Several Métis youth from across Ontario had an opportunity earlier this year to participate in the events leading up to the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Games. Jessica Contant of Cochrane, Roxanne Derouard of Kenora, Alexander Young of Hamilton and James and Nicholas Callaghan of Sudbury all took turns carrying the Olympic torch as it made its way through Ontario. Flame attendant Janine Landry had her original six-week stint extended—plus she had a chance to carry the flame herself and to meet Shania Twain! Janine remained in Vancouver working as an accommodations assistant for the executive and staff of NBC until mid-March.

Another MNO youth representative, Rebekah Wilson, also had the chance of a lifetime; she took part in the Opening Ceremony of the 2010 Olympics. Congratulations to all the Métis youth from across Ontario!

More on page 14
Clement Prévost
décédé à Sudbury le 23 octobre 2009 à l’âge 65 ans.

A dieu, parents bien-aimés frères et soeurs chères. Bien jeune encore, mon pèlerinage est déjà fini. Mon Dieu, je retournne à vous afin de vous aimer d’avantage et de vous prier avec plus de ferveur pour ceux qui demeurent appres moi. Ne pleurez pas, je vous attendrai au Ciel, la famille s’y reformera et les larmes seront sechées. Une communion, une prier, 3 VP.

Obituary
Armand Joseph Lavallee

T he family announces with sorrow the sudden death of Mr. Armand Lavallee Sr. at the age of 83 years. Mr. Lavallee passed away at Temiskaming Hospital on Saturday, November 14, 2009. He was born in South Lorrain Township on March 29, 1926, to the late Moses Lavallee and the late Antoinette Ranger. He served his country during World War II with the Canadian Infantry Corps.

Mr. Lavallee lived at Mileage 104 for most of his life and had worked as a miner. He was an avid outdoorsman who loved fishing and hunting. He was remembered as a devoted family man and will be sadly missed. Predeceased by his parents; his wife Doreen on October 17, 1997; and grandchildren. Gordon Merril and Larry Leveille; two brothers and Edward Lavallee, as well as two sisters, Marie Van Speren and Margaret Rice. Mr. Lavallee was survived by his children. May (Frank) Merril of Sudbury; Armand Jr. (Diane) of Cobalt; Edward (Shirley) of North Cobalt; Allan (Pauline) of Lively; Diana (Bryant) of Smith of Cobalt; Christopher (Diane) of Cobalt; Julieanne (Derick) of Hillman of Cobalt; and Janet (Geerman) of Cobalt. Also left to mourn are 27 grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren; and his siblings: Florence Watson, Earline Lavallee, and Jeanette Laini. The Lavallee family received friends at the Buffam Leveille Funeral Home on November 19, 2009. Funeral service took place on November 19, 2009, with Father John Lemire officiating. Interment followed at the Cobalt Catholic Cemetery.
ONTARIO PUBLIC SERVICE:

**MNO President Lipinski gives keynote speech at OPS forum**

**by PAULINE SAULNIER**

The Métis Nation of Ontario now has a voice within the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs at the third Ontario Public Servants (OPS) forum on working with First Nations and Métis.

On February 16, 2010, Senator Alan Kennaugh and I attended the third OPS forum which was coordinated by the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs. It was a very special occasion for us.

Both being OPS employees, we found it heart-warming to have Senator Ruth Wagner open the forum in our traditional Métis way with a prayer and fiddle playing of some of our Métis music. As though that were not enough, we were both also very fortunate to be present when our President of the Métis Nation of Ontario, Gary Lipinski, was recognized as the key note speaker. President Lipinski talked about the history of the Métis Nation and how it is with equal voices that the Ioui, the First Nation and the Métis people should be heard, never at the expense of one another, but rather in conjunction through consultation, through cultural and traditional ways of life, and through collaboration. The Province of Ontario and the Crown are obligated to ensure that all Aboriginal people be heard.

The relationship between the Métis Nation of Ontario and the Ontario Government has not always been a positive one, but having this type of forum and being able to express Métis issues and concerns can only serve to enrich the communities and the province,” declared President Gary Lipinski.

Having the opportunity to educate the OPS forum about who the Métis are and to speak about the MNO and Ontario Government Framework agreement, signed on November 17, 2008, will help to ensure that this document becomes a vital tool to enable more ministries to comprehend the importance of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

To have our working world join in harmony with our cultural world is the true definition of “diversity” for me. All too often in the past, being a member of the OPS meant a conflict between the two sides of my life. Now it appears that my life is balanced with equal representation within the OPS. It is with lots of pride that I have been able to witness President Gary Lipinski speak about the Métis Nation of Ontario and represent the Nation with his words, passion and enthusiasm. Excellent job President Lipinski!

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**Métis Nation seeking improved employment opportunities for Métis persons with disabilities**

In January 18th, 2010, the MNC launched a new project to find ways of improving employment opportunities for Métis people with disabilities. With support from the Aboriginal Skills and Training Strategic Investment Fund, part of the federal government’s economic stimulus initiatives, the MNC made the improvement of skills development and employment opportunities for Métis Nation citizens a priority.

During the launch of the project in Saskatoon, President Chartrand said: “This project will help identify the best tools and services available to Métis Nation citizens with disabilities seeking skills development, and find innovative ways of improving their employment opportunities.”

As part of this project, the MNC is partnering with the Canadian Council on Rehabilitation and Work, CCRCW, the leading cross-disability organization promoting the equitable, meaningful and sustainable employment of persons with disabilities in Canada. The MNC and CCRCW are cooperating in the establishment of a national advisory group, which will explore innovative and effective tools and services aimed at meeting the employment needs of Métis with disabilities.

“The CCRCW recognizes a shared interest with the Métis Nation in ensuring public and private sector have an understanding of, and support for, the economic and social benefits of improving employment opportunities for Métis persons with disabilities,” said Bruce Smith, CCRCW’s President and CEO.

Gary Tinker, a leading Métis advocate for improving the lives of persons with disabilities, will be one of the MNC’s representatives on the advisory group.

“Métis Nation citizens are valuable contributors to the Canadian economy, but there is still much work to do in ensuring all our people have an opportunity to engage in the workforce,” said David Charrand, MNC’s Vice-president and Minister responsible for Social Development. “With the right opportunities, Métis Nation citizens with disabilities can play an important role in Canada’s economic recovery.”

The MNC and CCRCW will also be holding a National Training Forum for Métis Nation employment counsellors, giving them the tools to better serve Métis with disabilities entering or re-entering the workforce.
The relationship between Ontario and the Métis Nation is stronger than it has ever been, but not as strong as it will be after this workshop.

Promises Made, Promises Kept

Métis citizens are the heart and soul of the Métis Nation and are represented at the local level through MNO Chartered Community Councils which remain the cornerstone in our struggle for self-governance. With the province's commitment to provide funding through the New Relationship Fund, we were in a position to provide the long awaited training and resources needed to start building core consultation capacity at the local, regional and provincial levels, in order to more effectively work with government and industry.

It is essential that we provide enhanced capacity support to our community councils as well as bringing our citizens together more often in order to share our culture and traditions, and to strengthen the bonds between our citizens. In January, 2010, the Lands, Resources and Consultations (LRC) Branch travelled to seven communities across the province to deliver training to 26 community councils on "Community Governance." This training was designed by the Community Relations team of LRC using their years of experience working with councils and devoting the time needed to pull together an effective two-day training module for community councils. The training included a "Council Vision" exercise, tools for conflict resolution, tips for facilitating council meetings, and much, much more.

In February, the LRC Branch travelled across the province again, this time to deliver "Community Finance and Administration Training" to community councils. This training was developed by the LRC Branch in collaboration with MNO's Finance Branch, and was based on feedback from the community councils during the "government" training sessions in January. The training was specifically designed to build the confidence of council members and their secretaries-treasurers to track council expenses throughout the year, especially those related to consultation activities and the New Relationship Fund. The training included council bookkeeping, information on how MNO is funded, guidance on developing year-end reports, tips for managing councils' New Relationship Fund capacity budgets, and a toolkit full of forms for budgets, purchases and reporting. The LRC Branch was thrilled with the excellent turnout and positive feedback we received from the participants. If any citizen wishes to receive a copy of the materials provided during training, please do not hesitate to contact your council president.

Award recognizes outstanding young Ontarians for leadership in challenging discrimination

The Lincoln M. Alexander Award honours youth who have worked to eliminate racial discrimination in Ontario. This award was first given in 1993. There are two student awards and one community award.

Who are the award recipients? Since 1993, the Lincoln M. Alexander Award has recognized young people who have demonstrated outstanding leadership in eliminating racial discrimination. Each year, three young people, between the ages of 16 and 25, receive an award of $5,000 each and a framed scroll.

Who can receive the award? Student Award: Full-time students who attend high school or who will be going into a post-secondary education program can be nominated by their schools. Community Award: Anyone who lives in Ontario and is between 16 and 25 years old can be nominated by a community organization or agency that works in the field of race relations.

How are recipients selected? Community organizations working in the field of race relations can submit nominations. A selection committee, representing the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration and various community organizations, review the nominations and select each year's recipients.

How is the medal awarded? A special ceremony is held at Queen's Park to recognize recipients. Recipients receive a personalized certificate as well as a $5,000 cash award.

When is the deadline? Nomination may be submitted at any time. Deadline is May 31 of each year. All nominations received after this date will be considered for the following year.

Do how do I submit nominations? When nominations are being accepted for this year, you will find a nomination form on www.citizenship.gov.on.ca/english/honours/lincolnmalexander/ in both PDF and HTML formats.

Where can I get more info? Do you have questions about Ontario’s recognition programs? Call the Ontario Honours and Awards Secretariat at: 614-514-7526 or 1-877-852-9622.

MNO HOUSING WELCOMES BACK AN OLD FRIEND

The Métis Nation of Ontario Housing Branch is pleased to welcome Leafy Shaw back to the Thunder Bay office. Leafy is the Project Developer for the Partnership for the Housing Corporation which is being established with funding from the New Relationship Fund and the Tri-Partner Funding Agreement. Leafy brings to the table extensive experience in housing as well as a solid grounding in training programs and partnership initiatives. Leafy’s expertise is enhanced through certifications she holds in realty and investment. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, is the enthusiasm Leafy brings with her, especially when it comes to the possibilities for the new Housing Corporation and the generation of equity plus wealth for the MNO.

Leafy has always been proud of her heritage and is an excellent resource for historical, information and knowledge. Leafy hit the ground running when she returned in mid February and it is a real pleasure to have her back! – Jean McNamara-Winslade

T-BAY HOUSING CONFERENCE & RAFFLE WINNER

Thunder Bay was host to the 8th Annual First Nations Northern Housing Conference held at the Valhalla Inn. Congratulations to Rene Ducharme for winning the grand prize of a SolarSheat 1008G heating system valued at $1500. The grand prize attendance draw was donated by J&M Electric of Thunder Bay. Recognition is also extended to the Métis Building Systems Techni- cal Advisor Intern Program (MBAISP). The two year pilot project is in partnership with Ontario Power Authority, Confederation College and the MNO.
Students complete first phase of new internship program in Thunder Bay

The Métis Nation of Ontario, in partnership with Ontario Power Authority, Confederation College and Ontario Aboriginal Housing Support Services, is offering a new state of the art pilot project: Métis Building System Technical Advisor Internship Program.

Since the program commenced on the 18th of January, 2010, the students have completed courses in first aid, CPR, Basics of Electricity, Blue Print Reading, Safety Orientation, Introduction to Building Science, math and English. Additional topics to follow consist of Advanced Building Science, Ontario Building Code (OBC) training, EcoEnergy Audit training, Soils Investigations, Construction Materials and Methods, Green Building Technology, Alternative Energy, Energy Conservation Retrofitting, along with some additional math and English courses.

The program is based on the original curriculum developed by the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

Anyone interested in additional information can contact the Métis Nation of Ontario, Housing Branch at 1-800-891-5882 or 807-626-9300.

Left to right (back row): Kevin Muloin, Justin McCarville, Todd Childs and Jason Susin. (middle row) Dion Dick, Peter Ducharme, Rene Ducharme and Gilles Martineau. (front row) Edmund Indian (instructor), Terry Desaulniers (instructor) and Tiffany Sorokopud (instructor).
**MNO President’s Update**

### PROVINCIAL RELATIONS | MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

**Gary Lipinski, President Métis Nation of Ontario (right) and Honourable John Milloy, Ontario Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities (center) and France Picotte, Chair of the Métis Nation of Ontario (left) sign a Memorandum of Understanding.**

### BRANCH UPDATES

**REGISTRY**

The Registry Branch kicked off the new year by welcoming Cara Desjardins as “Acting Registrar”. Cara took a leave of absence from Karole Diamont-Beckett who left the MNO in December. At the same time, we also said “good-bye” to Julie Meraw, the Regional Intake Officer based in Ottawa. We expect to have Julie’s replacement in place soon.

The work of improving the application process and fine tuning the Registry database continues—although we were down another person during the last two weeks of January. That is because Rebekah Wilson was in Vancouver, where she represented the MNO at an indigenous youth gathering and took part in the opening of the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Games (page 14).

### LANDS, RESOURCES & CONSULTATIONS

The LRC branch began 2010 with an ambitious community training schedule. Two highly successful training programs on “Governance” and “Finance and Administration” were developed and delivered to representatives of the six Chartered Community Councils. The training was designed to build the skills of our councils and to better enable them to utilize the capacity funding provided to them through the Province of Ontario’s New Relationship Fund.

The LRC branch, in collaboration with the Intergovernmental Relations branch, hosted the “Best Practices in the Duty to Consult” forum in January, which was well attended by council representatives from across the province. The forum highlighted MNO successes to date in consultations during the past year, encouraged councils to discuss potential new directions or approaches to consultation; emphasized the importance of on-going work by the LRC branch to gather Métis traditional knowledge through our Way of Life Framework; and, provided mini technical training seminars to city council representatives on “Aggregates, Mining, and Land Use Planning” to build council capacity for engaging in consultations.

On the “consultations” front, the LRC branch has facilitated numerous meetings this year with proponents, as well as provincial and federal approval authorities, and is currently working with several “consultation committees” to negotiate Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) and Accommodation agreements.

### MNO President gives thumbs up to Ontario cabinet changes

On January 19, 2010, President Lipinski expressed his approval of the changes to the provincial cabinet announced by Ontario Premier, Dalton McGuinty. “I have already spoken to the Honourable Chris Bentley, the new Minister of Aboriginal Affairs. I am pleased that Minister Bentley is committed to continuing to build on the productive relationship that has developed between MNO and the province,” President Lipinski said. “Continuing to deliver results through the MNO- Ontario Framework Agreement that was signed in November, 2008, will be central to how we move forward with the new minister.”

President Lipinski also offered his congratulations and best wishes to Minister Brad Duguid, who takes over as Minister of Energy and Infrastructure. “We wish Minister Duguid well in his new assignment and look forward to continuing to work with him on specific initiatives related to the Green Energy Act. Over his tenure as Minister of Aboriginal Affairs he has been a friend of Ontario Métis and has overseen positive change in the Aboriginal Affairs Ministry and delivered results.”

### MNO announces two partnerships

On February 3rd, President Lipinski announced the establishment of two new employment and training opportunities for Aboriginal people living in Ontario. The Aboriginal Apprenticeship Centre and Ready to Work, funded by Service Canada through the Aboriginal Skills and Training Strategic Investment Fund (ASTSIF). The Apprenticeship Centre is established in partnership with Sault College, and Ready to Work represents a partnership with OTEC, Ontario’s Tourism Sector Council organization.

The Ready to Work project will be delivered in Ottawa, Midland and Sault Ste. Marie. It seeks to provide unique and specialized training to those interested in a career in the tourism and hospitality sector.

The Aboriginal Apprenticeship Centre project plans to recruit and engage 40 participants to establish links with the Aboriginal community throughout the Algoma District; and, to develop a sustainability plan by the project end date of March 31, 2011.

In January 25th President Lipinski, and the Honourable John Milloy, Ontario Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities (MCOT) to improve postsecondary education, training and the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) through the MOU (MOU). The MOU is an important opportunity for Aboriginal people living in Ontario: The Aboriginal Apprenticeship Centre and Ready to Work, funded by Service Canada through the ASTSIF. The Apprenticeship Centre is established in partnership with Sault College, and Ready to Work represents a partnership with OTEC, Ontario’s Tourism Sector Council organization.

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### Métis Nation of Ontario signs agreement with Ministry of Training, Colleges & Universities

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“Métis Nation of Ontario signs agreement with Ministry of Training, Colleges & Universities.”

Ontario Government committed to working with Métis people

On December, I attended my annual meeting with Premier Dalton McGuinty. I shared with me a copy of a letter he had sent on behalf of the Ontario Government to Prime Minister Stephen Harper calling on the Prime Minister to reconsider its position on the United Nations’ Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

In February, I was back at Queen’s Park for a meeting with the Honourable Chris Bentley, who was named “Minister of Aboriginal Affairs” in January. We discussed a motion that had been tabled in the legislature calling upon the Government of Canada to reconsider its position on the UN Declaration. This motion is proof that the Ontario Government remains committed to working with Métis people across the province to improve relationships and opportunities.

### MNO President’s Update

**Gary Lipinski, President Métis Nation of Ontario (right) and Honourable John Milloy, Ontario Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities (center) and France Picotte, Chair of the Métis Nation of Ontario (left) sign a Memorandum of Understanding.**

**MÉTIS VOYAGEUR 6**

**APRIL / MAY 2010**

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Stay Young, Stay Active and Stay Happy

Following in the paddle strokes of his ancestors Paul Rondeau builds canoes without electric tools, nails or screws

By NICOLE CHARRON

Those who know Paul Rondeau knew he was up to something but no one knew what.

Paul is a man of many talents and keeps himself active—raising rabbits, harvesting berries, hunting wildlife, fishing and making Aboriginal crafts. Every Friday night, he goes square dancing with Les Amis Qui Dansent. Paul participated in all the Annual General Assemblies, Aboriginal days in the park, Northern College powwows and all other activities that are put on by the Timmins Council.

Many come to see him and ask what project he’s been working on. They often wonder if he has been making moccasins, deer hide mittens, moose hide mukluks, a tikanagan (cradle board), dream catchers, antler earrings or netting snowshoes. All of these are great projects but the answer to the question was “No!” Paul had put all his other skills aside for a little while. He was working hard at building his fourth birch bark canoe, just as our ancestors had put all his other skills aside for a little while.

Paul is not using electricity at building his fourth birch bark canoe, he builds them by hand. It took him many months to gather all the necessary materials but he was determined and he did it. Paul needed the perfect birch bark, spruce roots, spruce gum (sap), cedar and bear fat. Now, at the young age of 80, Paul got up every morning, rain or shine, and he would then put the spruce sap and the bear fat in a large pot over the fire and melt it slowly. He'd put the spruce roots in the water to soften. While they were softening, he used a wooden pointed file to make holes in the birch bark. When this was done, he'd then sew the cedar to the birch bark with the spruce roots. Paul worked on his canoe approximately 13 feet in length, 39 inches in width, and 12 inches in depth. This canoe is a real piece of art, one that definitely won’t be raffled off or sold. This one will stay in our family for many, many years to come and we’ll be proud to show it off and say, “Our dad built this canoe by himself with his own two hands!”

Paul has been invited to many schools to show off and talk about his canoe. He has many stories to tell the students about how our ancestors used these types of canoes as a means of transportation. What better way to teach? He brings with him some of the materials he used to build it. He answers all of the students’ questions and will even let some of them get in the canoe and have their picture taken.

Anyone interested in seeing the canoe could call 705-264-7828 and Paul will be more than happy to show you his pride and joy.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Ministry of Natural Resources, Tembec Industries Inc. and Grant Forest Products for giving Paul the permits required to harvest the materials needed to build this birch bark canoe.

Way to go Dad! Keep up the great work! We are proud of you!
By ROB PILON

Driving the cold away

To kick-off 2010—the Year of the Métis—over 300 people gathered at our annual potluck supper at Camp Samaç in Oshawa. With citizens from many councils—Georgian Bay, Grand River, Niagara Region, Credit River, Northumberland and others—along with guests from British Columbia and Quebec, we came together to celebrate the season.

The evening started with an amazing buffet meal, including numerous traditional foods such as moose, deer, rabbit, buffalo, bear, beaver and fish. Following the meal we had many wonderful musical guests including drumming, fiddling, Métis jigging, guitar and singing. Special guest of note was James Cheechoo, one of the last James Bay fiddlers, accompanied by his wife Daisy and daughter Trina. Another special guest was Denis Weber, a renowned Métis artist from BC who provided all of the artwork in David Bouchard’s latest book. Dennis and his wife Sharon joined us for this special event, making available signed books as well as numerous prints of Dennis’ paintings.

This evening was possible only because of the many volunteers who spent hours in the planning and preparation of the event, and in making sure the evening went off without a hitch. From setting up and taking down tables and chairs, to organizing things in the kitchen, to setting up the buffet table and staffing the welcome table and silent auction—a group of dedicated volunteers worked tirelessly to make everyone feel welcome at the gathering.

As president of the Oshawa & Durham Region Métis Council, I believe this type of event is very important for our people. Gatherings such as these provide us with the opportunity to celebrate our culture, to listen to and appreciate our wonderful musical heritage, to share stories, and continue growing as a community. I look forward to hosting the Sixth Annual Winter Gathering next year, and would warmly welcome even more Métis citizens to join us at this celebration.

CANNINGTON DOGSLED RACES

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CANNINGTON DOGSLED RACES

Boulettes & bannock

By ROB PILON

Driving the cold away

Once again the Oshawa and Durham region Métis Council (ODRMIC) played a key part in the annual Cannington Dogsled Races.

The event started out on Tuesday, when Larry O’Connor, Mayor of Brock Township, hosted the mayors of GTA and surrounding areas for a day on the ice, including ice-fishing and a traditional Métis meal of bison burgers, boulettes and bannock. It turned out to be a great day on the ice, as well as a valuable opportunity for the local Métis community—including members from both the ODRMIC and Northumberland councils—to educate local leaders about the Métis people and heritage.

On Friday, a number of women from the council gathered to make traditional Métis boulettes to sell at the dogsled races over the weekend. After just half a day of work—chopping vegetables and rolling meatballs—four large containers of boulettes were ready for the Métis Trading Post. The races began with smudging by our elders, complemented by a strong Métis presence at the event. The tepee drew lots of interest, as did the numerous vendors, bison burgers, and hot bowls of boulettes set up in the Métis Trading Post. Members from numerous councils came to participate and enjoy the fresh air. It was especially great to see Elder Helen Bradley from the Georgian Bay Council who came out to visit with everyone at this wonderful winter event.

Local Métis entertainers also played a key part in the event, with performances by the Ollive Bousquet Métis Dance Troupe, the ODRMIC Women’s drumming group—who were thrilled with the presence of the World Drum-
**Road Trip du Voyageur**

By CHARMAINE LANGILAS

It was a fun weekend of jiggling, tobobaginning, fiddling and more! Sunset Country Métis Health Branch led a group of eighteen participants to the annual Festival du Voyageur in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

At the largest winter festival in western Canada, we found entertainment and activities for everyone. Withashes given to each participant, we were ready to share in cultural activities that celebrated the voyageur theme. Participants were encouraged to try some of the traditional games that the park had to offer. The toboggan chute and horse sleigh rides were two of my favourites. A snow and ice obstacle course maze was entertaining for the young. Bygone traditions had refreshingly surfaced at this unique venue. The event grounds were covered with massive yet magical snow sculptures. On the menus was French-Canadian cuisine including sugar pie, tourtière, hannock and pea soup, and some of us made maple syrup taffy pops. We listened to lively entertainment with a unique style the majority en français.

The highlight of the trip for two teens was Fort Gibraltar. Originally built at the Forks of the Red River, Fort Gibraltar is to reflect key elements of the fort; a highly skilled blacksmith, techniques used in the upkeep of the fort; a trading post; someone prepared for shipment; a workshop demonstrated the techniques used in the upkeep of the fort; a highly skilled blacksmith, performed technical demonstrations with traditional tools; a general store was stocked with pemmican and trade goods; a winterer’s cabin featured the way of life during the fur trade era; a campfire offered cooking demonstrations and storytelling.

Celebrating our history with this unique event gave a sense of pride for our Métis heritage. From experiencing Fort Gibraltar’s historical characters, admiring snow sculptures and sliding down that toboggan chute. Festival du Voyageur kept the group entertained from the moment we arrived until the time we said, “au revoir”.

On behalf of the group, “Bravo to the Festival du Voyageur committee”, the 1100 volunteers and the 115 partners that made this event such a success.

**GEORGIAN BAY MÉTIS COUNCIL | MNO REGION 7**

**The people of the Bay**

By SENATOR HELEN BRADLEY

The Georgian Bay Métis Council participated in the “Traditional Study Feast” in Lafontaine on November 29, 2009, where it was nice to enjoy a lovely traditional meal. It gave many of our citizens an opportunity to meet up with other good and proud Métis people and share the knowledge of our culture. It was fantastic that we had our president, Gary Lapinski and other members of the PCMNO, as well as Doug Wilson present for this event.

Every year we look forward to the “Christmas Good Cheer” and the “Moose Milk” that the staff puts on for the citizens of the GBCM. A lot of hard work and attention goes into planning this event and it is always well attended and appreciated.

**WINTERAMA**

Once again Dora McNorris and some more of our council members entered a float in the 52nd Penetanguishene Winterama on February 19, 2010, with the theme being the 2010 Olympic Games. Regional Councillor Pauline Saulnier could be seen waving proudly from the float with all the other volunteers. “It is always a joy to my heart when you can witness the unity of elders, youth, council members and those volunteers in between on one float just enjoying cultural awareness in this unique way,” Pauline said.

A special thank you and recognition goes out to Lezon Saultier for providing his flat bed truck so the Georgian Bay Métis Council could display their culture.

**Office expansion**

Recently the Georgian Bay Métis Council received funding through the North Simcoe Community Development Corporation, which has allowed us to increase office space at our Cranston Crescent location in Midland. This expansion will permit the Métis Nation of Ontario Training Initiatives to increase services to local unemployed Métis citizens and Métis citizens seeking to further their education. Our new boardroom will be relocated to a larger size room in the revised plan allowing other programs that currently use the boardroom to expand. These programs include AFWI, Healthy Babies, Long Term Care, and MNOILT available to the community as a whole. This expansion will permit the Georgian Bay Métis Council to host meetings and events.

We are fortunate to have our citizen Jeanette Brunelle come out to provide beadings classes the second Monday of each month. It is also a great opportunity for me to gather and share stories, advice, and good laughs with other friends and citizens. We have learned so much from Jeanette, and we wish her well in her recovery after being ill these past few months.

**Annual Meeting**

Our General Assembly will be held at the North Simcoe Sports and Recreation Centre in Midland on Sunday May 30, 2010, from 2:00 PM until 4:00 PM. Bring all your Métis friends and relatives.

Monthly council meetings taking place between September and June are held the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM. at 555 Cranston Crescent. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**National Aboriginal Day**

June 21st Aboriginal Day will be celebrated on Sunday June 28th, 2010, at McQuaire Park in Penetanguishene. This will include a barbeque, and festivities will start at 11:00 AM. Please feel free to call the office at (705) 526-5355 for more information on any of the upcoming events. Hubert Charlebois is continuing to research Métis genealogy for anyone seeking citizenship with the MNO. We welcome all those with questions to call the office for assistance.

As stated in the last issue of the Voyageur, please note the correction that Dave Dusome is the treasurer and not secretary as previously stated. Dora McNorris is the newly nominated secretary. I would like to end by saying congratulations to Tim Garrett’s son Jonathon, one of our Métis citizens, who was chosen to be a cook at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver. It makes my heart proud to see young Métis citizens making such great advances.
The game of hoops

By BARBARA RUSK

Who would have thought a woman 5 feet tall (yes, you can confirm this height with my moccasins, just don’t dare ask my children!) would be up for a game of hoops? Oh, but it’s not just any game; it’s the game of political hoops.

You know those hoops we all have to jump through to get funding from the government? Well, I’m in the game along with my council.

Politics aside, I had to take a step back and really look at what I am volunteering for. My situation has changed from wanting to learn more about my heritage and culture, to being charged along with the rest of my Métis brothers and sisters to listen to what the Earth is telling us.

It seems most of society has stopped listening. That might sound a little melodramatic, but I feel like there is a huge weight on our shoulders--deservedly so.

I began digging deeper into myself, as most of us do, and wondering if I truly do have a role in all of this. Well, didn’t my “self” come back with a hearty “YES YOU DO!” We do our best to hush the inner voices that are telling us what to do, and perhaps it is my Métis ancestors saying, “Squatter up Barbara, play your role”.

So, I’ve begun. I asked all of my friends this simple question “If you could do one thing, just one thing, to make a change to help Mother Earth, what would you do?” Some of the answers were: “I will bring my travel mug to Starbucks so I am not getting paper cups anymore.” “I’m going to hang my laundry year around so I use the dryer less.” “Great answer! So, I added them to my own list. I had not really taken a look at how I would do my part, so I took stock. Less garbage, more compost, complete recycling including dehumidifier water for the plants. WOW! I was trying!”

I was proud of myself. I felt compelled to look again, and see what else I could do, and I have made, and will make many more changes over the next year.

On to another role, and that is learning about my heritage and culture, which has pretty much taken a backseat to the political role. “Learning for it will force me to become a better president--a better delegate so to speak. I can’t do it all alone, so I will have to rely on my amazing council for backup. If we all do our part to help with the consultation/duty to consult, we all make more time for all of us to get into the best part of it all--the dessert so to speak--tradition and culture.

It’s something I want served over and over again and best of all has no sugar and no calories!”

Barbara Rusk is President of the Grand River Community Métis Council.
We all know that 2010 has been deemed the “Year of the Métis”. Well, it’s also going to be the year that starts the journey of Niimiki the hand-crafted birch bark canoe, and Inouk the hand-crafted paddle in the Grand River.

It’s been a long time since I’ve written of Niimiki and Inouk, but only because I had to wait for the news that has had me bursting with joy.

Niimiki, the canoe hand-crafted by birch bark canoe builder, Marcel Labelle, was graciously donated to our council so we could fund-raise for our community. Inouk, the hand-crafted and beautifully painted paddle that will accompany Niimiki was the generous gift of Micheline Bouvier. Both are spiritually charged, and in my opinion, will provide a lifetime of special memories to the winner and all who are fortunate enough to go for a spin!

We’ve been on a journey of our own—a long year and a half of work to get this up and running—but, we have received our lottery license. The license is finally ours and the community fundraising has begun!

We have grand plans for this dynamic duo. We are selling tickets until June 4, 2010, with the draw to be held on Saturday, June 5, 2010. Only 2499 tickets will be sold at $20 each.

A ceremonial launch will be held on Saturday, June 26, 2010, at the West Montrose Family camp. We are arranging group rates for the campgrounds and invite all to join us as we celebrate the maiden voyage of Niimiki and Inouk— together for the first time—as well as the Year of the Métis.

We plan to have great music, great food, traditional stories, and so much more.

If you are interested in tickets, please contact Carol Lévis at: clevis425@rogers.com or barbaragingras@hotmail.com. If you are interested in joining the festivities please don’t hesitate to contact me at the above email address. Please advise ASAP if you would like to stay at the campground so that I can give the owner an idea of numbers.

I look forward to seeing Niimiki and Inouk leave the nest and begin their life together.

Niimiki & Inouk on the move in 2010: the Year of the Métis!

By BARBARA RUSK

The giant birch tree Marcel found in the forests of his hometown of Mattawa, Ontario, helped him with this task. This tree that had been struck by lightning became Niimiki, Lightning Spirit.

The fourteen foot craft is made entirely of natural materials—cedar wood, birch and its bark, spruce roots and gum. Niimiki was forged surrounded by fields of sweet grass on the shores of Antoine Creek. This waterway leads to the Ottawa River, which Samuel de Champlain himself traversed centuries ago. This canoe is not only a mode of transportation, it is a piece of art; an historical tribute to those who lived before us.

Niimiki is a total part of this country’s legacy. The birch bark canoe helped give Canada’s first people, including the proud Métis, a means to build the vitality of our culture and the longevity of our heritage. Riel himself said that it would be the artist that would give new life to our traditions and culture.

With the building of this canoe, Marcel has brought an important piece of our history back to the forefront. It is time for us all to embrace our differences and celebrate what makes us who we are. The Métis people of Canada.

Niimiki, Lightning Spirit, was crafted by Métis artist Marcel Labelle using only hand tools and traditional methods. This 14 foot, one piece, birch bark canoe has a market value of $9,990.00.

Marcel Labelle is recognized by the Ontario Arts Council as an Aboriginal artist.

The canoe known as Niimiki.

The paddle known as Inouk.

The history of Niimiki

By JANIQUE LABELLE

Niimiki builder invited to create canoe installation for Smithsonian

In February, Marcel Labelle and his wife Joanne were in New York City. An American philanthropist fully funded the trip and Marcel was featured at the Smithsonian where he agreed to create a canoe installation for the museum.

He packed a roll of bark, his roots, resin, tools and “Mino dodem” (good spirit), the canoe he chose for the occasion. The Ontario Arts Council funded the building of “Mino dodem” after Labelle approached them about building a canoe he could keep and use as a teaching and healing tool. Marcel learned canoe building from the bush and spirit world and is writing a book about his life journey to master birch bark canoe crafting.

In addition to a trip to the “big apple”, Marcel was part of Toronto’s Winterfest at Nathan Philips Square. Wearing a warm fur hat and buckskin coat, he explained how he uses the same materials to build his canoes as were used 400 years ago. He had a large, continuous audience throughout the day. “I’ve been this way for always but now people are listening,” Labelle said.

Marcel Labelle.
A very heartfelt thank you

By ROB PILON

I want to take a moment to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who pitched in and helped out at the potluck. It is because of all of your efforts that we held a very, very successful event that will be talked about for some time. The commitment and community spirit was very evident and I believe gave many of us a great sense of pride in our local Métis community. If I try to thank everyone individually, I will forget someone, so instead I’d like to recognize:

• all those who helped with the organizing by attending the planning meetings and doing all of the upfront work necessary—calling people, booking facilities, tables, etc.
• The set-up crews—a lot of work went into organizing the hall, setting up tables and chairs, and decorating; it looked awesome!
• The kitchen crew—they organized, labeled, laid out, and cleaned up food for over 300 people and I don’t know how many pots of coffee and tea! It was a ton of work, and went off like clockwork.
• The helpers at the various stations—welcome desk, silent auction, 50/50 draw; council activities display—all key parts of making this successful.
• Those who participated in the entertainment and those who spoke at the event—it’s so wonderful to see people in our community step up in this capacity.
• The clean-up and take-down crew—again, a lot of work in a short period of time, not the most fun of jobs but necessary and appreciated.
• Everyone else who played a role—big or small—in making this a wonderful, happy, community gathering.

It may be 2010 but this had the feeling of an older traditional Métis gathering where we could reconnect with old friends, meet new friends, and enjoy our time together. The fact that we can do this for not only the many Métis people along with their friends and family in our community, but also draw people from across the province and beyond, is something that we should collectively be very proud of.

So again, a very big and sincere thank-you to everyone!
Great community events make Métis Council thrive

By BARBARA RUSK

I have been with the Grand River Community Métis council since its inception in March of 2007. I first served as the Women’s Representative on the Intergovernmenal Council, and now hold the position of President.

It has been a learning journey for all of us as we find out what our roles are, and get to know the area we represent along with our citizens. It’s been both fun and rewarding. I can only speak for myself, but I have had the good fortune of meeting wonderful people, and I am generating relationships that will carry on for many years to come.

On December 5th, 2009, we held our second pot luck feast. It was a huge success with over 70 citizens and families attending. We had great food, uplifting music, dancing and crafts. Oshawa President, Rob Pilon, was happy to teach the dancing; he’s definitely got the moves! And we found out that we have a talented fiddler in our community—what a hidden gem! We had no idea that the amazing young fiddler, Rajan, was amongst us, and he wowed us with his traditional fiddling. It was enjoyed by all.

We look forward to holding many more successful events, and to growing them to be as big as the events we’ve attended in Oshawa. Council sends out a special thank you to Rob Pilon and his council for their support and offer of traditional knowledge and cultural assistance. Thanks to all who attended and helped make this the most successful event we have had.

Cheers to a united cross Canada Métis Nation in 2010, the Year of the Métis!

Hiking Safety

By SHAWNA HANSEN

Spring has sprung, or at least in Sault Ste Marie it has, and many people are itching to get on local trails for some exercise after the winter months. Here are a few things to remember before hitting the trails this summer.

1. Always tell someone where you are going, what route you are taking and when you expect you back. Try your best to make it back on time.
2. Before you leave, check the weather forecast.
3. Make sure you know where you’re going. If you’re headed somewhere new, bring a map and compass (know how to use them).
4. Bring a friend, too.
5. Keep an eye on the weather. If you’re headed somewhere new, bring a map and compass (know how to use them).
6. Stay hydrated. You will sweat and you will need to drink water. Chilled tea or lemonade in a thermos is also nice.
7. Especially in the changing weather, keep warm and dry. If you stay dry, you’ll get clammy. Dress in layers so that you can shed layers if you become too warm.
8. Know your limits. Fatigue can set in quickly and that could be dangerous.

Hiking Safety

NORTH BAY: U.S. airmen lend helping hand to soup kitchen

By JACQUES LEROUX

The United States Air Force (USAF) donated their time and energy, as well as the use of a warming tent for those waiting outside the soup kitchen for a hot Christmas dinner. The Gathering Place can only sit 30 people, but those who waited their turn outside sipped hot chocolate in the tent and were well entertained by Steve Leroux who had set up speakers through which he played holiday music.

The US Air Force had connected with the soup kitchen in November when they were looking for a place to donate leftovers following the celebration of American Thanksgiving.
High profile for Métis at Olympics

Métis Dance Club perform at Olympic torch ceremonies

By NEIL TRUDEL

The Métis Dance Club of Algoma had the privilege and honour of performing at the Olympic Torch Ceremonies held in Sault Ste. Marie. They were the only local dancers and youth group that performed on this special occasion. The event was held at the Essar Centre on January 2, 2010, following a speech by well known local First Nation hockey player and coach, Ted Nolan. All 15 dancers plus their leaders Anne Buelke, Senator Brenda Powley and her grand-daughter Jeri Powley were on the Olympic Transport Stage.

The troupe was asked to perform for seven minutes—enough time for two great dances. The 15 dancers presented a warm-up, choreographed version of the Red River Jig danced to the music of the Métis Toe Tappers CD. This was followed by the Orange Blossom Special danced to Darren Lavallee’s version, from his CD, “Le Métis”. These dances not only provided clear examples of our distinctive Métis dance to the spectators, but also highlighted some of the dancers doing the “fancy step” part of the Red River Jig.

Attendance at the Olympic Torch Ceremonies was estimated at 8,000 to 9,000 people—a full house. The event was originally planned to take place outdoors but was moved indoors due to the cold weather. What an opportunity this provided the local Métis community to share our culture. The following announcement was made before the Métis Dance Club took the stage.

“One of the reasons the Métis Dance Club of Algoma encourages all people of all ages to enjoy their culture through Métis dance which consists of jigging to fiddle music in groups, squares and quadrilles. Some of the Métis who are performing tonight are direct descendents of the original employees, farmers and voyagers of the Hudson’s Bay Company. The Orange Blossom Special, a newer dance, relates to the Métis heritage and the influence of the train connecting our great Canadian nation. If your feet are cold, the group leaders encourage you to jig along.”

As the current Hudson’s Bay Company was one of the sponsors of the 2010 Olympic Winter Games, it was fitting that we perform in blue, white and red on the door stage. Anne sported the traditional Hudson’s Bay coat our Métis ancestors would have worn. She had won this coat in a fundraiser at the 2006 MNO Annual General Assembly held in Sault Ste. Marie. This coat was the inspiration for the youth dance attire which included warm black pants, matching hat and gloves with the Métis sash pin decorating the hats for all to see. In total, 17 blanket coats were made specifically for this event. Anne obtained the patterns and material and cut them out while Joan Duffour helped with her time and her serger sewing machine. These coats were made by the club to keep the cost down. This enabled all youth who wanted to participate to have outfits for future use in winter weather. Unfortunately, the cost of Hudson’s Bay blankets put them out of our reach.

Many hours of practice and preparation went into the group’s seven minutes of fame. The young Region 4 dancers come from both the Historic Sault Ste. Marie and the North Channel Métis councils; some youth travelled over an hour for practices in order to be part of the event. Councillors from both groups were in attendance giving us support and encouragement. The club greatly appreciates Trevor Zachary of the Essar Centre for his management and assistance on this special day. The Métis Dance Club continues to practice every second and fourth Saturday of the month at 2:00 PM at the Sault Métis Centre, Region 4 office. All are welcome to dance or watch and spend some time with the community.

Métis Dance Club

The Algoma Métis Dance Club

By Gary Lipinski

I would like to take this opportunity to add my voice to the chorus of congratulations heard across the country. Both the organizers and participants of the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Games are to be commended for an outstanding job. From the spectacular Opening Ceremony to the overall top excitement of the final goal in the gold medal hockey game, the Olympics served up equal offerings of great sports television and moments of national pride.

I am extremely pleased with the high profile role of the Métis, Inuit, and First Nations during that spectacular opening, when indigenous youth from across Canada danced for our great Canadian nation. If your feet are cold, the group leaders encourage you to jig along.”

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Several of the Métis participants came with capotes but couldn’t wear them during performance.

left to right: Kimber Palidwar, Daniel Oliver, Jenna McLeod, Rebekah Wilson and Bradley Brown. photo: K. Palidwar

**Jigging at the Olympics**

An historic coming together of Canada’s first people

by REBEKAH WILSON

I n late January, I had the opportunity of a lifetime. I was asked to represent the Métis Nation of Ontario at the 2010 Indigenous Youth Gathering in Vancouver. The not-so-secret focus of the gathering was to prepare indigenous youth from across Canada for a performance during the Opening Ceremony of the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Games. It was a life changing experience and it began in Ottawa when I spent the day working with resident capote expert Lisa Pigeau to sew my own capote (see page 17). I had no idea I was capable of making something so incredible and owe Lisa great gratitude for her guidance, patience and support.

The request was that we arrive with authentic traditional Métis clothing to wear during cultural activities and performance so in addition to the capote, I wore an Ojibway Strap Dress which was made by Ruth Quesnelle of Midland. Ruth was also the artist behind a capote and strap dress made for a new friend of mine, Jenna McLeod. I left for Vancouver on Saturday, January 30 and for two solid weeks I didn’t look back! I wasn’t too busy, however, to keep a daily journal.

I met many inspiring people including Michelle Jean, the Governor General of Canada; the first Aboriginal astronaut, John Herrington, the second Native American to win a gold medal in the Olympics, Billy Mills; Aboriginal pop singing sensation Inez; the winner of four awards at the 2009 Aboriginal People’s Choice Music Awards, Ontario’s own Crystal Shawanda, a rising country music star; and Dr. Euan Adams, a former actor who is now the Aboriginal Health Physician Advisor of British Columbia. The most inspiring people I met at the gathering, however, were my peers—people just like me who proved that together, we can change the world.

**Day 1: January 30, 2010**

I arrived at my accommodation late in the afternoon. I’m told there are many more youth expected to arrive late tonight and I’m nervous about meeting them. I have never been comfortable meeting new people but I know that the point of this whole gathering is to create connections and that’s what I plan to do. My first roommate has just arrived. Her name is Janell and she’s Métis from Winnipeg, MB.

**Day 2: January 31, 2010**

After spending a long day in planes and airports, I was so exhausted last night I slept until 8:00 PM. When I woke up, I found two new roommates had moved in. Kara is from Medicine Hat, AB and Colette, from right here in Vancouver, is the Director of Youth for the Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC). I’m glad that I decided to take this opportunity and continue to encourage myself to meet new people. It’s empowering and I feel like my memories have already been enriched by making new friends.

We attended an orientation lunch today at Totem Hall in the Squamish Valley where we are staying. It’s been raining since I arrived and I get the feeling this is a common occurrence. The trees are covered in brilliant green moss and a cloudy mist covers most of the mountain-tops in a way that takes your breath away. They call this land “supernatural”; that’s exactly what it feels like!

The speakers at our orientation lunch included the Chiefs of the Four Horse First Nations: Squamish, Musqueam, Lil’Wat and Tl’etinqwahtlahtulthu wetuwetin of the 2010 Olympics. As he began to sing, several others began to crowd around. Some shared stories while others danced or played along. Jeremiah and Dallas, two of the Métis participants, played a traditional song with a guitar and fiddle. Moments like this make me feel part of a bigger, national family.

Today was also the first day that we visited B.C. Place Stadium where we met our producer, David Atkins, our choreographer, Alejandro Ronceria, and our regalia coordinator, John Powell.

We were welcomed by the crew with open arms and they officially invited us into the Olympic family. They paid due respect to our elders who have been waiting for two solid weeks I didn’t look back! I wasn’t too busy, however, to keep a daily journal.

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Dancing for the ancestors, dancing for the world

by KRISTY CORBIERE

I would like to thank De Beers Canada for assisting me in my endeavours to attend the Vancouver 2010 Indigenous Youth Gathering. I left for Vancouver on January 30th and returned home on February 14th, 2010. During my two week stay in Vancouver, I worked with some world original performers in all of Olympic history. I also heard a remarkable Canadians that may get into the Guinness World Records as the longest performance in an Olympic opening ceremony!

While in Vancouver I had an opportunity to meet Olympic, Billy Mills, the only North American to win the 10,000 metre race (an Aboriginal from the U.S.). I also met the first Aboriginal astronaut, John B. Herrington, and sang for Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada.

"I was given the honour of performing the dance of my ancestors in the opening ceremonies"

Last, but not least, I was given the honour of performing the dance of my ancestors in the opening ceremonies. This is a day in my heart that I will never forget. It was so much more than dancing on the world stage for 65,000 spectators or even the 3.5 billion people watching on television. It was a chance for Aboriginal people to move from the many hardships that we have faced. February 12, 2010, was the day that we danced for the world, but more important, for our ancestors, for our grandparents and great grandparents, great aunts and uncles who were not allowed to dance or practice our culture. It was the day when our co-workers, our communities, friends, and families felt overwhelming pride for Native youth, it was also the day that our ancestors’ spirits danced beside us. Thank you for supporting me.

From page 15

...ing years to be accepted as we have been today. This is a world-wide change—not just local or national—international! As they say, go big or go home and we’re not going anywhere!

We’re told this vision for the opening ceremonies has been in the making for several years. “All of you in this room right now are the culmination of a dream for me,” said Mr. Atkin, who was also the director of the opening and closing ceremonies at the 2005 Olympics in Australia.

DAY 4: February 2, 2010

Today we received our official Vancouver 2010 “accreditation passes” which we will be required to wear around our necks for the remainder of our time here.

Then we travelled two hours to Whistler village where we visited the Squamish/Lil’Wat Cultural Centre. I learned today that the two tribes shared traditional land and instead of fighting over it, they agreed to share it. If only the rest of the world could do the same when faced with conflict!

We’re told the caterers usually provide pre-selected menus but for our gathering have agreed to serve us all the traditional foods our people would have eaten, like wild game, salmon and bannock. Tonight’s meal included dried salmon, venison and fried bread—a yummy!

Following supper, we were welcomed into the main area of the cultural centre where a representative of our sponsor Deloitte spoke to us about vision mapping. The activity he instructed us to participate in was terrifying for me: “Introduce yourself to four strangers and ask them the following questions,” he told us.

The questions were: “What’s your name? What’s your passion? What do you hope to get out of this gathering? And what would be your dream career?”

The first two strangers I spoke to approached me first as I froze in fear. Unexpectedly, it wasn’t that terrible. I approached two more strangers and introduced myself confidently, feeling my shy shell crumble as we spoke.

DAY 5: February 3, 2010

When I woke up this morning, I was feeling pensive and decided to go for a walk around the grounds. I found myself by the river side. The Squamish Valley is recognized as one of the most significant areas for wintering bald eagles in all of North America. On my walk, I saw two of the incredible birds perched in tall trees. It was quiet, with just the sound of water rushing like music to my ears. The forests surrounding the North Vancouver Outdoor School feel so old and full of the Old Spirit of First Nations elders protecting and watching over us. This was just the refreshing escape I needed to prepare for a busy day ahead.

We started our day with cultural on-site activities such as cedar and wool weaving. Many groups started their own recreational activities like soccer, volleyball, basketball, throwing frisbees, as well as music and story-telling by the fire.

At 11:30, we loaded onto buses and travelled into Vancouver, led by a police escort as they practiced for bringing in the athletes from around the globe. We waited in the stadium for some time, watching the busy workers put everything together. It was unbelievable to see all the hard work that goes into making a positive presentation to the world!

Today was the first day we have been waiting for. We finally put on our regalia! Our choreographer began teaching our routine for the athletes’ parade. Afterward, we are quickly then dressed in our regalia. It was incredible and breathtaking to see everyone in their colourful outfits.

Everything is starting to feel real now–while also still surreal.

We did use one final run-through of what we have learned so far in our regalia. Our performance in total will last about an hour and 15 minutes, the largest part of the opening ceremonies allocated for one group. After our first full rehearsal, the director was speechless.

They also let us in on a big secret today about the Canadian performers who will be on stage during our performance—Ryan Adams and Nelly Furtado! Mr. Atkins told us that when they approached Nelly Furtado about the performance she was excited to be part of the opening ceremonies and was even more ecstatic about her involvement when she learned she would be performing with all of us. How incredible!

DAY 6: February 4, 2010

Many of the Métis participants, while familiar with their culture and history, are not skilled jiggers. Luckily for us, one of our group members, Madeleine McCullum, is a pro! Today she set aside time to teach us the basics steps we would need to know in order to perform our best on the big night. It was interesting to see youth from other nations joining in as well, eager to learn more about our Métis traditions.

This brief lesson certainly paid off though. We received many compliments on how much we had improved and it can only get better from here.

Our rehearsal today was long and tiring. We did our first run through today with two other casts, the “athlete marshals” and the “audience leaders”. Members of the audience will receive a drum-shaped kit that will contain a drum stick, a flashlight, a mini-torch and a white poncho. The white poncho will make it easier for us to be seen projected into the audience and be seen from a distance, the drum stick will allow audience members to hang along during the Aboriginal performances and the lights will be used for other interactive purposes throughout the show.

During moments of free time today, many of the youth took time to get acquainted with each other. It is incredible to see how empowered our youth are, how inspired they are to make change in the world. Colette is the youth director for MNBC and expressed interest in creating a national youth conference to bring together all of the Métis youth across Canada. Alicia Allard, originally from Toronto but now living in Victoria BC, is living her dream as a youth/family counselor. Janell Melenchuk, born a Saskatchewan Métis, now calls Winnipeg home, and is currently studying Aboriginal self-govern-ment and hopes to learn more about indigenous culture.

DAY 7: February 5, 2010

After our long rehearsal day yesterday, our coordinators treated us to a day off and we were given four options for bus tours. Our choices included visiting Whistler and Blackcomb, the Museum of Anthropology at UBC, Grouse Mountain and the Capilano Suspension Bridge, or Stanley Park and the Vancouver Aquarium.

Several new friends and I opted for Whistler to see the torch relay and travel up the mountain in the gondola.

It was a nice break from rehearsals, long bus trips and jam-packed schedules to spend a day on our own. On our way to Whistler Village, we got the chance to see the hill which will be the ski-jumping venue. My new friends Sheila, Janell and I took a relaxing ride on the gondola and took time to reflect on our adventures so far. It’s great to meet such like-minded and motivated youth. These are the types of friendships that will last a lifetime!

Whistler held its community celebration today and we were overjoyed to be a part of it. Later in the evening, we made our way to the Cultural Centre to witness the opening ceremonies. It was interesting to think that in a week’s time it will have made its way to Vancouver to light the Olympic Cauldron and officially kick off the games!

DAY 8: February 6, 2010

We began our day with lunch at Kentzien Restaurant, a refreshing cuisine change. We were also treated to a performance by Inez, an award winning Aboriginal R&B singer from BC. It was a surprise to also find out that one of our fellow peers, Maddy, is Inez’s back-up dancer. Our group is just teeming with talent. Two of our other group members, Kathleen and Ann-Marie, performed a chilling throat-singing number and we observed a moment of silence for a young Aboriginal woman missing in Vancouver.

All of our rehearsals from now on will be conducted in full regalia. We are gearing up for our first dress rehearsal which will take place in front of 25,000 audience members. We are each entitled to four tickets for family members or friends interested in seeing the show before it airs on live TV. Unfortunately, I have no close relations here in Vancouver but I am still very excited about the performance.

continued next page
Day 9: February 7, 2010

Today was the first and only day aside from a short meeting and practice session with our choreographer, spent entirely at our accommodations. We were shuttled to a nearby high school in our nation groups. The choreographer talked to us about being proud of our traditions and our regalia despite the fact that it may not be as flashy or well-known as that of the First Nations and Inuit groups. It’s an honour that the Métis Nation is finally getting the respect and recognition it has been fighting for and deserves! As Alejandro would say to us, “you’ve got to be proud, you’ve got to be present and show up!”

I spent most of my day recharging, relaxing and reading. Being here is starting to feel like home and it is hard to believe that in just a week, I will be on my way back to Ottawa.

I also took the opportunity this evening to gather around the campfire with several of my fellow delegates. There was quite a crowd and several roaring performances. I’m sad that when I return home, I won’t be exposed to moments like this. Raw expressions of emotion and culture! As a child, I thought all Aboriginal music and dance was the same, but I have begun to recognize the differences between the regions.

The prairies, northwest and eastern First Nations all have unique traditions and I can’t wait to learn about all of them.

Day 10: February 8, 2010

Today is our first dress rehearsal. We have only two more performances after this, the second of which is the big show! I’m starting to get nervous but feel better after yesterday’s practice with Alejandro.

Last night, some new friends and I went to the Big House, a longhouse built for the North Vancouver Outdoor School where students can sit around a campfire to share music and stories. We are honoured to have been invited here. One young man talked about his plan to discover and preserve indigenous cultures around the world. Another young man talked about his experience so far, admitting that while he is sometimes loud and negative, he is glad to be here and cares for all of the other delegates as if they were his own family. We are all here to change the world but to do so we must first change ourselves and the way we see the world.

A Squamish elder sat by the campfire with us and conducted a spirit name ceremony. I was nervous as he approached me and asked my name: “Your spirit name is…” he began and paused as he called upon advice from his ancestors. “Teutchin’s”, he said, finally “The hummingbird.” Immediately after this, I borrowed a friend’s fiddle to look up the spiritual meaning of this choice and found it to mean one who achieves the impossible, one who savours the nectar of life and always sees the bright side of things. I’m a “glass is half full” kind of girl so this certainly sounds like me!

Day 11: February 9, 2010

Today we enjoyed a delicious catered lunch and listened to a presentation by BC Hydro. I expected it would be a presentation about their services and recruitment but instead it focussed more on leadership and our potential to be the leaders of tomorrow but also today. One of the speakers predicted that, much like the U.S. has just shown in its first African American president, Canada will one day soon have an Aboriginal Prime Minister. In fact, I believe that all of us in the room today will one day be leaders in one way or another!

I wish I could tell everyone more about this experience and what we’re doing because it’s so incredible and life changing. We’re sharing our culture with the entire world. Nothing like this has ever happened before. I’m going to the part of history in a big way!

Today has been an emotional day for me. It has been two years since the passing of my Uncle Dave and while I think of him often, I think of him especially today and have been increasingly during this experience. I think about how proud he would be of me. I also think about others I have lost, my aunt Marilyn, who learned of her Métis heritage a few years before she fell victim to cancer. I think of Bob, whose Métis roots showed proudly through his love of music, and my great-grandfather, Rudy Couture, who embraced his culture and ancestors like no one I had ever met, never turning down an opportunity to share his stories with family and friends.

Making my Métis capote

“At least have a photo that could be sent along with my application to attend the Indigenous Youth Gathering in Vancouver.”

I asked around and was directed to Lisa Pagou, a colleague known for her passion for culture. Lisa offered to bring in several pieces of her personal regalia so that I would at least have a photo that could be sent along with my application to attend the Indigenous Youth Gathering in Vancouver.

Lisa volunteered to spend one of her days off helping me to make my own capote.

One of the pieces was a Métis capote, a jacket made by Lisa herself from a Hudson’s Bay point blanket. Its colours were brilliant and it was unbelievably warm. As soon as I put it on, I felt like I was traveling through snow and skiing. I felt like a real Métis!

Lisa volunteered to spend one of her days off helping me to make my own capote. In the days leading up to its creation, I was full of uncertainty. There was no way I would be able to successfully single-handedly...
DAY 13: February 11, 2010
We boarded buses extra early this morning-6:00 A.M. Anticipation for the big day continues to build. The first event on today’s agenda was the 2010 Olympic Truce, Youth Forum Dialogue with Michelle Jean, Governor General of Canada at the Vancouver Public Library. It began with a few speakers, some performances and continued with an open forum about youth leadership and what needs to be done to allow indigenous and non-indigenous people to live in harmony. It was uplifting and inspiring.

We had the rest of the afternoon to explore downtown Vancouver. It is a beautiful city and it still amazes me to be downtown and have such a great view of the mountains.

Our evening event was the Power of Sport Gala at the Commodore Ballroom. We were treated to a wonderful catered meal, entertainment and motivational presentations. A representative of NT’s, an Aboriginal partnership with Nike, talked about their efforts to encourage healthy active lifestyles for future generations.

They also presented each of us with a pair of shoes unique to their partnership that will be officially released this summer. Some of the evening’s presenters included Four Host First Nations leader Teresa Stephen, Aboriginal gold medalist Billy Mills, our only uncertainty as we have never rehearsed with them. We’re excited about their arrival. It is surprising and humbling that they are equally excited to meet us.

Every night at rehearsal when I see it all come together little piece by little piece, I find myself becoming more emotional and more attached to the cause. I’ve always considered it important to preserve culture for future generations but I never imagined it could occur on such a large scale.

It’s almost show time. I can’t believe that this is the last time I will be performing in B.C. Place and the last time I will be wearing my regalia. It has been a tough whole experience, joy because we have experienced these two wonderful weeks with them only to be separated so abruptly.

It will be good to return home to my roots and to the people who mean so much to me, but I also feel as though a large part of me will remain in Squamish, in the valley, in those old trees and mountains and rivers.

These two weeks, full of unforgettable moments will be something I carry with me throughout the rest of my life. I can’t wait to tell my children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren about how I was part of this catalist, this momentous change in the world for all Aboriginal people.

A special thanks goes out to the Métis Nation of Ontario for supporting my involvement 100%, the Four Host First Nations for welcoming us to their land, VANOC, the City of Vancouver, our director David Atkins, our choreographer Alejandro Roncero, our regalia coordinator extraordinaire John Powell, our coordinators, North Vancouver OutDoor School (NVDSS) for graciously accommodating us with a place to stay and wonderful food, and most important our ancestors who I know, in spirit, were dancing right along with us that night, giving us the strength and power to change the world.

DAY 14: February 12, 2010
This is the big day. I didn’t sleep much last night—too excited about today’s events. I know it has been barely two weeks that we have been preparing for this but it feels like it took a lifetime for this moment to finally arrive and at the same time, as though no time has passed at all. It still doesn’t feel real that I am about to share my little piece of the world with the rest of the world, alongside $800+ of my new friends!

I bought a t-shirt to have signed by all of my new friends, to take a tangible piece of this memory with me. While we sit here in our dressing room, cheers in the hallway for the arriving athletes exhale us. Their part in the show is our only uncertainty as we have never rehearsed with them. We’re excited about their arrival. It is surprising and humbling that they are equally excited to meet us.

Every night at rehearsal when I see it all come together little piece by little piece, I find myself becoming more emotional and more attached to the cause. I’ve always considered it important to preserve culture for future generations but I never imagined it could occur on such a large scale.

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An innovative risk screening tool in early identification by police: Introducing the Youth Level of Service Inventory – Screening Version

**By LOUISE LOGUE**

T he Youth Criminal Justice Act is the federal law, implemented provincially in Canada, which provides the authority that police, and courts can do when a youth is found to have committed a criminal offense. All too often, police officers are left to their own discretion to determine whether a youth should be charged and brought before the formal justice system, (i.e. brought before a judge for sentencing). However, many youth found to be in conflict with the law are at low or moderate risk for committing criminal acts. Research findings reveal that these youth can be better served through a more community-based justice response, commonly referred to as community justice diversion programs. In order to assist police officers in determining which youth are good candidates for community-based justice efforts, the Youth Level of Service – Screening Version (YLS-CMI-SV) was developed.

The YLS-CMI-SV is intended to rapidly assess police officers or those assigned to work with youth, such as School Resource Officers, with a validated standardized tool to use when deciding what course of action to take in addressing a youth found to be in conflict with the law.

**BY COLLECTING INFORMATION, AN OFFICER BECOMES MORE AWARE OF THE YOUTH’S CONTEXTS & THE INDIVIDUAL, FAMILY, AND SOCIAL ENVIRONMENTAL RISK FACTORS.**

By collecting information, an officer becomes more aware of the youth offender’s individual circumstances and the individual, family, and social environmental risk factors that may be fueling his/her propensity towards criminal conduct.

The user-friendly, YLS-CMI-SV is a risk screening tool which was standardized through two and one half years of research and evaluation by Laurentian University’s renowned professor, Dr. Robert Hoge and then PhD candidate, now graduate, Dr. Jeniffer Van De Ven in 2001. The research phase in the development of this standardized instrument took place at the Ottawa Police Service (OPS).

Its application operates on the concept of early identification by police: Introducing the Youth Level of Service Inventory – Screening Version

**The concept of early identification**

The concept of early identification took place at the Ottawa Police Service with renowned professor, Dr. Robert Hoge and then PhD candidate, now graduate, Dr. Jeniffer Van De Ven in 2001. The research phase in the development of this standardized instrument took place at the Ottawa Police Service (OPS).

**Our Stories**

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**A little piece of me**

**by LESLEY MAGAR**

T here is something special about our ancestry; something that some of us carry close to our hearts, and some of us have all but forgotten, but in all cases, these are the things that shape us, help to fuel who we are, and who we’ve become. “Métis” is a word that for some people lacks definition. There are people who think you have to be a certain type or amount of “Métis” to be Métis. Then there are others who are happy just to share the heritage, and enjoy the culture.

I come from a mixed family. My father is First Nations, and my mother was raised in a wonderful French/Native and Irish family. Although it was never spoken about, we all knew there was Native blood in us, and heard stories of the past, stories that always held me in awe when my Memere chose to share them with us.

I’m proud of where I come from. Proud of what makes me who I am, and proud of all my family has done to be who they are. Whether some people would describe my blood line as “Métis” or not, in my heart I am and always will be.

I grew up listening and dancing to my Pepere playing the fiddle, Memere in the background cording on the guitar, lots of songs, laughter and love were shared.

I want to share some of my upbringing, some of where my family has been. So I asked my mother to tell me some of the memories that she has of growing up, of her Memere and Pepere and of the stories they told her.

I didn’t know whether these stories would be about us being Métis or not. The application to the Métis Nation of Ontario for registration has only just been made, but in the end these stories are about our past, where we have been and what we know.

My mother sent me the following letter and I want to share that with you now, and I do hope that you enjoy it.

“The word ‘Métis’ was never used in our family when I was growing up. We always knew we had Algonquin roots, as my grand-mother’s ancestors were from Maniwaki and surrounding villages. It wasn’t until well into adulthood, did I learn that our ancestry was from the reservation and was called ‘Kitigan Zibi’.

“Not much was known of my grandfather, as he was an Irish orphan, brought up by his ‘Eng- lish speaking’ aunt and uncle. All of the immigrants adapted well to the French/Native community, and by the time my grandparents met, they fell in love and the lan- guage barrier proved no problem for them.”

“My Pepere (grand-pere) ended up living in lumber camps. Years later, when I lis- tened to stories, I wondered how he survived and didn’t get swall- owed up beneath those logs! The life of those men on the “drave” was perilous as well as back breaking! They had big families and lived solely off the land in those days. The men were gone for months at a time work- ing, leaving the women and chil- dren to fend for themselves deep in the wilderness. They coped well using all the resources at hand for survival. In the summer they grew their vegetables, which were to be their main staple through the winter months. These were stored under a trap door beneath the kitchen floor of the house. They would hunt and smoke meats at times, but mostly their diet was quite vegetarian. Listening to them share stories, it was quite evident that the hard- ships they told of, were in no way complaints and that the happi- ness simply shone through the memories they relived in their minds! They were poor, but rich in love! While visiting relatives as a child, my parents would point continued page 20

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**Employment & Training Programs for Métis People Across Ontario**

Métis Nation of Ontario Employment & Training offers education, employment and training services and support to Métis people across Ontario

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**For more information please contact**

500 Old St. Patrick St., Ottawa, ON
Tel: 613-798-1483 or 1-601-393-4339
Fax: 613-722-4225
www.metisnation.org

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**Great Lakes | Mno Region 7**

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**Youth & the Justice System**

A little piece of me

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RECURRING EVENTS
Line Dancing every Monday at 1:00 PM. Grey-Owen Sound Métis Office, 590-9th St. East, Owen Sound (downstairs).


Weekly bootcamp every Thursday at 10:00 A.M. Grey-Owen Sound Métis Office, 590-9th St. East, Owen Sound (downstairs).

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FISH FRY
Volunteers and helpers needed for proposed fish fry. canoe race event on July 17th and 18th, 2010. Call 519-370-0435 now and get involved.

O’zogoshaagah (RAY OF LIGHT) GATHERING SLATED FOR OCTOBER
by Linda Boyle
The “Restoring the Circle” Committee was formed in May, 2008, in response to the national Truth and Reconciliation process and the call for communities to provide events. The first gathering, “Maandigh”, was held in the fall of 2009. Another gathering will be held at the Harry Lumley Bayshore Community Centre in Owen Sound on Monday, October 25 and Tuesday, October 26, 2010.

The impact of residential schools on our communities and individuals and the loss of aboriginal family, culture and identity and how it affects all of us will be shared at the gathering. Please keep these dates in mind and we look forward to seeing you then.

LOCAL MÉTIS MAN SURVIVES HAITI EARTQHAKE
Bob Thornley, son of Allan Thornley and brother of Liz St. Pierre of our community, worked with a Haitian Christian ministry and was there when the recent earthquake struck. Apparently things were slowly returning to order. Although there remains a lot of uncertainty with what been in done each day. Bob is able again to contribute to a blog on the website: www.downinhaiti.ca. If you select his blog (upper left corner) it will take you to his updates which really give you a feel for what is going on in your community and to assist you in becoming more involved. This is a great tool to keep in touch with upcoming events, training initiatives, news, Métis information and links to other sites of interest, stories (local and distant), etc. Feel free to submit ideas and stories that can benefit the Métis community.

Call 519-370-0435 to post your upcoming event.

LANDS, RESOURCES AND CONSULTATION
Pauine Saulnier reports that Moon River Métis Council, Georgian Bay Métis Council, Great Lakes Métis Council, and the MNO have been keeping the Land Resource and Consultation staff quite busy.

Consultations have dealt with nuclear waste, storage of radioactive waste, plant treatment, aggregate, hydro, wind power projects, landfill site, forestry, and road allowances.

Another interesting turn is a few Pauline said that she was honoured to be part of such a dedicated group who takes the Métis way of life so seriously and devotes its time freely to the good of the cause.

GREAT LAKES MÉTIS COUNCIL NEWS
Be sure to visit our new website at www.greatlakesvoyageurs.com and our online archive: http://aussu.to/tooang5y

The web site will make it easier for council to keep you informed about what is going on in your community and to assist you in becoming more involved. All will be kept in touch with upcoming events, training initiatives, news, Métis information and links to other sites of interest, stories (local and distant), etc. Feel free to submit ideas and stories that can benefit the Métis community.

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COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN MARCH
By Jeff Wilson
The Annual General Meeting was held on March 14th, 2010, at 1:00 PM, followed by a potluck meal. This meeting determined the name of the newly amalgamated community. Many adventures await our community in the near future. Do not worry, on the contrary, we are going to work towards the goal of the community in 1.8MW wind turbine being on line in 2012. This, with the renewable hydro projects, will ensure a sustainable future for the community.

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The event was a strategic planning session for the Métis Nation of Ontario, Lands, Resources and Consultation (LRC) and Intergovernmental Relations branches to update delegates on “duty to consult and accommodate” activities to date, to review best practices and to plan for 2011. (See page 4 for more.)

In his opening remarks, Presi dent Gary Lipinski spoke briefly on the work that had been done by the LRC Branch in the seven months since its inception, focusing on ongoing, duty to consult and accommodate activities and making reference to the Governor General’s five modules to develop capacity at the community level.

LRC Director, Melanie Paradis, elaborated on the work currently being done by her branch in consultation with the Regional Protocol Consultation units and industry partners like Hydro One, Ontario Power Generation (OPG), Quebec Water Resource Management Organization (NWMO) and the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) to name a few. She also talked about progress on capacity building at the community level and some of the traditional knowledge studies currently underway.

Following her update, Paradis invited Métis lawyer Jason Madd en to provide an overview of court cases related to Métis rights across the country, including the Miskanaw case using harvesting as an example, said that if Métis rights are to be recognized, those rights must be borne out in law. According to Madden, MNO’s success in the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) congratulated the MNO for the way inter- nal capacity within the MNO has increased. He said that the rela- tionship between the MNO and the OPA may have gotten off to a rocky start, but it has evolved and he is confident that a long-term relationship benefiting both parties will result. Hay went on to say that things move quickly in the energy sector and OPA is committed to engaging Métis have the tools to take advantage of upcoming opportunities. In her presentation, Donna Pawlowski of Ontario Power Generation (OPG) mentioned recent information sharing sessions with the Oshawa and Northumberland County Communities and stated that the result is increased sensitivity among OPG staff to be on the lookout for evidence of indigenous cultures that some- times come to light during proj- ect development. Pawlowski spoke of the positive working relation- ship that has developed between OPG and MNO and noted the high level of interest from Métis on procurement and employ- ment opportunities with OPG.

A family remembers Dohlie

A family remembers Dohlie

from page 13

fact. Dohlie had handcrafted a beautiful Christmas ornament and it was hung on the Tree of Remembrance at the Gaertner Family Funeral home in Kapuskasing in 2009.

Dohlie is mostly remembered as an outgoing, friendly, generous and having a broad perspective, treat- ing everyone equally. Dohlie was considerate; her mother remembers how she sat and cried when she realized that children in foster care were not allowed to eat lunch and she even volunteered to go with- out food for a week to feed a hun- gry child. Dohlie was very close to her family being “little mom” to her brother Quincy: “All for one and one for all,” best describes the bond between Dohlie and her sisters Hillary and Tiphany, breakfast in bed was one of the many ways Dohlie expressed her love for her dad. Cooking entire meals, keeping the house clean and sleeping with her mom expressed the deep love only a mother and daughter can experi- ence. Dohlie’s love for the family and that of her extended family was always very helpful. There is so much more that could be shared, evidence that she was loved.

She never had a chance to soar

by ROSE THRONES with help from CLARICE WILCOX

I am only a child. At this time last year, our daughter Whitney (Dohlie) Van Der Woude was missing. She was 15 years old. On June 2, 2010, we filed a missing person’s report with the Sudbury Police. It was through perseverance that we managed to get action on the case. We started with our own search and began placing “miss- ing” posters throughout the city. It wasn’t until local television-Sudbury CTV-aired Dohlie’s story and we were looking for her, that any productive action was taken. We are very grateful to the police and reporters for how they dug in and looked for her. We also wish to thank all the families and friends who searched and pro- vided support throughout.

A white banner, between May 30 and June 2, Dohlie’s remains were found in the vicinity of Moon Lake. A Canada-wide war- rant was placed for the arrest of Kostes Lavalée and a 17 year old male that could not be named. Sometime later the two accused were arrested in Quebec and were brought to Sudbury. This was and is still a terrible ordeal for our family. We are waiting for the court to proceed. After a three month wait for Dohlie’s remains, that were being held at Laurentian Univer- sity, we finally had her brought back to our hometown of Kapuskas- sing. A funeral was held for Dohlie on September 1, 2010, in Kapuskasing. We intend to place the headstone on her resting place in time for Dohlie’s 17th birthday on June 12.

We have had a long struggle with the loss of a young woman who could have led a productive and adventurous life; she never even had the chance to soar here on Earth. We find solace in knowing that Dohlie is in a joy- ful, special place; but at times, such as special occasions, we feel the loss. However, it is com- forting to know that sometimes we had the good times and come beyond this life. We are looking forward to seeing what Dohlie’s life was like as you turn your 17th birthday with Jesus be a joyous one; we will remember your life with love.

We ask for your support and prayers as we go through the court procedures. Our hearts and minds will be coping with a lot of pain at this time. Thank you for your support.
TIMMINS | MÉTIS SENIORS PROGRAM

Timmins Métis seniors share and socialize

By LOUISE CLOUTIER

The Métis Nation of Ontario has received funding from Health Canada through the New Horizons for Seniors program. Timmins was fortunate to be among the 13 communities who participated in this project.

The project was called “Ndotan” which means “I come forth.” An anticipated objectives, activities and outcome of this project were to encourage interaction between Aboriginal seniors to reduce isolation. “Isolation is a complex phenomenon, with different meanings for seniors to reduce isolation because it can lead to depression, grief, anxiety, health problems, alcohol and drug use, and suicide.”

Continuing to be involved in activities that enhance the mind, soul and spirit is the main goal of this project. By reducing isolation, the Aboriginal seniors and clients in the Timmins community were able to engage in activities such as quilting, knitting, and crocheting. Timmins began this gathering on January 14, 2010, and has had weekly sessions, which will be ongoing. The expected outcome of this project was for the seniors to socialize and to share their knowledge and skills with each other. The benefits which the clients and the Aboriginal seniors obtained from this project were the chance to meet new friends, a boost of self-esteem and self-confidence, motivation to try new tasks, and to have the satisfaction of being part of a learning circle.

Participants were asked in a post evaluation to summarize their experience and the results exceeded our expectations. In general, participants found the workshop to be participative, interesting, sharing, well presented, and stated that it was an enjoyable outing. The seniors involved, as well as the workers and volunteers have enjoyed their experiences and continue to look forward to the workshop every Thursday.

Louise Cloutier is the MNO’s Long Term Care Coordinator in Timmins, ON.

KENORA | MÉTIS SENIORS PROGRAM

Métis Warmth & Wellness gives to community

By CYNDY LALIBERTE

We are happy to say that our group is still functioning and donating to the Kenora community. Last July 22, 2009, we celebrated our one year anniversary. During the summer months we took part in the July 1st celebrations in Keewatin, participated in the farmers’ market four times and held a fall sale in Oct’09.

We are proud to be networking with Ontario Works, and have donated items to those in need in the community and made our way into the school system. It was through our networking with the OPP community that we received a referral from the child care programs at Cameron Bay Nursery and Lakewood School. Our group also has made items for our local hospital’s Chemother-apy and Dialysis Unit. Patients have expressed their thanks for chemo hats, lap blankets, slacks and slippers.

We have sent items to Sioux Lookout schools and our name is being recognized in the community. Our group was interviewed by a reporter from our local TV station and the coverage we received made us all feel proud of what we are doing. After the broadcast we received many donations of wool and added a few more members to our “knit at home” group.

We continue to strive to network with other organizations. To date our group has helped 214 people and we hope to keep adding to our numbers. We thank all those who have been so very supportive of our group.

The Happy Knitters of the Kenora Métis Warmth & Wellness Group.

For further information please contact Wendy Langlais @ 807-548-4289 or Cyndy Laliberte @ 807-547-2770 or cyroil@knets.ca.
Thank you for taking the time to read this wonderful presentation. This program has been successful over the last year at addressing some of the needs of our community regarding domestic violence. We were able to meet bi-weekly, provide childcare, transportation and a great meal as well as give the women a chance to socialize, tell their stories and meet new community members. The program was called “Mino Angoodiwin Noojimnum Tenegak.”

During the last year we provided the families with education, awareness, tools and skills that we hope will last a lifetime. The program allowed children of all ages to attend, and at times it was challenging, but nevertheless rewarding. This program enabled the MNO to offer services through the Aboriginal Healthy Baby Children and Community Wellness programs and workers enjoyed meeting new families and hearing their stories. We became a part of family routine two Thursdays a month from 5:00-8:00 PM.

To end the year and thank the families for all their hard work and accomplishments the program planned a three-day retreat with a family dinner and dance at the Water Tower Inn. Our hope is that everyone will find an outlet that they have for special occasions, pick out a comfortable pair of shoes and come out to enjoy a night filled with food, humour and friends and music.

The Aboriginal Healthy Baby Children worker wishes all the families the best and looks forward to a great end of thing. Baa maa pin!”

**The Place for teen parents and “mommas-to-be”**

**Bancroft Bible Chapel** 
Monday from 9:30 to 12:30

**Weekly topics:**
- Prenatal Health
- Personal well being
- Child development
- Parenting tips
- Nutrition
- Breastfeeding

For additional information call
Tammy Hoover: 613-332-2575 ext.24 or tammyh@metisnation.org
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**Fun Facts**
- **Calcium** is found in milk, cheese, and broccoli.
- **Vitamins** can be found in fruits and vegetables.
- **Fats** can be found in nuts, seeds, and avocados.

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**Small gestures and self-worth**

**By Sandra Morgan**

Small gestures and self-worth by Sandra Morgan

The vast majority of women don’t get enough calcium, which is vital for bone health and to prevent osteoporosis, a condition that affects one in four Canadian women over 50.

The human body can’t create calcium on its own, so it’s vital to get the recommended amount each day. Dietary sources such as canned sardines or sardines with the bones are the best sources. Calcium is also found in foods like spinach, and other foods, but it is not as readily absorbed.

Although supplements are another option, food sources are always the best choice.

Women aged 19-50 should consume about 1 mg of calcium per day; and nursing or pregnant women should be getting 1,500 mg a day.

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**New & Used Instruments**
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**Upcoming in Sudbury**

**By DALE XILON**

We’ve made it through another long winter. As spring approaches we look forward to the time of renewal and growth. The Sudbury Health staff would like to take time to “grow” our community participation by reminding people of our Sudbury Métis Council website (www.sudburymetis.org) or South Sault.

We are working on becoming more diligent about updating the site. We are also compiling a list of groups that would like to be notified via email of up-coming Métis community events. To be included on this list please send email to Dale@metisitation.org (please include “Event Notification” as the subject line).

Below is a short list of upcoming events and workshops—times and locations have yet to be determined:

**Local school teachings**

*Target date of April (AHBHC and CW)*

In this culture-based workshop workers will share their knowledge of the history of the Métis people, significance of our sash, flag and symbols with youth. As well, a cultural craft will be completed.

**Diabetes information Session**

*Target date of May (All health branch staff)*

The goal of this event will be to inform and educate Métis and other interested participants about the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle with regard to diabetes, while living in a rural community. We hope to include an instructor from the Diabetes Association and other wellness-based community leaders from the Webn wood area at this day event.

**Proper Nutrition/Cause and Effect Series**

*Target date of June (All health branch staff)*

All will be invited out to take part in this series of four workshops.

- The first workshop will be a presentation on the importance of proper nutrition, and brain storming session on how to achieve proper nutrition on a budget.
- The second will focus on “life mapping” talking about life when the majority of food and exercise is not purchased. We will talk about the size of the nuclear family has changed the way we eat and how we look at eating (from married to widowed or living alone, or single to family) and tips that may be used to make this transition easier.
- The third session will focus on creating a nutritious meal / menu plan x 2, based on what is on sale in fyers (one meal will be cooked and shared as an evening meal, the other will be packaged individually for participants to take home, based on the number of participants).
- The fourth will be a cooking and sharing celebration.

As always, we look forward to “growing” our community, to be strong, healthy and together.

Dale Xilon is the MNH Health branch’s Aboriginal Healthy Babies Healthy Children Coordinator in Sudbury.

**It’s happening in Renfrew**

**By SHANNON DAVIS**

On February 3, 2010, the Renfrew County Health Unit hosted a Pilates class afterward. Several of the participants were teenage girls who said they had enjoyed themselves. We would like to give a special thanks to Russel Borden from Bonnechere Manor who instructed the class.

The employees would like to give a big welcome to Chantal Couplak our new co-op student from Everest College. Chantal specialized in the Addiction—Community service worker program. She has been observing the Métis culture, traditions, health and wellness presentations. Chantal has learnt about what the centre has to offer the community around her. She has become familiar with the surrounding service agencies that work together in the Renfrew County area helping families.

In the months ahead we look forward to offering the community a chance to participate in our cultural based activities and presentations.

Shannon Davis is the MNO Health branch’s Community Wellness Coordinator in Renfrew, ON.

**Regain control of your life**

**By ERNEST MATTON**

Problem gambling can strain your relationships, interfere with responsibilities at home and work, and lead to financial catastrophe. You may even find yourself in serious trouble if you would, like stealing to get money to gamble or pay your gambling debts.

You may think you can’t stop, but problem gambling and gambling addiction are treatable. If you’re ready to admit you have a problem and seek help, you can overcome your gambling problem and regain control of your life.

**UNDERSTANDING GAMBLING ADDICTION & PROBLEM GAMBLING**

Gambling addiction, also known as “compulsive gambling,” is a type of impulse-control disorder. Compulsive gamblers can’t control the impulse to gamble, even when they know they’re gambling against themselves or their loved ones. Gambling is all they can think about and all they want to do, no matter the consequences. Compulsive gamblers keep gambling whether they’re up or down, broke or flush, happy or depressed. Even when they know the odds are against them, even when they can’t afford to lose, people with a gambling addiction can’t “stay off the law.”

Gamblers can have a problem, however, without being totally out of control. Long before an addiction has fully developed, gambling can have a negative impact. Problem gambling is any gambling behaviour that disrupts your life. If you’re preoccupied with gambling, spending more and more time and money on it, chasing losses, or gambling despite serious consequences, you have a gambling problem.

There are two types ofcompulsive gambling—gamblers and gamblers. While their behaviours are similar, they gamble for very different reasons. Action gamblers are addicted to the thrill of risk-taking. Gambling itself is their “drug.” They usually gamble with others, since part of the rush is beating the house or other gamblers. Action gamblers usually prefer games of skill, such as card games, craps, and blackjack. They may also play the stock market.

Escape gamblers gamble to escape emotional pain, worries, and loneliness. Rather than gambling to feel a rush, they gamble to feel numb. Escape gamblers prefer more isolated activities such as slot machines, bingo, and online poker. They also prefer games that don’t require much thought, so they can “zone out.”

If you have any comments, questions or suggestions please write me. For more information, or to book an appointment please call (705) 533-1579. In upcoming articles I will talk about how to build and maintain healthy relationships, parent/guardian role, signs of addiction, and specific workshops that I will be conducting in the near future.

Ernest Matton provides this column free-of-charge. He is an Addictions Behavioural Specialist with international certification as a drug and alcohol counsellor.
Dr. Brenda Macdougall inaugurated as Chair of Métis Studies at UOttawa

Dr. Brenda Macdougall was inaugurated as Chair of Métis Studies at the University of Ottawa. At a reception that afternoon, hosted by UOttawa’s Institute of Canadian Studies, Dr. Macdougall shared her plans to attract students to both undergraduate and graduate courses. The intention is to establish the “Métis Family Research Centre.” Dr. Macdougall was named to the “Chair” in late 2009 and joined the faculty at UOttawa on January 1, 2010. Métis Nation of Ontario Chair, Francine Picotte, said, “To date Dr. Macdougall’s work has been rooted in Métis families and Métis communities. She and her students can build on the methodologies she’s developed to unearth the untold stories of Ontario Métis and to help all Canadians come to a better understanding of the significant role of Métis in building our province.”

Some of Dr. Macdougall’s research is captured in her recently released book, “One of the Family,” which explores Métis culture in 19th century north-western Saskatchewan.

New Minister committed to growing existing relationship with MNO

On Monday, March 15, 2010, the newly appointed Minister of Education Leona Dombrowsky dropped by the MNO head office in Ottawa to express her desire to continue to build on the positive relationship that had blossomed under former Minister Kathleen Wynne.

“The Métis in Ontario have benefited greatly from engagement in a collaborative process that will result in an inclusive education system that addresses the needs of all learners including Métis, Inuit and First Nations,” Métis Nation of Ontario President Gary Lipinski said. “I am confident that, under Minister Dombrowsky’s leadership, the MNO and the Ministry of Education can work together to ensure the vision articulated in the MOU signed last summer is realized.”

Last year, Education became the first Ontario government Ministry to sign on to the 2008 MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement. MNO Chair France Picotte says by signing the MOU the Ministry of Education demonstrated its confidence in the ability of the Métis to contribute, not only to an education system that serves all learners, but to the overall quality of life in the province.

Monday’s meeting concluded with a commitment by both the MNO and the Ministry of Education to complete the 2010 Work Plan and to continue efforts to identify potential partnership opportunities.

MICHIF

Happy to be learning Michif

chant’assez fier d’apprendre le Michif

A few years ago the Voyageur included a Michif word or phrase in every issue. With the assistance of the Michif Committee we are pleased to re-introduce this feature.

“Happy to be learning Michif”, “chant’assez fier d’apprendre le Michif” will present a Michif word or expression in every edition.

Can you guess the meaning?

The word is “contente.” The English translation is inverted below:

If you would like to contribute, ask a question, or provide a synonym write to chris@metisnation.org

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New book links land, family & Métis identity

In recent years there has been growing interest in identifying the social and cultural attributes that define the Métis as a distinct people. In this path-breaking study, Brenda Macdougall employs the concept of wahkootowin - the Cree term for a worldview that privileges family and values interconnectedness - to trace the emergence of a Métis community in northern Saskatchewan.

Wahkootowin describes how relationships worked and helps to explain how the Métis negotiated with local economic and religious institutions while nurturing a society that emphasized family obligation and responsibility. This innovative exploration of the birth of Métis identity offers a model for future research and discussion.

Dr. Brenda Macdougall is the current Chair of Métis Studies at the University of Ottawa.

“The central concept that underlies this important new book is wahkootowin, a worldview linking land, family, and identity in one interconnected web of being.” This original and richly researched work follows four generations of widely connected Métis families in the Île à la Crosse region, illuminating their lives and histories as concrete expressions of this powerful organizing principle learned from their Aboriginal mothers and grandmothers.”

— Jennifer S.H. Brown, Director Centre for Rupert’s Land Studies, University of Winnipeg

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MÉTIS STUDIES:

One of the Family: Métis Culture in Nineteenth-Century Northwestern Saskatchewan

By Brenda Macdougall

The Métis in Ontario have benefited greatly from engagement in a collaborative process that will result in an inclusive education system that addresses the needs of all learners including Métis, Inuit and First Nations.” Métis Nation of Ontario President Gary Lipinski said. “I am confident that, under Minister Dom-
Painter exhibits in T.O.

Renowned Métis artist, Timothy Mohan, whose work was featured at the Midland Huronia and Penetangoshene Centennial Museum last year, is scheduled to exhibit later this year at the Grey Roots Museum.

Presently, the InterContinental Toronto Centre—one of Toronto’s leading luxury hotels located in the heart of the entertainment and financial districts—is partnering with Mohan in showcasing his stunning original work in the Grand Lobby Gallery of the hotel.

“I just can’t express how pleased I am to have this beautifully designed, magnificently located hotel interested enough in my work that they have agreed to showcase it on their walls and allow prospective buyers the opportunity to add one of my paintings to their private collections. It’s a real honour that has already given me new inspiration, new direction,” Mohan said.

Tim Mohan is far from being an unknown artist. In fact, over the years, his paintings have been used to promote products, stage solo exhibitions and to help non-profit organizations like Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and the Big Brothers/Big Sisters organization. In 2004 and 2006 his artwork and designs were incorporated into the now nationally famous Linda Lundstrom ‘La Parka’ clothing series.

Although financial gain has never been at the top of his priority list, Mohan, like everyone else, would like to earn a living from his work. He hopes that partnering with the InterContinental will help make that happen. “I appreciate the opportunity to share my visions, my work, my talent,” Mohan said.

The InterContinental Toronto Centre is located at 225 Front Street West, the site of the former Crown Plaza. Timothy Mohan’s painting will be on display at least until the end of the G20 Conference in June.

Prayer

by Raymond D. Tremblay

Look, the neighbouring lake is completely calm! There is not a ripple to be seen by the naked eye; only total peacefulness, total heavenly bliss and graceful beauty craving to be enjoyed by those who wish to accept its invitation. It is no wonder that you feel drawn to the majestic lake and deeply moved by its calmness. It was as if you were being cleansed by its exquisite beauty and crystal-clear essence.

As the lake is calming, so is prayer. As the lake is heavenly bliss, so is prayer. Prayer helps us to realize that the Divine Spirit is very alive within our total being. It is our Creator’s way of keeping in touch with each and everyone of us. It’s as if God is the One praying.

Prayer! Moments of venerable words being expressed. Moments of precious silence and sacred stillness. Simply spirits keeping in touch.

My Childhood Memories

By Laurette Marion

For many years in thoughts and dreams, I’ve gone back to Porcupine, to the mining town where I grew up, amongst the towering, northern pine, to the tranquil birch, to the hills and fields, to the lake where I fished and swam, to the precious image of long-lost friends, and the carefree, childhood times.

Then at this point my dream would end, and with a start I’d realize, the things that I had visualized, were seen only from my eyes. I embraced and treasured the few memories left, of the place so dear to me. The longing to return could have justly been termed, “sentimental loyalty”.

I thought my dream would never come true, that my old home I’d never see. Then to my surprise I was going back, but this time in reality. Mixed emotions clutched my heart, my head roared like the humming of bees, for if after all these years, what if naught remained, of my childhood memories?

We drove for miles, each taking me nearer, to the place I longed to see. My heart was full, and behind my eyes, tears seemed to be blinding me. Then all at once, a feeling unknown, did gently my heart entwine, and I knew right then, I’d arrived at last, in my beloved Porcupine.

I closed my eyes and silently prayed, “Dear God, please let there be, a familiar face or a familiar sight, if it asks not too much of thee.”

We headed towards my home, called “Cosy Corner”. Standing proudly on Hunter’s Hill, when we reached the top, I stared in awe, for here, time had stood still.

In a sudden wind I seemed to hear a voice that greeted me, “Welcome child,” it said, “you’re home at last, I’ve preserved this spot for thee. This is your treasured town’s reward, For your ‘sentimental loyalty’.”

Fish in our lake, walk our paths and streets, Many a familiar face you’ll see, and though I gave you no gift from my heart of gold, Nor wealth from my towering trees, I give you instead, unspoiled, unchanged, your childhood memories.”
On the Bridge
Trenton area Métis pay respects on the Highway of Heroes

by KATHY BAZLEY

On Monday afternoon, February 15th, I was on my way home when I heard on the local radio that there would be another repatriation ceremony taking place in Trenton and another Canadian soldier would be making the journey along the Highway of Heroes later that afternoon.

Everyone was encouraged to support this soldier and his family by being on the bridges and overpasses to pay our respects. My husband and I immediately headed for the bridge over County Road 45 in Cobourg, parked and joined other people who were almost there.

It was with great pride that I saw many Canadian flags, Legion flags, Soldier flags all being held up by the people there. It was quiet—much quieter than I thought it would be. I had assumed that people would chat, but everyone seemed focused on waiting for the cavalcade.

It was very heartening to see the response from the people in cars, trucks and transport trailers. As they drove under the bridge they honked their horns, rolled down their windows and waved to us. The lady next to me finally turned and smiled at me and quietly asked if it was my first time on the bridge and I said “yes” because most times when the police escort cars go by, her family were going by I was at work and not able to attend. She then asked if I had someone in the family in the military. I proudly told her that my father was a recently deceased Métis veteran of WWII and that I also had a nephew who was a soldier and had had a tour of duty in Afghanistan. He had made it home safely but was shortly heading back for another tour. She quietly told me she had a son who had been on five missions, had been injured and sent home and was now coping with post traumatic stress. Her sadness was easy to see in her eyes and I told her that at least he had made it home alive. At that time, a soft buzz emanated from person to person advising that the cavalcade of cars was on its way. Everyone straightened up, all flags came to attention as did all the people.

There was complete silence. First we saw the flashing lights as the police escort cars came into view, then the car with the family appeared and they were kind enough to roll down the windows and wave to us. Finally the hearse happened, but it had, and as I turned to look behind me with tears in my eyes, the cars were making their way to the next bridge in Cobourg and those people on that bridge waited in respect and admiration for someone who had made the ultimate sacrifice for people he didn’t even know but had wanted to help.

To the day my father died, he was always a very proud veteran and expected that all of us children would respect anyone who had served for his or her country in any of the wars. On Monday, February 15th I felt that I was living up to my father’s expectation as I waited on that bridge in silence and respect.

The only regret I had is that I did not have the Métis flag with me but the next time I am able to be on the bridge, I’ll be sure to bring the flag so our fallen soldier and his/her family will know that the Métis citizens of Ontario also respect what they do.

Kathy Bazy is the Secretary of the Northumberland Métis Council.

CANADIAN ARMY VETERANS

Métis veteran continues to serve

by LINDA LORD

Métis veteran, Tim Majovsky, served Canada for 26 years, retiring in 2000. He joined the “CAV” in 2006 and goes by the road name of “Badger”. Tim is the members’ coordinator for the Vimy Unit.

“We are Canadian Army Veterans (C.A.V.), a national brotherhood of Canadian Army, Air Force and Navy veterans who are motorcycle enthusiasts. We volunteered and earned Canadian Forces qualifications; we served in regiments, on bases and ships in Canada and overseas. Now we volunteer mounted on motorcycles across Canada, supporting each other and our communities in charity rides and events. Our membership also includes actively serving military personnel and civilian supporters.”

“Members gather in units named to honour Canadian battles. The “CAV/VAC” ride as Canadian veteran motorcyclists, gaining strength and fellowship. Our “mission” is to provide our members with a “unit” that continues to serve our country, our communities and each other. We are not a gang, or a club. We are a “brotherhood” of Canadian Army veterans. We are united on motorcycles of all different types. There are other military veterans’ organizations and we support them, but we stand alone united under our connection to all military motorcyclists, past and present.”

“We maintain the values of our uniformed service: integrity, legitimacy, honour, strength and duty to our community. Ours is an honourable veterans’ organization. The physical hardship we endured, the mental discipline we needed to conquer obstacles has made us stronger, smarter and uniquely qualified to continue serving our communities and country. We hope to keep alive the bonds formed during our military service.”

Since the Canadian Army Veterans (C.A.V/)Cavac Motorcycle Units were started in 2005, they have assisted, and continue to assist numerous charities in achieving their monetary goals. Charity Event Riding and Community Support Events are an integral part of CAV/VAC. No one has to participate in these events, but there are always those willing to assist international, national and local charities.

There are some charities, such as ICROSS (International Community for the Relief of Suffering & Starvation) and the Ronay Staces Centre for Veterans Care that the CAV/VAC supports directly with all the monies raised going directly to these charities.

“The national CAV/VAC rendezvous in Kenora is the first long weekend of August. It is an annual event that begins with members arriving from across Canada - raising funds for the world’s poorest people–lately we’ve seen the purchase of a blood analysis machine and then an x-ray machine for Africa, next feeding facilities and renewed vision for the poor and blind of Madagascar.”

The CAV/VAC also assists other events such as the “Red Ride” (Red Rides include the Support for Barbaras and “Support for Dad” (fighting prostate cancer) by providing volunteers and participating in the rides.

“Vimy Unit of 1st CAV will host their annual Motorcycle Show at the Thompson Drill Hall at CFB Kingston, the 1st and 2nd of May, 2010, in support of its chosen charities: ICROSS, The Military Blind Children’s Fund, Hart School of Smiles and Fisher House, where families of our wounded soldiers stay while visiting their sons or daughters.”

right: Tim Majovsky is a member of the Seven Rivers Métis Council.
Back to Batoche Bus Tour

What better way to commemorate this important year than to make the trek to Batoche? Thousands of Métis citizens from across the country will be meeting on this, the 125th anniversary of the Métis Resistance and the Battle of Batoche, to celebrate their common history, rich culture and colourful heritage.

This is going to be an unforgettable experience!

We’ll be travelling across the country through many Métis communities, including a full day in Winnipeg to visit a number of important sites such as the St. Boniface Museum and the gravesite of Louis Riel. There will be four full days in and around Batoche, checking out the community as well as the Métis Museum in Duck Lake, the historic Fort Carlton, and Wanuskewin Museum in Saskatoon. As all of these details are worked out, further updates will follow.

Note: Bus will be departing and returning to Oshawa, however, arrangements can be made to pick people up and drop them off enroute. Details of the route will be made available within the next few weeks. There are limited seats on the bus, so book your spot early! Please indicate your interest in joining us by sending us the following information by reply email:

CONTACT
Rob Pilon
Tel: 905-725-1635
wpilon5188@rogers.com

IMPORTANT DATES:
Departure from Oshawa:
Saturday, July 17th, 2010 morning
Return to Oshawa:
Tuesday, July 27th, 2010 evening

COST ESTIMATES:
BUS:
$480/person (Note: price may increase dependent upon gasoline prices, estimate 20% cushion)

HOTEL:
$650/person - double occupancy
$1180/person - single occupancy
(Estimate for 10 nights)

Note: this price is an estimate based upon negotiated prices for the Travelodge in Saskatoon where we will be staying for five nights. Hotel costs on the way there and back will vary so please take this into consideration. While in Saskatchewan you may also opt to camp at Batoche, reducing hotel costs by five nights. Full payment is due by May 1st. You will also need to reserve your Saskatoon hotel room with a credit card by the May 1st deadline.

Specialization & Access Programs
Department of Indigenous Learning (IL)
Native Nurses Entry Program (NNEP)
Native Access Program (NAP)

Aboriginal Education
Honours Bachelor of Education (Aboriginal Education) (HBEd)
Native Teacher Education Program (NTEP)
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