-time friend once told his son: “your dad took a backhoe to places a boomman got couldn’t go, setting poles for GLP and the PUC was known to call and ask for him by name when they had a tough spot to get into.”

Ken had many other joys throughout his life, from his many dogs and horses to photography, walking, mussel hunting, apple crop and of course his country music. He was a devoted family man, always showing an intense interest in anything his children and grandchildren were participating in. Nothing we did was beyond his interest; including gymnastics, swimming, music lessons, robotics, soccer, hockey, classes and new jobs. Together Ken and Marion raised a small, but strong family; they passed on a strong work ethic and many talents. From Ken: welding, resourcefulness, storytelling and a passion for good music. From Marion: woodworking, problem solving, determination and a passion for research.

Ken was very dedicated to his community; volunteering his time for years as a member of the Historical Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council. He gave many hours to the council attending meetings and assemblies, helping set up for events and ceremonies and serving as handy man at the Sault Métis Centre. Ken spent countless hours with his good friend Big Track, discussing everything from ceremonies, history, native politics and philosophy. He was a regular at the Big Track house, helping as a fire keeper for the sweat lodge. Ken was proud of his Métis and Ojibway heritage and was excited to be a part of the progress being made by the Sault Métis community on many important issues.

When Marion fell ill, Ken slowed down at work and after 54 years traded in his backhoe and dump-truck for a vacuum cleaner and a dishwasher. When Marion passed, Ken and their dog Kaylie took to walking five kilometres a day and canvassing his neighbourhood for the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Ken became active in a Métis Seniors Group where he met Virginia Rydall, a wonderful Métis woman who had lost her husband around the same time as Marion’s passing. Ken and Virginia became fast friends and encouraged each other to continue together camping, beach-going, and continuing their involvement in all manner of events in the Métis community. Throughout Ken’s recent illness, Virginia stayed by his side, advocating for his care and coordinating with his family for various appointments and ensuring his every need was met.

He loved his family unconditionally, and we knew it. His children and grandchildren will always have wonderful memories to carry us through our time without him.

The family would like to thank Jim and Jen and Adam and Angela for their help over the years. The family also wants to thank Sault Area Hospital ICU staff including nurses Joanie, Melissa, and Ash.

Donations can be made to the Sault Ste. Marie Soup Kitchen or the Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council (Building Fund).

-Kenneth Smale

Building the MNO Team

The MNO is pleased to welcome the following new staff members.

TODD BROWN
Historical Research Assistant • Ottawa

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is pleased to welcome Todd Brown to the position of Historical Research Assistant with the Registry Branch. Todd is working in the Ottawa office.

Todd has a Bachelor of Arts in History from Queens University and a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science from the University of Ottawa. His background is in historical research of Residential Schools, GIS, and species biodiversity and conservation.

Todd enjoys camping, hiking, and running. He's currently training for his first marathon in June.

We are pleased that Todd has joined us and welcome him to the MNO team! Submitted by Jane Brennan, Director of the Registry.

TRACY CHEVRIER
Employment Developer • Dryden

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is pleased to welcome Tracy Chevrier to the Employment Developer with the Education and Training Branch. Tracy will be working out of the MNO Dryden office.

Tracy Chevrier
has a Diploma in Social Services from Confederation College and is currently working towards her Bachelor of Arts in Social Work with Laurentian University. Tracy’s background is in child protection services.

She looks forward to working with the Métis population in region 1. Tracy enjoys photography, wildlife, outdoor activities, go fishing and fishing, while soaking up the sun.

We are delighted to welcome Tracy to the MNO team and encourage you to introduce yourself and show her some of our wonderful MNO hospitality! Submitted by Jennifer St. Germain, Director of Education and Training.

JANE FREYMOND
Employment Developer • Toronto

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is pleased to announce that Jade Bourniou, 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. Supervisor of Projects and 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 at 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

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

MNO Councils are the cornerstone of a strong foundation for the MNO in its push toward its inherent right to self-governance. 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 May, 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 MATTAWA MÉTIS COUNCIL**
- President: Nelson Montreuil
- Chair: Roger Rose
- Senator: Joyceline Rose
- Secretary/Treasurer: Melanie Rose
- Women’s Representative: Anita Doucette
- Councillors: Eddie Doucette, Romeo Sarrazin

**MNO TORONTO & YORK REGION MÉTIS COUNCIL**
- President: Tera Beauleau
- Chair: Todd Ross
- Senator: Constance Simonds
- Secretary/Treasurer: Marilyn Hew
- Women’s Representative: Shirley Debassige
- Youth Representative: Christine Skura
- Councillors: Michael Berg, John Budarick, Emily Picard

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The Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award

Every year since 2006, the Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year is presented to a Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen who has made ongoing contributions to the Métis Nation and his or her own community.

The 2016 recipient was MNO Veterans’ Council President Joseph Paquette, who is well known for his unceasing work with veterans. Joe is also serves as a mentor to Métis youth at events such as the MNO Infinite Reach March Break Camp and numerous community events.

The 2017 Volunteer of the Year Award will be presented at the MNO Annual General Assembly in Kenora, August 19-21.

If you know of a dedicated MNO citizen who deserves to be considered for the award please read the information below and complete the nomination form:

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

**Process:** Any MNO citizen can nominate a volunteer for the award by completing a nomination form and sending it to: Suzanne-Rochon Volunteer of the Year, MNO Council, 1065 Boulevard de la Carrière, Gatineau, QC J8Y 6V5, or e-mail: carolyn@huntchene.com.

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

Deadline for nominations is July 21, 2017

**Dr. Suzanne Rochon-Burnett** was a founding member of the Métis Nation of Ontario. Named to the Order of Canada and the Order of Ontario, Suzanne was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by Brock University where she served on the Board of Trustees. She was a recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation and the first woman inducted into the Aboriginal Business Hall of Fame. Suzanne passed away in 2006. To honour her memory and recognize her outstanding service as a volunteer the MNO named Suzanne as the first recipient of the inaugural Volunteer of the Year Award which now bears her name.