On December 11, 2017, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) signed two historic agreements that serve to advance rights, self-government and reconciliation for the Métis in Ontario.

One was the MNO-Canada-Ontario Framework Agreement for Advancing Reconciliation, which is intended to establish a process to begin negotiations towards shared solutions advancing reconciliation, and the enhancement of the well-being of Métis Nation of Ontario citizens. It specifies that “Canada and Ontario are committed to meeting their constitutional obligations towards the Métis through recognizing and respecting the section 35 rights of Métis communities as a means of advancing reconciliation between the Crown and Métis people.”

The other was the MNO-Canada Agreement on Advancing Reconciliation with the Northwestern Ontario Métis Community, which details that the parties will seek to advance reconciliation with a “view to settling any outstanding claims of the Northwestern Ontario Métis Community, including any Métis collective claims relating to the Treaty 3 Adhesion of 1875.”

The MNO has consistently pressured other governments to engage in negotiations to deal with the rights, interests and aspirations of Métis within Ontario and these agreements signify a huge step forward in the path to self-government. The MNO-Canada-Ontario Framework Agreement for Advancing Reconciliation sets out a process to begin formal negotiations on matters of mutual priority, including substantive issues such as Métis self-government, rights and outstanding claims. The MNO-Canada Agreement on Advancing Reconciliation with the Northwestern Ontario Métis Community demonstrates the respect that exists for the diverse needs and claims of Métis communities throughout Ontario and sets the stage for dealing with future claims and interests.

MNO will be engaging its communities and citizens to provide further updates and to discuss areas of priority that will enhance the well-being of MNO families and communities for generations to come.

Full stories inside on pages 4 and 5 ...
Earlier this year, I had the pleasure of attending the 105th birthday party of Métis WWII Veteran, Alex Boucher. I am very fortunate to have the opportunity to take part in community and family events like Alex’s birthday. It was a great honour for me to be there with Alex’s family and friends, Regional Councillor Pauline Richardson and other leaders from the region, as well as his colleagues in the MNO Veterans’ Council to recognize this amazing milestone. (See story about Alex’s birthday on page 10).

MÉTIS COMMUNITIES AND FAMILIES

I wish I could attend every Métis community and family event in Ontario but as readers of this edition of the Métis Voyageur can clearly see— that would be challenging for any one person to do. As always the community, stories and family sections of this paper are full of amazing stories and treasured moments. Whether it is reaching out to students and teachers, raising the Métis Nation flag on Louis Riel Day, honouring Métis women as part of Métis culture, recognizing our veterans, recognizing youth for their dedication or the many other activities highlighted in the Community section of the paper (see pages 12-18) so many other citizens as well as our dedicated public service are working hard to engage both MNO citizens and mainstream society about Métis culture and history.

MNO YOUTH COUNCIL BEADING KITS AND GRASSROOTS GRANTS

As many of you already know during this years Annual General Assembly in Kénora the MNO Youth Council announced they were starting to sell beading kits that they were putting together themselves. Sales of these kits have been so successful that they have had the revenue to launch their Grassroots Grants program. These grants are available to communities who are engaging and empowering Métis youth and/or celebrating Métis arts, language and culture. These youth continue to demonstrate their impressive entrepreneurial spirit in true Métis fashion (see full story on page 6).

PASSING OF MÉTIS ELDERS AND THOSE WHO LEFT US TOO SOON

This issue also has a bittersweet element as we recognize the passing of so many members of our Métis community. Lloyd Thomson, Emily Quick, Bob McKay, Robert Celinas and Gordon Calder each provided some of the bedrock that the MNO was built on and they will each be missed but also remembered for all they did for their families and their Métis community.

We are also saddened by the passing of Jojo Gorham and Ken Trudeaux whose journeys could have gone on much longer. Our thoughts and sympathy goes out to their families (see page 25-27 for obituaries).

CONNECTING TO YOUR MÉTIS COMMUNITY

This Voyageur also includes birth announcements (see page 27), marking the next generation of Métis Citizens. Included in this edition is an overview of the work that has been done on the Métis Root Ancestors and a reminder about the resources available to assist with the MNO Citizenship Application process (see page 14-15). This section also provides an update on the Registry and Self-Government Readiness Process (RGRP) and the development and design of the new MNO citizenship card.

MÉTIS SUCCESS STORIES

While, as always, we are all proud of the achievements of the past, this issue of the Voyageur provides us with examples of modern Métis we can be all proud of. This issue we have artists like Maurice Cadieux, Kristy Cameron and Sharon Girdwood as well as internationally recognized security expert Bonnie Burill and broadcaster Larry O’Connor.

A PATH FORWARD TO RECONCILIATION

On December 11, 2017, the MNO signed two major agreements to advance reconciliation. These were the MNO/Canada/Ontario Framework Agreement for Advancing Reconciliation (see page 3) and the MNO/Canada Agreement on Advancing Reconciliation with the Northwestern Ontario Métis Community (see page 4). These agreements mark another critical step forward for Métis rights recognition and Métis self-government. We look forward to sharing additional details about these agreements and getting out into the community to provide more information and seek additional input about how we move forward.

IT IS ALL FOR OUR FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

The MNO has achieved many successes over the last 25 years because of its citizens and communities and the stories that appear in the pages of the Voyageur are all about those contributions. The work that is done at a community, regional and provincial level is all about advancing the rights, recognition and interests of Métis in Ontario. We can never lose sight of the fact that as elected leaders for the MNO we are entrusted with great responsibility to protect those rights for our future generations. This work is all about our families and communities and every event and activity that we are so fortunate to participate in reminds us what is truly great about the Métis Nation of Ontario.

Marié,

MARGARET FROH

Métis Nation of Ontario

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RECENTLY MOVED OR MOVING SOON?
Don’t forget to change your address with the Registry so that you will continue to receive your newspaper and up-to-date information from the MNO.

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) encourages contributions from MNO citizens and staff. All submissions are edited to conform to the Canadian Press Style Guide as well as for grammar, repetitiveness, spelling and to accurately reflect the official names and titles of individuals, organizations, bodies and agencies referenced in submissions.

The MNO does not accept submissions including editorials and letters to the editor that make partisan political statements.

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.

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Métis Voyageur
March 2018, Issue no. 99
THE MNO HEAD OFFICE
IN OTTAWA IS MOVING

As of April 16, 2018, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) head office in Ottawa is moving. The new address of the MNO head office will be:

Métis Nation of Ontario
Suite 1100 – 66 Slater Street
Ottawa, ON K1P 5H1

Phone and fax numbers will remain the same:
Phone: 613-798-1488
Toll free: 1-800-263-4889
Fax: 613-722-4225

MNO signs Memorandum of Understanding with Treasury Metals

by MNO Staff


The MOU is considered a framework cooperation agreement with the MNO, including the MNO Atikokan and Area, Kenora, Northwest and Sunset Country Métis Councils, which represent the regional rights-bearing Métis communities in the Treaty 3 area. That area takes in the Métis traditional territories of Lake of the Woods, Lac Seul, Rainy River and Rainy Lake.

The MOU provides the Métis community with an opportunity to participate in the project through employment, training, business development and ongoing consultation involving the mining project.

In her remarks at the signing, Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Region 1 Councilor Theresa Stenlund explained: “The Métis community depends on the lands, waters and resources of our traditional territory for our physical and spiritual well-being. The agreement signing today is very important to the Métis people for the protection of our Métis rights and interests and our way-of-life in the Dryden area as well as the region more generally. This agreement recognizes the unique and distinct needs of the Métis people.”

In her remarks, MNO President Margaret Froh praised the Regional Consultation Committee for its hard work in making the agreement a reality and commented on the strength of the local Métis communities in northwestern Ontario. “This is about creating opportunity and it is about creating wealth for the region in a way that respects Métis rights,” she said. “I look forward to hearing all about the prosperity as we move forward,” she concluded.

“Our objective is to work together with all of our stakeholders and Indigenous communities as we work towards bringing the Goliath Gold Project into production,” said Treasury Metals President and CEO Chris Stewart. “We are looking forward to working with the Métis community. Their experience and local knowledge will be invaluable in helping us create a socially responsible project that will benefit the communities, the project and all stakeholders as we move forward,” he added.

“Treasury Metals’ cornerstone development is the Goliath Gold Project, a future open-pit and underground gold mine, 20 kilometres east of Dryden. The company is working on a feasibility study for Goliath while undertaking a 30,000-metre drilling program. Treasury’s schedule shows mine construction beginning in 2019 with gold production starting a year later.”
The Framework Agreement was signed in the Centre Block of Parliament in Ottawa with almost all members of the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) participating along with leaders for several community councils. Among the many leaders and officials with the Governments of Canada and Ontario in attendance were Crown-Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Minister Dr. Carolyn Bennett and Parliamentary Assistant to the Ontario Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Sophie Kiwala, who each signed for their respective governments.

“Today we are taking a key step forward, along with the Ontario government, in our shared journey toward reconciliation with the Métis Nation of Ontario. We are setting the stage to renew the government-to-government relationship through a co-operative and respectful dialogue. "Today we are taking a key step forward, along with the Ontario government, in our shared journey toward reconciliation with the Métis Nation of Ontario. We are setting the stage to renew the government-to-government relationship through a co-operative and respectful dialogue. The signing of today's tripartite Framework Agreement is an exciting step in advancing reconciliation with the Métis Nation of Ontario. Ontario looks forward to building an even stronger relationship with the Métis Nation of Ontario and working together with the federal government," said Parliamentary Assistant Kiwala.

The Framework Agreement will establish a process for discussions about developing a government-to-government relationship between the Crown and the MNO. It also identifies areas of mutual interest and key topics for future negotiations, such as Métis self-government, health, housing, education, and a tripartite consultation protocol.

On the cover: 1) Left to right: Region 1 PCMNO Councillor Cam Burgess, PCMNO Postsecondary Representative Katelyn LaCroix and MNO Secretary-Treasurer Tim Pile sign the Framework Agreement. 2) Left to right: Region 7 PCMNO Councilor Pauline Richardson takes a selfie with Minister Bennett and MNO Vice-Chair Sharon Cadeau. 3) Region 3 PCMNO Councillor Marcel Lafreniere hugs Minister Bennett. 4) MNO Chair France Picotte speaking during the signing ceremony.
The MNO-Canada Framework Agreement on Advancing Reconciliation with the Métis Community in Northwestern Ontario was also signed in the Centre Block on Parliament Hill. The Northwestern Ontario Métis community was represented by the Region 1 Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) chartered community councils. The goal of the Framework Agreement is to begin to work together toward a shared solution that addresses the unique history and outstanding claims of the Northwestern Métis community.

The Northwestern Ontario Métis community was represented at the signing by Region 1 Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario Councilor Theresa Stenlund and the Presidents of the MNO Sunset Country, Northwest, Kenora and Atikokan and Area Métis Councils. The Government of Canada was represented by Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Dr. Carolyn Bennett.

“Our Métis community has long struggled to have our unique historic and outstanding collective claims recognized by Canada. While there is much more work to be done, our agreement sets out a way forward through which we hope the promises made to our Métis ancestors will finally be addressed and resolved,” said Councilor Stenlund.

Under the Agreement, Canada and the Northwestern Ontario Métis Community will commit to engage in negotiations that foster an open exchange of ideas through respectful dialogue and frank discussion. This Agreement will seek to advance reconciliation with a view to settling any outstanding claims of the Northwestern Ontario Métis Community, including any Métis collective claims relating to the Treaty 3 Adhesion of 1875.

“This is an important step toward reconciliation with the Métis Nation of Ontario’s Northwestern Métis Community. We are moving forward through respectful and co-operative dialogue to strengthen our government-to-government relationship and work together to build a better tomorrow with the Métis people of Northwestern Ontario,” said Minister Bennett.

While there is much more work to be done, our agreement sets out a way forward through which we hope the promises made to our Métis ancestors will finally be addressed and resolved.

Theresa Stenlund, Region 1 PCMNO Councilor

Historic agreement signed between Canada and Northwestern Ontario Métis Community

The MNO-Canada Framework Agreement on Advancing Reconciliation with the Métis Community in Northwestern Ontario was also signed in the Centre Block on Parliament Hill. The Northwestern Ontario Métis community was represented by the Region 1 Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) chartered community councils. The goal of the Framework Agreement is to begin to work together toward a shared solution that addresses the unique history and outstanding claims of the Northwestern Métis community.

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While there is much more work to be done, our agreement sets out a way forward through which we hope the promises made to our Métis ancestors will finally be addressed and resolved.

Theresa Stenlund, Region 1 PCMNO Councilor

“Historic agreement signed between Canada and Northwestern Ontario Métis Community”
GRASSROOTS GRANTS

WHAT IS THE GRASSROOTS GRANTS PROGRAM?
The Grassroots Grants Program provides up to $500 to Ontario Métis Youth, ages 18 to 29, to test new and innovative approaches to community building. The MNO Youth Council recognizes the energy, creativity and potential of Ontario’s Métis Youth community and wants to give YOU the tools to help us empower YOUTH!

WHAT TYPES OF EXPENSES ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING?
All Ontario Métis youth-led, youth-focused initiatives and their associated expenses are considered potentially eligible for funding under the Grassroots Grants Program. Initiatives will be funded on a priority basis, as funding becomes available.

CONTACT: mnoyc.grants@gmail.com
The Council’s 2017 Riel Day started off at the second annual Riel Day celebration at the Waterloo Region Museum. This year 84 students participated for a whole day at the Museum. As the students arrived at the Museum, each received a small Métis flag on a stick.

Once they were all gathered in the foyer, MNO GRMC President Jennifer Parkinson welcomed them. MNO GRMC Senator Carol Lévis offered a prayer to get the day started. The students heard a little bit about Louis Riel’s life from President Parkinson.

Waterloo Region Museum’s Program Coordinator, Dave Neufeld, accepted a Métis culture book as a thank you for organizing the schools and providing the space for the celebration. Senator Lévis presented a Region 9 Sash to University of Waterloo MNO Infinite Reach Facilitator and 2017 MNO Canoe Expedition participant, André Nault for sharing his experiences with the students at one of the workshops. The students helped raise the Métis flag in front of the museum. After snack time, the students split into four groups and set off to enjoy a day of learning. André kept the students entertained with his canoe stories in the theatre.

Senator Lévis and Treasurer Les-Lee-Anne Muma brought out the students’ creativity with Métis Dot Art on rocks. Councilor Alicia Hamilton and MNO citizen Dave Skene played Métis games with the students in the foyer. President Parkinson had the students role play to sell Rupert’s Land to Canada and how to react to this as Red River Métis.

It was a draw as to which group was louder, Métis games or the negotiations during the role playing! From this the students learned Riel’s story, the Métis role in bringing the west into Canada and why Riel Day is celebrated.

The Museum has had so many requests from schools to come to this Riel Day celebration that they have asked MNO GRMC to do two days in 2018.

The City of Guelph has been a long-time partner for the MNO GRMC Riel Day celebrations. This was the eighth annual Métis flag raising in Guelph. It started in the afternoon with students from Central Public School travelling to Guelph City Hall.

Mayor Guthrie reminisced about his first flag raising celebration and how much he has learned about the Métis. The MNO GRMC gifted Mayor Guthrie with a Region 9 sash. Everyone ventured into the cold to raise the Métis flag in front of City Hall. Cheers could be heard through downtown Guelph as the flag hit the top of the pole.

She talked about Riel’s life and why Riel Day is celebrated each year. Mayor Guthrie reminded about his first flag raising celebration and how much he has learned about the Métis. The MNO GRMC gifted Mayor Guthrie with a Region 9 sash. Everyone ventured into the cold to raise the Métis flag in front of City Hall. Cheers could be heard through downtown Guelph as the flag hit the top of the pole.

For the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Grand River Métis Council (GRMC), Riel Day is celebrated throughout the entire week.

The students were also gathered in the foyer, MNO GRMC President Jennifer Parkinson welcomed them. MNO GRMC Senator Carol Lévis offered a prayer to get the day started. The students heard a little bit about Louis Riel’s life from President Parkinson.

Waterloo Region Museum
November 13, 2017

For the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Grand River Métis Council (GRMC), Riel Day is celebrated throughout the entire week.

A week of Riel Day events with the MNO Grand River Métis Council

City of Guelph
November 14, 2017

The City of Guelph has been a long-time partner for the MNO GRMC Riel Day celebrations. This was the eighth annual Métis flag raising in Guelph. It started in the afternoon with students from Central Public School travelling to Guelph City Hall.

Several MNO citizens and members from the Guelph community also came to celebrate. City of Guelph Mayor Cameron Guthrie and City of Guelph Councillor James Gordon took time out of their busy schedules to join the celebration. President Jennifer Parkinson welcomed everyone and thanked the City of Guelph for their continued support of the MNO GRMC.

continued on page 8
The MNO GRMC arrived bright and early at Kitchener city hall for its third annual Riel Day flag raising. Grades seven and eight students from St. Paul’s Catholic School travelled by city bus to participate. There were no school buses available that morning, so the students used public transit. Apparently, this was a new experience for many of them. Acting Mayor, Councillor Yvonne Fernandes, represented the city at the ceremony.

The MNO GRMC gifted Councillor Fernandes with a Métis mug. After the speeches, everyone ventured outside to raise the Métis flag. The students each took turns using the crank to take the flag to the top of the pole.

The students arrived early, so the teacher took the opportunity to talk about government with the grade five students. President Jennifer Parkinson joined the conversation by teaching the students about the MNO governing structure.

Acting Mayor, Councillor Pam Wolf, participated in the speeches. Councillor Wolf talked about what she knew of Louis Riel, her visits to Manitoba and what Riel’s sacrifice meant to her. She proudly wore her Louis Riel necklace that she purchased in Manitoba.

The MNO GRMC gifted Councillor Wolf with a Métis mug. Out in the courtyard of Cambridge City Hall, Councillor Wolf helped raise the Métis flag. She then joined the students to learn finger weaving along with community members who happened to come into City Hall during the celebration. Many had several questions and a few shared stories of what they knew of Riel and the Métis. When all of the bracelets were finished, the students said goodbye and walked back to school.

The MNO Grand River Métis Council is looking forward to another week of Riel Day celebrations in 2018!
Louis Riel Day activities in Brampton

submitted by
Catherine Corbett
MNO Métis Family Wellbeing Coordinator

O
n November 19, 2017, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Credit River Métis Council (CRMC) hosted its Louis Riel Day celebrations at the Peel Regional Police Association headquarters in Brampton. The Council received support from the MNO staff in the MNO Brampton office. The event was hosted by MNO CRMC Senator David Neville, past Senator Bill Morrison, President Karen Derocher, Outreach Coordinator Kyl Morrison, Treasurer Darlene Lent, Councillor Jean-Marc Maheu and Councillor Derek Debaca.

MNO Métis Family Wellbeing Coordinator (MFWB) Catherine Corbett and MNO Community Wellness Coordinator (CWC) Rose Colacci-Fines offered an Angel Ornament Workshop to all guests as well as information on all MNO Healing and Wellness programs and services throughout the day.

Attendees of all ages loved the Angel Ornament activity and the youth really shined with their creativity, making different styles of ornaments with the many items offered by the MNO CWC and MFWB programs.

There were musicians playing fiddle music during the event, hatchet throwing outside the venue, a traditional knowledge display, Nunatsiavut “Our Ancient Land Display”, Peel Regional Police Diversity display, an auction table, vendor booths, face painting and information on Mississauga Museums.

The day began with some light refreshments as guests were encouraged to bring a potluck dish. Senator Neville started off the event as the Master of Ceremonies. Past Senator Morrison then took the stage to open the event and introduced the MNO CRMC to the many guests in attendance. Outreach Coordinator Morrison gave a presentation on his role with the Council and President Derocher gave a speech on the Council’s impact with the community.

Jodie Williams, the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Consultant with the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board, presented the So They Can Go Home Moosomin Project that the MNO CRMC proudly assisted with. MNO CRMC Councilor Debaca and his daughter Emily presented a community drum to the Council. The drum was awarded to the Council with the help of Metis Elder Leon Fleury and gifted by ceremony with the help of Robinson Land Musicians.

Senators Neville and Joseph Paquette gave a compelling speech about his own spiritual journey and a prayer before inviting guests to enjoy dinner catered by Nun’s Diner.

Several service providers and MNO citizens came to mingle and take part in the celebration. Some of the service providers in attendance were members of the Peel Regional Police, Peel Aboriginal Network, Peel Children’s Aid Society, Peel District School Board, Mississauga Museums.

The event was a great success with 85 people in attendance. Several long lasting connections were made and fun stories shared. Service providers, citizens and community members all gave positive reviews of the new office space and event.

REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RAC) and MÉTIS AWARDS COMMITTEE (MAC)

The Métis 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.

• 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.

Louis Riel Day flag raising in Cochrane

submitted by
Jackie Courville
MNO Northern Lights Métis Council Women’s Representative

O
n November 16, 2017, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Northern Lights Métis Council (NLMC) held a Louis Riel Day flag raising ceremony at Cochrane Town Hall. Councillor Derryl Owens represented the Town of Cochrane at the ceremony and many local MNO citizens also attended.

Following the ceremony the Council hosted a traditional feast and a game of nutrition bingo. The event was hosted by MNO CRMC Senator David Neville, past Senator Urgel Courville, Northern Lights Métis Council Women’s Representative Jackie Courville.

After the ceremony the drum was a welcome treat for each guest who had the pleasure of conversing with him.

The event was a great success with 85 people in attendance. Several long lasting connections were made and fun stories shared. Service providers, citizens and community members all gave positive reviews of the new office space and event.
On November 7, 2017, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) veteran Alex Boucher celebrated his 105th birthday in Brim, Ontario. Alex was surrounded by many well-wishers including his family, friends and a delegation from the MNO and the MNO Veterans’ Council.

During the Second World War, Alex was part of the Medical Corps and trained new recruits in both battlefield medical procedures and on the rifle range. Alex’s son Eugene spoke with pride about his father saying, “He’s a good father and he takes care of everyone.”

MNO President Margaret Froh and Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Region 7 Councilor Pauline Richardson both attended the party and made presentations to Alex on behalf of all MNO citizens. President Froh presented Alex with the Order of the Sash as well as a Métis Blanket.

MNO Veterans’ Council Chair Brian Black, Secretary-Treasurer Greg Garratt and Women’s Representative Shelly Claus represented Métis veterans at the party. Greg presented Alex with an official replica of the statue “Métis: The Métis Nation,” the original of which stands in Penetanguishene.

MNO President Margaret Froh and Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Region 7 Councilor Pauline Richardson both attended the party and made presentations to Alex on behalf of all MNO citizens. President Froh presented Alex with the Order of the Sash as well as a Métis Blanket.

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Màetis Nation of Ontario Veterans Council thank Bruce Power for their support of Vimy Project

submitted by
Greg Garratt
MNO Veterans’ Council Secretary-Treasurer

On November 7, 2017, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans’ Council (MNOVC) presented Bruce Power representative John Peevers with a certificate and photo to thank Bruce Power for their contribution to the MNO Veterans’ Council Vimy Commemoration Project in Ottawa earlier this year.

The presentation took place in the visitor center at Bruce Power north of Tiverton Ontario. 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 MNO Veterans’ Council 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.

To cover the costs of the Vimy Project the MNO Veterans’ Council launched a highly successful fundraising campaigns and Bruce Power was one of their most generous supporters.

The MNO Veterans’ Council also recognized Bruce Power for their support at the Presidents to Presidents Dinner that was held in January this year. At the dinner the MNO Veterans’ Council gifted a paddle created by MNO citizen Maurice Cadieux to Bruce Power President Mike Remcheck.

After the MNO Veterans’ Council recognized Bruce Power, Peevers provided the Council members with a tour of their facilities. Bruce Power officials explained the impact of nuclear power on the MNO and its citizens and also provided information on nuclear safety.
MNO Employment in Energy Project

INDIGENOUS WOMEN IN TRADES

The Energy Sector in Ontario is looking for Indigenous people to work in the trades.

This is a fully funded 8-month training program with an 8-week work placement in Pre-Trades for the energy industry for Ontario self-identified Indigenous participants, with a focus on women.

The next session will begin in September, 2018.

Training provided in an energy-sector field, such as but not limited to:

- Electrical Techniques
- Welding Techniques
- Industrial Maintenance Techniques

Following in-class training, participants proceed to paid work placements with partners in the energy industry. Work placements will provide the vital experience to continue on in skilled trades and/or employment.

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

Rachelle Brunelle-McColl, MNO Project Coordinator
1-705 527-1228 ext 215 | rachelleb@metisnation.org

Jackie Lachnit, MNO Employment Developer
705-474-2767 ext 313 | jackie@metisnation.org

On November 4, 2017, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Grand River Métis Council (GRMC) held a special celebration to honour Bernard Pépin, a community hero.

MNO citizen and veteran Pépin served two extended terms with the Canadian military totalling 28 years of service. He is also a skilled and award-winning sharpshooter who competes at provincial and national levels.

The MNO GRMC decided that a community celebration was the best way to let this community hero know they arranged to present him with his Louis Riel medal and certificate that recognize his outstanding military service to Canada during the celebration. Pépin attended with his wife Ella. MNO GRMC President Jennifer Parkinson pinned the Louis Riel medal on Pépin and presented him with his certificate. MNO GRMC Senator Carol Lewis gifted Pépin with a Region 9 sash on behalf of MNO GRMC.

The celebration also featured Métis fiddler Alicia Blore who provided some excellent jigging music and three kinds of delicious homemade soups were made using the produce from the MNO GRMC community garden. The celebration meal also included bannock, friend bread, salad and bountiful desserts.

All in all, a great way to recognize the service of a Métis veteran.

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

Métis Voyageur
March 2018, Issue no. 99

MNO Grand River Métis Council honours Métis veteran and community hero

submitted by Diane Kilby, MNO Grand River Métis Council Councilor

MNO Grand River Métis Council honours Métis veteran Bernard Pépin and his wife Ella with MNO Grand River Métis Council citizens.
November 2017 was a very big month for the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Northern Lights Métis Council (NLMC)! In one week the Council celebrated their move to new quarters in the new MNO office in Cochrane, commemorated Louis Riel Day and made an impressive donation to the Commando Lake Project.

Jackie Courville, MNO NLMC Women’s Representatives said that the Council was encouraged by the great reception these events received in the community.

The new MNO office in Cochrane houses staff for the MNO Métis Family Wellbeing and the MNO Aging and Home programs as well as serving as the home for the MNO NLMC. The MNO NLMC also has plans to hire a Youth Program Coordinator who will work out of the new building. The new facility is a better venue for more activities as well as office space for various personnel.

An official grand opening for the building was held in November with attendees enjoying a feast that included such traditional foods as roast deer, bear sausage, moose stew, chili, pickerel and partridge. A regular stew was also served for those who didn’t want wild meat.

MNO staff also held a nutrition bingo in which winners get to choose from a variety of food packages as their prize.

On Louis Riel Day the MNO NLMC also presented the Town of Cochrane with a donation of $1000 to go towards providing retractable doors on buildings currently under construction at Commando Lake.

The Commando Lake Project is a nearly $2 million legacy project for the community that will provide a perfect outdoor gathering place for all ages.

This story includes information from a story posted online by the Cochrane Times and submitted by MNO Northern Lights Métis Council President Doug Hull and Women’s Representative Jackie Courville.

On January 11, 2018, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Grand River Métis Council (GRMC) provided a workshop at a Wellington Catholic District School Board professional development day in Guelph. Valerie Marks with the Board’s Equity and Inclusion with an Aboriginal Focus office arranged for MNO GRMC President Jennifer Parkinson and Treasurer Leslie-Anne Muma to teach 21 teachers.

First thing in the morning, President Parkinson made a Métis 101 presentation and answered many great questions about Louis Riel and Métis History. The teachers were so interested that the session went overtime.

After the morning break, President Parkinson and Treasurer Muma taught Métis beading. Everyone in attendance received a beading kit to take home with them. Once the teachers had learned how to bead they didn’t want to stop.

After lunch, Marks, who was also enjoying the beading, let the beading continue stating: “I have never seen teachers so engaged in an activity before.”

As can be seen in the photo to the right the teachers all did an excellent job. Everyone had a lot of laughs and a lot of fun.

On Louis Riel Day, the MNO NLMC also presented the Town of Cochrane with a donation of $1000 to go towards providing retractable doors on buildings currently under construction at Commando Lake. The Commando Lake Project is a nearly $2 million legacy project for the community that will provide a perfect outdoor gathering place for all ages.

Cutting the ribbon at the grand opening of the new MNO office in Cochrane. Left to right: MNO Northern Lights Métis Council President Doug Hull, MNO Northern Lights Métis Council citizen Jamie Mageau, MNO Métis Family Wellbeing Coordinator Tracy Kerr, facility owner Line Dumont, Cochrane Town Councillor Darryl Owens, MNO Northern Lights Council President Doug Hull, MNO Northern Lights Youth Representative Hunter Mageau.

Picture courtesy of the Cochrane Times.

Teachers from Wellington Catholic District School Board show off their Métis beading with MNO GRMC President Jennifer Parkinson and Treasurer Leslie-Anne Muma.
The MNO Grand River Métis Council reaches over 3000 students in 2016-17

submitted by Jennifer Parkinson
MNO Grand River Métis President

The 2016-17 school year proved to be very busy for Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Grand River Métis Council (GRMC). The MNO GRMC was also very successful as it reached over 3000 students with its Métis culture and heritage awareness programming. September 2016 started out with the Cambridge Multicultural Festival where the MNO GRMC taught Métis beadwork, finger weaving and fun Métis jigging to participants. Also in September, the MNO GRMC partnered with the Waterloo Region Museum for their First Peoples Festival that over three days included 1,200 grades six to eight students. In October, the MNO GRMC visited four schools to share Métis 101 with the students. In November, the MNO GRMC visited another eight more schools. The MNO GRMC invited local schools to participate in the Red Day flag raisings that the Council organized in three cities: 120 students celebrated with the Council at the flag raisings and they also had fun learning and participating in Métis games, jigging and finger weaving. Also on Red Day, the Council was invited by Waterloo Region Museum to host its first ever all Métis programming. In December, The MNO GRMC managed to fit in one more school visit before the holidays. From January to June, the MNO GRMC visited 15 more schools, with many visits to multiple classes in the same school. Two high schools invited the Council to return to provide more cultural lessons. One high school requested presentations from the Council four times in the same semester. The Council members had a great time at every presentation! The Council also partnered with the Upper Grand District School Board for their Turtle Island Heritage Festival. There Council members had a great time making medicine pouches with 520 students over three days. To sum up the year, the MNO GRMC shared Métis culture and history with 3,232 students and is looking forward to a great 2017-2018 school year.

MNO provides Healthy snacks workshops at Cochrane School

submitted by Tracy Kerr
MNO Métis Family Wellbeing Coordinator

In an effort to provide more Métis programming in the Cochrane school system, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) staff from the MNO office in Cochrane collaborated with the Urban Aboriginal Healthy Kids Program at the Ininiw Friendship Centre in Cochrane to offer a series of Healthy Snack Making Workshops at schools in Cochrane including École Catholique Nouveau Regard. To date, 10 workshops have been provided in the schools with a positive response from educators, students, and parents alike. The workshops have been provided to a range of grade levels between junior/senior kindergartens and grade eight. During the workshops the students and teachers participate in making fruit kabobs and fruit and yogurt parfaits. The students take part in cleaning, cutting and creating their dishes. The students are taught about food handling safety, knife safety, the importance of healthy eating and other ways of staying healthy. It is wonderful to see the youth excited and willing to try new healthy options for snacks. This program will be continuing for the rest of the school year.

MNO High Land Waters Métis Council participates in Governance and Finance Training

by Glen Lipinski, MNO Community Relations Coordinator

On November 25-26, 2017, The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Community Relations Coordinator Glen Lipinski facilitated Governance and Finance Training for the MNO High Land Waters Métis Council (HLWMC). The 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. Through funding provided by the New Relationship Fund, the MNO has been able to continually develop and deliver Governance and Finance Training that helps improve community councils perform their work. Since the MNO has offered this training, the following community councils have participated: the MNO Moon River, Sunset Country; Kenora, Northwest; Windsor, Clear Waters, High Land Waters; North Bay, Temiskaming; Northern Lights; Thunder Bay, Atikokan, and Area; Niagara Region, Peterborough and District Wagen, Grand River, Credit River, Toronto and York Region, Sudbury, Ottawa Region, North Channel, Great Lakes and Georgian Bay Métis Councils. The course is a two-day seminar held locally that explains the role of community councils as the MNOs local governments, whose structure and purpose is coordinated through each council’s charter agreement with the MNO. The course covers everything from how to run effective meetings and engage citizens in council activities to budgeting and the various financial practices, regulations and legislation that community councils follow. The MNO will be updating these training programs in the coming months based on feedback from community councils.
Connecting to your Ontario Métis Root Ancestors

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) maintains the only recognized provincial Registry for Métis. The Registry was established in 1994 to identify and register Métis citizens and harvesters who are eligible rights holders in the province of Ontario.

Métis people who are ordinarily residents of Ontario can make an application for citizenship to the MNO. The applications are assessed by an independent Registrar who approves for citizenship those applicants who meet the criteria set out in the MNO’s definition of Métis, adopted by the MNO AGA.

The MNO appreciates that the Citizenship application process takes time and effort. In the 25 years since it began the work outlined in the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose, the MNO Registry has collected and archived the genealogical documentation of over 20,000 MNO citizens and has taken strides to conduct research and publish additional resources that can assist Métis to access key records and information.

Since its formation in 1993, the MNO has worked to fulfil the mandate given to it in its Statement of Prime Purpose:

“... to research, publish and promote the genealogical documentation of the Métis, and establish and maintain a registry of Métis citizens of Ontario;”

“... to establish democratic institutions based on our inherent right of self-government;”

Finding a connection to Métis ancestors from Western Canada is relatively straightforward because of the federal government’s scrip records that clearly identify Métis individuals in the West. Few such records were issued for Métis in Ontario and finding connections to historic Métis communities and ancestors can be more challenging.

In 2017, after years of painstaking and rigorous research, the MNO took a huge stride towards making it easier for individuals to identify their Métis ancestor(s) by releasing nearly 100 Ontario Métis Root Ancestor Reports.

Each report focuses on a particular Métis family in a historic Métis community and provides the complete documentation including genealogy charts and copies of key documents such as census records, birth or baptismal records that demonstrate that family’s connection to root Métis ancestor(s).

The Root Ancestor documents that are already complete have already been posted on the MNO website (metisnation.org) and are available for use in researching and making a MNO Citizenship application. It is expected that more of these documents will be released as the research is completed.

The MNO emphasizes that the mere identification of a mixed Aboriginal ancestry individual in the historic record does not make that individual a Métis Root Ancestor for the MNO’s purposes or establish an historic Métis community for the purposes of collectively-held rights. The MNO’s rights assertions and claims are based on its representation of Ontario Métis communities who developed their own customs, way of life, and recognizably distinct group identity. Genealogies alone do not establish a Métis community. As such, these packages must be read in conjunction with historic research on Ontario Métis.
The Registry & Self-Government Readiness Process ("RSRP") or the "Registry Review" involves a review of all MNO Citizen files and is part of preparing for Self-Government negotiations and the issuing of new MNO Citizenship Cards. MNO Citizenship files are being reviewed to determine whether they meet the current requirements for MNO Citizenship as set out in the MNO Bylaws and MNO Registry Policy (adopted by the MNO Assembly), which align with the Supreme Court of Canada's decision in R. v. Powley for the identification of Métis rights-holders.

There have been many questions about the RSRP and also a great deal of misinformation and misunderstandings about the current decisions made and the path forward. MNO is committed to providing ongoing updates to MNO Community Councils and MNO Citizens as any new developments or decisions are made related to the RSRP. MNO Citizens absolutely have a say in this process and as detailed in the information bulletins that are posted on the MNO website further information will be brought to the 2018 MNO Assembly for discussion and potential action.

Council members and Citizens are invited and encouraged to ask questions or request more information at any time. MNO administration is prepared to schedule meetings or arrange town hall sessions for Communities and Citizens as requested feel free to email rsrp@metisnation.org.

Additional information about the RSRP can be found on the MNO website: wwwmetisnation.org/news-media/news/rsrp-1

As reported in the last edition of the Métis Voyageur and detailed on the MNO website the Registry and Self-Government Readiness Process (RSRP) or the "Registry Review" involves a review of all Citizenship files. If a citizenship file is complete, that MNO citizen will receive a letter confirming their file is complete and will receive a new MNO Citizenship Card that identifies them as a Métis rights holder under Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982 (as soon as these cards have completed production). If there is documentation missing in a MNO citizen’s file, a letter will be sent to the citizen informing them of what is necessary to complete their file.

** Please note your existing MNO Citizenship Card continues to be valid. **

** Please be sure to update your address with the MNO Registry **

CONTACT: MNO REGISTRY
Suite 1100 - 66 Slater Street | Ottawa | K1P 5H1
1-855-798-1006 | registryclerk@metisnation.org
Métis Earth Angel Ornament Workshop in Chapleau

submitted by
Lynn Bélair
MNO Métis Family Wellbeing Coordinator

On December 14, 2017, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) staff in the Chapleau teamed up with staff from the Aboriginal People’s Alliance of Northern Ontario (APANO) to host a Métis Earth Angel Ornament Workshop. Métis Earth Angel Ornaments are a symbol of honouring and remembrance. The evening included delicious seasonal snacks provided by the APANO staff.

There were five participants who gathered to create the ornaments, which are a physical keepsake of someone special who has passed. Participants were a little nervous upon arriving, wondering if the emotions would be too strong to bear as everyone there had lost someone within the past nine months. They were greeted with soft seasonal music, coffee, tea, water and healthy snacks as well as a wide variety of decorations for their ornaments.

Everyone had brought at least one personal item belonging to their “angel.” One contributor was eager to share what they had brought and why they had brought it. This encouraged everyone else to talk about the personal significance of their items and from there the evening unfolded beautifully. Stories and memories were shared. There were smiles, laughter and some tears. Everyone took some time to talk about their own personal knowledge of loss and grief. “Check-ins” were made throughout the evening to make sure everyone was okay and there was some discussion on the various services available in the area to help with the grieving process.

Participants also decorated cookies and created their own bulb ornaments to take home for the upcoming holidays. As the weather was very frosty, everyone appreciated the warm coffee and tea. Participants shared stories, laughed throughout the entire event and it was clear that they enjoyed this opportunity to spend time together.

Although this was a happy occasion, some participants and staff reflected on people they had lost throughout the year and shared their stories and memories of their loved ones.

MNO staff in Timmins organize these types of gatherings at least once a year and staff and the participants look forward to the next celebration.

Community kitchen and feast in Timmins

submitted by
Ryah Heavens
MNO Community Wellness Coordinator

Timmins held a community kitchen and feast for seniors. Twenty-four people gathered to celebrate the upcoming holidays and enjoy each other’s company.

This event was especially nice for those participants who sometimes feel isolated because their families do not live nearby or they have mobility issues or don’t have easy access to transportation.

The community kitchen included transportation to and from the event as well as an amazing holiday dinner and craft-time. The dinner featured turkey, potatoes, stuffing, carrots, salad and pies that had been prepared by MNO staff and volunteers. Each participant also took home enough leftovers for another full meal.
MNO Windsor-Essex-Kent Métis Council experiences whirlwind of activity

submitted by
Donna Graye, MNO Windsor-Essex-Kent Métis Council President

The months of November and December 2017 were whirlwind ones for the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Windsor-Essex-Kent Métis Council (WEKMC).

Métis veterans were included in the City of Windsor’s November 11 Remembrance Day Ceremony with an MNO wreath being laid at the Cenotaph by Métis veterans Wilfred Rochon, MNO WEKMC Senator Jim Turner, and MNO WEKMC MNO Region 7 Councilor Pauline Richardson.

In November 22, 2017, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Georgian Bay Métis Council awarded three annual Helen Bradley Memorial Bursaries to outstanding Métis youth. The presentation of the awards took place at the MNO Midland office.

The bursaries are named for Senator Helen Bradley who passed away in 2010. She was a founding member of the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council and deeply respected within the MNO. She was a recipient of the 2008 Ontario Medal of Good Citizenship, an honour recognizing individuals who have made outstanding contributions to their communities.

The MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council would like to congratulate the recipients and wish them well in their future endeavours. The Council would also like to thank Bruce Power for providing the funds for this wonderful bursary and Danielle Callander for doing an excellent job organizing the presentation.

Helen Bradley Memorial Bursaries awarded

submitted by
Pauline Richardson
MNO Region 7 Councilor

On Tuesday, December 21, 2017, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Georgian Bay Métis Council awarded three annual Helen Bradley Memorial Bursaries to outstanding Métis youth. The presentation of the awards took place at the MNO Midland office.

The council selected the three recipients by evaluating essays that applicants submitted on “What it means to be Métis.” To qualify the students also had to have attended at least one MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council event in the spring or summer of 2017.

The bursaries each come with a cash award. First prize is $1,500; second prize is $1,000; and third prize is $500. The winners of the 2017 Helen Bradley Memorial Bursaries were:

First place: Leesha Dorion-Leblanc
Second place: Celeste Pataineau
Third place: Samantha Larmante

The bursaries were presented to the recipients by evaluating essays that applicants submitted on “What it means to be Métis.” To qualify the students also had to have attended at least one MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council event in the spring or summer of 2017.

The recipients of the 2017 Helen Bradley Bursaries with citizens from the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council.

MNO staff educate students on bullying

submitted by
Mattingly Turgeon
MNO Community Wellness Coordinator

In November 22, 2017, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) staff from the MNO offices in North Bay and Mattawa visited FJ McElligott Intermediate-Secondary School in Mattawa to provide bullying awareness programming to over 160 students. Intermediate students participated in a Faceless Dolls Workshop, while the secondary students helped create a Bullying Blanket. Students were thoroughly engaged throughout the day in creating their own Faceless Dolls, contributing to discussions around violence against women and bullying and creating personalized squares for the bullying quilt. Students agreed that bullying is an issue at their school and began the day unsure of how to address it.

Although these activities triggered some unpleasant memories for some students, there were many thoughtful conversations throughout the day around how students, peers, can stand up and put an end to bullying.

Learning from what these students go through, the organizers for bullying awareness quickly realized as adults it is vitally important to educate youth about bullying and help students develop strategies on how each individual can do their part to put an end to it.

In the end, it is the youth who need to follow through and set examples for the next generation on how to treat each other.

A quilt square in the Bullying Blanket.
On October 15, 2017, the MNO Sudbury Métis Council held its annual Fall Harvest Celebration at the Rodmen’s Trail and Gun Club. The celebration also served as the official launch of the Métis Family Wellbeing program in Sudbury. Despite pouring rain and cold temperatures, 75 people attended. The celebration included various cultural activities and games for the children and adults. A representative from Northshore Tribal Council provided a demonstration of Indigenous medicinal teaching, which was enjoyed by all. The MNO Sudbury Métis Council provided a wonderful fish fry with door prizes, and vendors also attended. Métis youth held a craft demonstration. All in all, there was lots of laughter and it was a great opportunity for MNO citizens to participate in the Métis community in Sudbury.

submitted by
Stephanie Kehoe
MNO Métis Family Wellbeing Coordinator

Métis Harvest Festival in Sudbury

Our environment, our future.

Vale is committed to the communities in which we operate. We continue to invest in projects aimed at reducing our environmental footprint now and for the future.

Our vision is to become the number one global natural resources company by creating long term value, through excellence and passion for people and the planet.

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) staff from the MNO office in North Bay held their annual Volunteer Appreciation Day event on December 2, 2017.

The volunteers recognized assist with the MNO medical transportation service in North Bay and area. This service is operated through the MNO Community Support Service program and helps MNO clients maintain an independent lifestyle by providing rides to medical appointments and services. The service allows individuals who for a variety of reasons such as infirmity, safety and isolation cannot get themselves to where they need to go. By providing rides, the volunteers allow MNO clients to access essential services while continuing to live in their own homes instead of with relatives or assisted living facilities.

The work of these volunteers truly makes a huge difference in the lives of MNO clients. The MNO salutes the volunteer drivers in the North Bay area as well as those who volunteer in MNO programs in MNO communities across Ontario.

submitted by
Mary-Kelly McCormick
MNO Métis Community Support Services Coordinator

Appreciation day for volunteer drivers in North Bay
HONOURING WOMEN is part of Métis Culture

CANNINGTON

Raising awareness about Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

submitted by Raymond Engelsman, MNO Métis Family Wellbeing Coordinator

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) staff working out of the MNO office in Oshawa have been working to raise the Métis profile in the Durham region over the last year.

The MNO Family Wellbeing Coordinator has been working with the students of Brock High School in Cannington over the last year to raise awareness of the Métis presence in North Durham/Brock Township. Work with both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students included finger-weaving and beading workshops as well as providing information on Métis history.

On November 23, 2017, MNO staff worked with the Brock students to organize a Louis Riel Day event. The youth involved in the event decided to make raising awareness of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women the focus of the event.

During a presentation students learned about the discrimination and abuse that Indigenous women and fellow Canadians had suffered in their own country. Feelings of sadness, frustration and shock moved through the room as each story of a missing woman was told. MNO staff gave the students an outlet for these emotions by providing the supplies to hold a faceless doll workshop. Each student took a small doll and dressed them to represent a woman who had been lost. Taking the time to make sure each one was perfect, the students worked together to create something unique and beautiful just like women they honoured. The faceless dolls were added to a quilt that was displayed in the school.

At the end of the day, the floor was opened for questions. As hands went up, they all had only one thing they wanted to know: “how can we help?” The youth were motivated to become the change the world needs. They realized that something needed to be done before any more women go missing. MNO staff explained how to get involved and what options they had such as organizations to volunteer with, donate to, and how to raise awareness. The youth resolved to stop the cycle of violence so the next generation of Métis and other Indigenous women can walk down their paths without fear of vanishing.

As hands went up, they all had only one thing they wanted to know: “how can we help?” The youth were motivated to become the change the world needs.

MATTAWA

Earth Angel Ornament workshop honours Métis Women

submitted by Christy Lewin
MNO Métis Family Wellbeing Coordinator

A women’s event was held at the Canadian Legion in Mattawa. Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) staff from several MNO Healing and Wellness programs organized the event and 11 women attended.

MNO Mattawa Métis Council (MNO) Senator Joyceline Rose provided an opening prayer and offering during a vigil to remember missing and murdered Indigenous women.

Throughout the event, there was the opportunity to make new memories by telling happy stories of new beginnings, empowerment, resilience, strength and trust. One of the workshops organized by MNO staff showed participants how to create Earth Angel Ornaments that serve as a physical reminder of loved ones. This activity was originally developed to assist the families of missing and murdered Indigenous women.

In the afternoon participants created healing blankets where each woman wrote words of empowerment, encouragement, love and respect for themselves and all women. This reminded them of how special they are as women. During this time, positive memories were shared, laughter and healing continued.

The event closed with Senator Rose providing a closing prayer.

As hands went up, they all had only one thing they wanted to know: “how can we help?” The youth were motivated to become the change the world needs.

At the end of the day, the floor was opened for questions. As hands went up, they all had only one thing they wanted to know: “how can we help?” The youth were motivated to become the change the world needs. They realized that something needed to be done before any more women go missing. MNO staff explained how to get involved and what options they had such as organizations to volunteer with, donate to, and how to raise awareness. The youth resolved to stop the cycle of violence so the next generation of Métis and other Indigenous women can walk down their paths without fear of vanishing.

Earth Angel Ornaments created at the MNO Women’s Event in Mattawa.
Honouring missing and murdered Indigenous women in Brampton

submitted by Catherine Corbett
MNO Métis Family Wellbeing Coordinator

 Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Credit River Métis Council (CRMC) citizens and MNO staff from the MNO office in Brampton participated in National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women (NDRAVAW) on December 6, 2017, in Brampton.

NDRAVAW events took place at the Mississauga City Hall and were organized by the Peel Committee Against Woman Abuse (PCAWA) and sponsored by Interim Place, the City of Mississauga, United Food and Commercial Workers Canada Local 1006a, the Region of Peel and the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

MNO CRMC President, Karen Derocher spoke at both the opening and closing ceremony and MNO staff members unveiled a Faceless Dolls banner that had been produced at a MNO workshop in October. Each doll on the banner represented a woman or girl and symbolizes the united effort to end violence in all forms in the community.

As part of the event, participants viewed Fragments of Me, an exhibit on display at City Hall. The exhibit features original artwork reflecting thoughts and emotions surrounding violence against women. The exhibit toured the Peel area from November 25 to December 10. Following the NDRAVAW event, the Faceless Doll banner that the MNO had created was added to the Fragments of Me exhibit.

As with most NDRAVAW events, a Rose Vigil was held to commemorate the 14 women killed the École Polytechnique massacre on December 6, 1989. A brief biography of each woman was read as 14 roses were placed in a vase to remember them. The audience took part in a moment of silence for the women who senselessly lost their lives 28 years ago.

Faceless doll banner represents unity

submitted by Sarah Sharp
MNO Métis Family Wellbeing Coordinator

On December 6, 2017, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) staff from the MNO office in Gravenhurst provided a faceless doll workshop as part of National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women (NDRAVAW) in Huntsville.

These NDRAVAW events were organized by the Muskoka Women’s Advocacy Group. Approximately 20 people braved the first major snowfall of the year to attend. These included representatives from Muskoka Victims Services, Women’s Shelters, concerned community members and survivors.

During the faceless doll workshop, reactions ranged from moments of silence to laughter as participants dressed their faceless dolls. Dolls were then placed together as a symbol of unity of a diverse community, united to stop violence against women.

Following the workshop, participants gathered in silence to read out loud the names of women taken from us by their partners over the past year. Each name was read along with a description of how they were taken and then a candle was lit for each one. The majority of these women were taken through extremely violent means, which is evidence of the severity of gendered-based violence and the continued need to support women and their families who are currently experiencing violence or surviving trauma from their pasts.
AROUND OUR MÉTIS COMMUNITY

Meeting with officials from two Ministries

submitted by

Ralph Wolf-Thistle, MNO Senator

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) officials often hold meetings with the officials of numerous Ontario government Ministries to discuss issues of mutual concern. One such meeting took place on November 30, 2017 with officials of the Ontario Ministries of Seniors Affairs and Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation in Toronto. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the needs of Ontario Métis seniors.

In recent years, the Ministry of Seniors Affairs has launched a number of programs and funded several Ontario communities to improve the quality of life of Ontarios ageing population. Through the work of MNO citizen and University of Waterloo professor Dr. John Lewis, the MNO and Ministry of Seniors Affairs will collaborate to contribute a Métis perspective to the provincial government’s policy and community planning work. It is important that the voices and needs of Métis seniors are clearly communicated to the provincial and local governments and reflected in local policies and programs. The MNO is pleased to work with the Ministry of Seniors Affairs to provide that voice and direction.

Director with the Ministry of Indigenous Relations Stephanie Pousen, Director with the Ministry of Seniors Affairs Kathleen Henschel, Manager with the Ministry of Seniors Affairs Deanna Blair, Manager with Ministry of Senior Affairs Alan Ernst, MNO citizen and Associate Professor at the University of Waterloo Dr. John Lewis, Assistant Deputy Minister of Seniors Affairs Abby Katz-Starr, Senior Program Consultant with the Ministry of Seniors Affairs Ellen Yachnin, MNO Senior Policy and Research Analyst Storm Russell, MNO Chief Strategy Officer Jennifer St. Germain, MNO Research and Policy Analyst Jennifer Kong and MNO Senator Ralph Wolf-Thistle.

Santacomes to Cochrane

submitted by

Jackie Courville
MNO Northern Lights Métis Council Women’s Representative


Children of all ages enjoyed free bowling, pizza and soft drinks. Santa and Mrs. Claus made an appearance to give the children their gifts. The event was another success and everyone had an amazing time.

Senator Carol Lévis with MacKenzie and Paige Rivers.

MNO Grand River Métis Council hosts Christmas potluck

submitted by

Carol Lévis, MNO Grand River Métis Council Senator

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Grand River Métis Council (GRMC) held a Christmas potluck on December 3, 2017.

During the event, special guest, MNO Clear Waters Métis Council Women’s Representative Tobias Clarke, told the story of the porcupine and everyone had an amazing time.

Senator Rick Meilleur and friends at the announcement of federal funding for a research project to help Indigenous seniors. (Left to right) Greater City of Sudbury Mayor Brian Bigger, Health Science North Director Dominic Giroux, MNO Sudbury Métis Council Senator Rick Meilleur and Sudbury Member of Parliament Paul Lefebvre.

Honorary MNO Senator Reta Gordon meets Senator Murray Sinclair

submitted by

Reta Gordon
MNO Honourary Senator

Honourary Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Senator Reta Gordon had the opportunity to meet Senator Murray Sinclair when she attended a ceremony at Ottawa City Hall on December 4, 2017.

The purpose of the ceremony was to present Senator Sinclair with the Key to the City of Ottawa in recognition of his dedicated service as Chief Commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Senator Meilleur was there for the announcement of $1.4 million grant from the federal government for a research project focused on improving the health of Indigenous seniors.

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Sudbury Métis Council Senator Rick Meilleur was among the guests on December 4, 2017, at the Canadian Institutes of Health Research in Sudbury.

Senator Reta Gordon and Senator Murray Sinclair at the Key to the City Award reception at City Hall in Ottawa.
Maurice and Donna Cadieux create Open Forum for Métis artists

submitted by
Pauline Richardson
PCMNO Region 7 Councilor

Larry O’Connor is a Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council. He made a proposal last year to the Board of CanoeFM 100.9 CKHA, a volunteer community radio station based in Haldimand, to host an Indigenous radio show. As Métis are one of Canada’s founding peoples, he proposed that this program would feature all the Indigenous peoples of Canada with a special emphasis on Métis culture and music.

This program, now known as Tales From the Big Canoe, showcases issues faced by Canada’s Indigenous people and has now been on the air for over a year. Tales From the Big Canoe is an hour-long program that is aired on CanoeFM 100.9 CKHA, on the last Monday of every month at 10 pm and replayed the following Friday at 11 am.

Tales From the Big Canoe has helped to inform, educate and entertain CanoeFM listeners about Métis and other Indigenous peoples in Canada. It offers listeners a chance to hear first-hand about this important part of the fabric of Canada. Many listeners, for example, are unaware of the Michif language that was historically spoken by the Métis in both pre and post Confederation Canada.

Larry's listeners have also heard about Métis culture and its unique style of fiddle music that has been handed down over generations as well as about many local Métis initiatives. The music played is either Indigenous music or performed by Indigenous musicians.

Larry has interviewed Indigenous people from coast to coast to coast on a variety of subject matters. To keep the program fresh, he has covered Métis and other Indigenous events including Métis council gatherings, First Nations PowWows as well as university events.

If you have a story or Council activity to share that you would like highlighted on Tales from the Big Canoe please feel free to contract Larry at oconnor.larry@yahoo.ca

MNO Citizen named Woman of the Decade

submitted by
Grant Leddy
Co-partner, Security Partners’ Forum

Métis Voyageur readers have become familiar with the many successes of Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Bonnie Butlin in the security sector. In past issues, the Métis Voyageur has reported she is a co-founder and Executive Director of the Security Partners’ Forum (SPF) and International Coordinator of the Women in Security and Resilience Alliance (WISECRA). In 2015, she won the prestigious Professional Security Magazine’s Woman of the Decade award.

Bonnie Butlin was notified by the esteemed Dr. Arora, the National Coordinator of the Women in Security and Resilience Alliance (WISECRA) that she has been named a recipient of the highly prestigious “Woman of the Decade Award,” which will be presented to Bonnie at the 2018 Women Economic Forum in New Delhi, India this coming April.

According to Dr. Arora, the Women of the Decade is their highest award category conferred every year on leading women from across the globe with distinguished contributions in various walks of life like education, entrepreneurship, technology, health, media and business.

It is given to very senior women of influence, excellence who have distinctive achievements.

Maurice and Donna Cadieux create Open Forum for Métis artists

submitted by
Maurice and Donna Cadieux

If you have a story or Council activity to share that you would like highlighted on Tales from the Big Canoe please feel free to contract Maurice at 705-534-1092 or tcadieuxmw@rogers.com

Open Forum for Métis Artists

Wednesday, April 11, 2018 @ MNO OFFICE
355 Cranston Crescent
Midland
Light refreshments will be served.
Please RSVP by Wednesday, April 4, 2018 to tcadieuxmw@rogers.com or 705-534-1092

Maurice and Donna Cadieux are serving as co-presenter of a one-time Open Forum for Métis artists. Larry has interviewed Indigenous people from coast to coast to coast on a variety of subject matters. To keep the program fresh, he has covered Métis and other Indigenous events including Métis council gatherings, First Nations PowWows as well as university events.

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MNO Citizen named Woman of the Decade

submitted by
Bonnie Butlin
MNO Georgian Bay MNO Georgian Bay Metropolitan Council.

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submitted by
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MNO Citizen named Woman of the Decade

submitted by
Bonnie Butlin
MNO Georgian Bay Metropolitan Council.
Métis artist finding success in Terrace Bay and beyond

submitted by
Cam Burgess
PCMNO Region 2 Councilor

Sharon Girdwood is a Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen and Métis artist who works out of her own studio in Terrace Bay but whose art is reaching people beyond the area. “Living with creative thought is an important gift and I treasure it,” explained Sharon. Her name in Ojibwe is Mazin-Miigwan, which means “Pictured Feather.” Not surprisingly, therefore, Sharon’s expertise is in painting feathers but she doesn’t stop there. She also dabbles in abstract painting, sculpture and more. “I am always creating,” she said.

“The pursuit of art is allowing my hands to be the extension of my dreams,” she added.

“Converging Lines” is a recent exhibit that features the work of regional Indigenous artists and draws inspiration from the connective, emanating power lines found in the works of established Anishnaabe artists such as Norval Morrisseau, Roy Thomas and Ahmoo Angeconeb. Though each artist shares elements of their artistic approach and conceptual underpinnings with the innovative and ground-breaking work of their predecessors, the work by Kristy Cameron, and the other artists featured in the exhibit, also speaks to current issues and sheds light on contemporary ways of making art.

Sharon uses realistic painting and drawing techniques that make each creation unique and finely detailed. Sharon’s work is gaining international recognition through organizations such as Ducks Unlimited. The Osprey and Mallard Duck were both award winners at the Wildlife Art and Decoy Show in Burlington, Vermont. Common Loon placed fifth in the 2000 Ducks Unlimited Ontario Sponsorship Program. Find Eight Wolves and Memory Bay placed first and third at an art competition in Deep River, Ontario.

Many MNO citizens met Sharon and saw her amazing work at the 2017 MNO Annual General Assembly in Kenora where she was a vendor. Sharon’s work attracted lots of attention and many buyers at the AGA.

Anyone interested in Sharon’s work can learn more on her website at studiogirdwood.com

Art of MNO citizen exhibited at Thunder Bay Art Gallery

submitted by
Alastair McKay
Thunder Bay Art Gallery

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen and Métis artist Kristy Cameron is one of the Indigenous artists whose work is being featured in the exhibit Converging Lines: Recent Art From the Northwest at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery. The exhibit is run from November 24, 2017 to February 23, 2018.

Converging Lines features the work of regional Indigenous artists and draws inspiration from the connective, emanating power lines found in the works of established Anishnaabe artists such as Norval Morrisseau, Roy Thomas and Ahmoo Angeconeb. Though each artist shares elements of their artistic approach and conceptual underpinnings with the innovative and ground-breaking work of their predecessors, the work by Kristy Cameron, and the other artists featured in the exhibit, also speaks to current issues and sheds light on contemporary ways of making art.

Kristy Cameron is a teacher and visual artist, who was born and raised in Atikokan, Ontario. She is the daughter of MNO Atikokan and Area Métis Council President Marlene Davidson. Being raised surrounded by the beauty of the natural world has given her endless subjects to paint, while observing and researching this environment and its inner connections. As a Métis artist and descendant of numerous fur trade employees, she often incorporates Indigenous and historical content into her art. With this history and culture, we often see spiritual weavings throughout her pieces, which evoke sensations such as, mystery, energy, contentment, and joyfulness. Viewers often contemplate saying, “Every time I look at these paintings, I see something new!” The bright, bold colours are templates for more intricate images that unfurl deeper meanings within meanings.
Reminiscing Senator Bob McKay

On Monday, January 8, 2018, Robert Charles McKay (Senator Bob), chose to pass his life on to the Creator. His loving wife was by his side assisting him in his journey. He was born February 24, 1938 and a celebration of Bob’s life was held February 24, 2018.

Bob was an amazing person, a true elder and a Métis Traditional Knowledge Holder he also served on numerous committees and advisory boards including the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, Lakehead University, the City of Thunder Bay, Lakehead School Board and the Labour Council for Aboriginal Youth. His wise counsel and experience were highly valued as evidenced by awards he received from the Ontario Public School Board (OPSB). Bob had been a member of the OPSB Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee between 2009 and 2014 and in 2014 OPB presented him with both their Achievement Award and their Award of Excellence to recognize his outstanding community service and leadership.

In 2014, Bob was one of the founders of the non-profit organization: Saving the Lighthouse of Lake Superior. The MNO has been blessed that Bob chose to share so much of his time and his amazing talents with his fellow Métis. Bob became an MNO citizen in 1995 only a few years after the MNO’s founding in 1993. He joined the MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council in 1997 and became the Council’s Senator in 1999, a position he served in until 2015. As a Senator and a Métis Traditional Knowledge Holder he volunteered countless hours to teach the Métis way-of-life and increase awareness and pride in Métis culture and heritage. He especially placed importance on passing on his knowledge to younger people and made many presentations to schools and youth groups.

In his capacity as a Senator and Métis Knowledge Holder he also served on numerous committees and advisory boards including the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, Lakehead University, the City of Thunder Bay, Lakehead School Board and the Labour Council for Aboriginal Youth. His wise counsel and experience were highly valued as evidenced by awards he received from the Ontario Public School Board (OPSB). Bob had been a member of the OPSB Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee between 2009 and 2014 and in 2014 OPB presented him with both their Achievement Award and their Award of Excellence to recognize his outstanding community service and leadership.

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Emily Mary Quirk  
August 21, 1934 - December 31, 2017

Emily was a past Senator with the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Kenora Council. Nina Henley, Secretary of the MNO Kenora Council said: “Emily was a lady who always had a smile on her face, a true hard worker, and a very kind heart. She was a role model for many young people.” Emily soldiered ahead in life happily despite her health challenges. She was a great-grandmother and great-granddaughter of the Unsung Hero of the London-area. She was elected to the MNO Kenora Métis Council in 1997 in the position of Senator. She helped found the “Kenora Métis Warmth and Wellness Group,” a community group that met weekly to knit hats, mitts, and blankets for the less fortunate. She loved to travel with her family, including stops in Florida, Alaska, the Ottawa region as well as over to Ireland.

Robert ‘Snooky’ Gelinas  
February 14, 1958 - January 12, 2018

Robert was a passionate man who enjoyed life to the fullest, especially when it came to hockey, family and food. He was also very active in darts and of course - HORSESHOES! He was always trying to get everyone involved in a quick game of horseshoes!

Jorja Gorham  
2006 – 2018

Emily is deeply mourned by her four-legged best buddy, Missy. She was greatly missed by everyone!

Robert was a “feisty” lady and a true force to be reckoned with; a very strong, independent woman, who wanted the best for everyone she met. She held the position of Senator on our Council from 1993 – 2018. Robert was an active volunteer within the MNO Kenora Council and was greatly missed by everyone.

Emily was a past Senator with the MNO Kenora Council. As a hotelier and restauranteur provided some of the best food in the area. In addition, she was a great grandmother and had numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Emily Mary Quirk passed away at Fort Frances, after a short illness, Emily was a past Senator with the MNO Kenora Council. She was a very active volunteer within the MNO Kenora Council and was greatly missed by everyone.

Gordon Calder  
1933 - 2018

Gordon was a “feisty” lady and a true force to be reckoned with; a very strong, independent woman, who wanted the best for everyone she met. She held the position of Senator on our Council from 1993 – 2018. Gordon was an active volunteer within the MNO Kenora Council and was greatly missed by everyone.

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Lloyd Thompson
1940 – 2017

Métis Nation of Ontario citizen Lloyd Thompson passed away after a short illness on Wednesday, December 27, 2017. Lloyd originally came from London and was in his 77th year. He was the beloved husband of Cora for 57 years. He was the dear father of Richard (Donna) and Larry (Theresa). He was the loving papa of Laura

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Kenneth Trudeau
1987 – 2018

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Kenneth Napoleon Trudeau of Moon Island, passed away on Saturday, January 20th, 2018 at 30 years of age. He was the beloved son of Bernard and Jean Trudeau and Pyle families and by his many friends.

It is with great sadness the family of Jerry Legault will be held at Sands United Autoworkers Local 593 for 59 years.

Meadow River
CALLANDER

Birth Announcement

Meadow River
CALLANDER

Gerard (Jerry) Albert
Legault
1931 – 2018

It is with great sadness the family of Jerry Legault announces his passing on February 10, 2018.

He was born in Pentangeshene, Ontario, yet spent most of his adult years in the Western Provinces. Jerry was a Korean Veteran #1 Royal Canadian Horse Artillery serving 1951-1953, a Charter Member of the Korean Veteran’s Association Unit #51 and a member of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #236. He was also a Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen and was featured in the MNO Veterans’ Council book Fighting for Canada before there was a Canada.

His greatest joy was “meeting the boys” for coffee where he shared his wonderful sense of humour.

He originally wanted to join the Navy, but the office was closed. So he went across the road to the Army office and enlisted in the Canadian Army (Artillery) on Oct. 19, 1951.

After training at Canadian Force Base Shilo, Manitoba, Jerry attained the position of Gunner First Class.

He served in Korea from 1952 to 1953 and was awarded the Canadian Korea Medal, the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal for Korea, the Canadian Peacekeeping Service Medal and the United Nations Service Medal – Korea. He was later awarded the Queen’s Commendation medal.

Jerry will be missed by his wife Marie, his children, and his many friends.

An afternoon to remember the life of Jerry Legault will be held at Sands Funeral Chapel, 1, Newcastle Ave. Nanaimo, on Saturday, March 3, 2018, at 2:00 pm.

– Submitted by MNO Veterans’ Council President
Joseph Paquette
Relics of the War of 1812

The war of 1812 was an event that left a lot of artifacts around Amherstburg and Essex county. There were battles up and down the shoreline and islands in this area. In about a four mile radius there was heavy fighting, and the area is rich in history and artifacts.

The Métis people, First Nations and British soldiers fought shoulder to shoulder against the invading American troops. Fort Malden was strategic in that the Detroit River is very narrow there, and the cannons could blow a ship out of the water.

One of my friends was cutting down a tree for firewood and when he was chain sawing it into pieces he noticed a leather bag sticking out of a hollow spot in the center of the trunk. He managed to get it out intact and opened it up. To his surprise, inside was a scalp and a long lock of black hair wrapped around a 70 caliber musket ball.

About two miles from our house sat the cabin of Colonel Mathew Elliot. When we were youngsters we used to go in it, but it was very rickety and the upstairs was ready to come down. It is completely gone now with only a plaque to explain its history.

The ruins of Old Elliott Homestead near Amhurstburg. One of Jim Turner’s favourite sites for artifact hunting.

The grave marker of Simon Girty, who acted as a liaison between the British and their Indigenous allies during the War of 1812.

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Senator Jim Turner

The Métis people, First Nations and British soldiers fought shoulder to shoulder against the invading American troops.
In 2012, Bob received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal that acknowledged his long-term dedication to the cause of achieving Métis rights and self-government, and in 2014 he was the recipient of the MNO Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award.

When presenting Bob with the Award, former MNO President Gary Lipinski stated “Your commitment to Métis youth and the Métis community is unprecedented. You actively keep Métis culture alive by sharing our culture and passing on our traditions through the many events that you attend. Through your volunteerism you also educate our youth and the general public on what it means to be Métis. I personally would like to thank you for your many years of dedication to the betterment of the Métis Nation.”

While Bob’s work on behalf of Métis people was truly inspiring, what many appreciated even more was his warmth and humour. Until very recently, he was a fixture at every MNO Annual General Assembly (AGA) and when he approached the microphone to speak he would always introduce himself, to everyone’s delight, as “Rat Pitt.”

MNO Executive Senator Joseph Poitras said “Bob has a real presence and a quiet, dignified and courteous demeanor. Bob was always willing to give a leg-up to anyone who needed or asked for help, there are many examples of people who have copies of his prayers because he knew I would need them.”

In his final years, Bob was affected with ALS (Lou Gehrig’s disease). Even faced with this challenge, Bob retained his spirit and wrote MNO citizens to express his gratefulness for their kindness and support. He closed the letter with one of his favourite proverbs (especially for Métis youth): “A vision without a plan is just a dream. A plan without vision is just drudgery. But a vision with a plan can change the world.”

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Lakehead University Achievement Fund, Northern Ontario School of Anaesthesia, ALS Canada or Canadian Lighthouses of Lake Superior or a charity of your choice.