TO PLAY OR NOT TO PLAY
CASINOS AND MEGA-BINGOS ARE EVERYWHERE THESE DAYS.
IT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER TO GAMBLE RESPONSIBLY.
Friends and Colleagues! I am writing to let you all know that yes—the rumour is true! As of November 12th, 2007, I have been seconded to the RCMP for my OPS emails regularly, so please stay in touch.

I will keep some of my work assignments at ops, including my Board of Director work with Wabano and Minwaashin, the Ottawa Community Youth Diversion Program and a few others.

CONTACT: Ph: 613-940-0030 louise.logue@rcmp-grc.gc.ca

Richard and his little Aussie granddaughter

Congratulations to Richard Sarrazin and his wife Monique who became proud first-time grandparents of a beautiful Métis baby girl on January 5th. Baby Anastasia Melanie Rypstra, was born at 12:11 P.M. in Perth, Western Australia. She weighed 9.3 pounds (4.2kg) and was 22 inches (56cm) long. Best wishes to parents Melanie Monique Sarrazin-Rypstra and Benjamin James Rypstra.

Eva Delena Wynoch
1916-2007

Eva Wynoch of Tobermory passed away peacefully at her family home on Monday, October 29th, 2007.

The former Eva Delena Granville, in her 91st year, was the loving wife of the late Dan Wynoch (’01) and Pat Wilson (’44). She was the devoted mother of Goldie and her husband Clayton Mellhausen, of m2 Lion’s Head; Patsy and her husband Dale McArthur, of Port Elgin, Romayne Wilson and her wife Marie, of Tobermory; and Gur and her husband Barry Thorn, of Hope Bay.

Eva will be forever remembered by her 14 grandchildren and several great-grandchildren. She is sadly missed by her daughter-in-law Larwen Wilson, of Port Dover and her many nieces, nephews and friends. She was predeceased by her son John (’55), 4 brothers, 2 sisters, and her parents Joseph and Lydia.

A private family service was held at the Thomas C. Whitcroft Funeral Home & Chapel, Sauble Beach on November 1, 2007. In living memory of Eva a maple tree will be planted by the Thomas C. Whitcroft Funeral Home & Chapel.
OTTAWA—The Honourable Donna Cansfield, Ontario Minister of Natural Resources, toured the 1,000 head office on December 19th, 2007. This was the first time that a Minister of Natural Resources has met with the MNO at its headquarters in that sense it was an historic occasion.

The Minister was briefed on MNO structure, concerns and issues from our perspective. One purpose of the meeting was to provide the Minister with a better understanding of who we—the Métis Nation of Ontario—are, the basis of our rights, and the obligations of governments. Minister Cansfield was briefed on MNO structure, communities and how Métis people go about their daily lives—what is important to them, from the preservation of their livelihoods to the preservation of the environment. The Minister was given a tour of the MNO Registry and informed of our many interests including our interest in natural resources, not just those relating to enforcement issues.

The objective was to encourage Minister Cansfield and her officials to think “outside the box”. This was an important opportunity to provide the Minister a personal understanding of MNO issues and concerns from our perspective.

President Belcourt said: “I see these briefing sessions as key to our setting a positive agenda for going forward and to obtaining her commitment to follow through with us in the manner that is required of her and the ‘honour of the crown’.”

In attendance at the briefing were MNO Chair and Deputy Chief Pete Lefebvre; MNO Legal Advisor, Jason Madden; and, MNO Senior Policy Advisor, Hank Rowlinson.

MNO helps Health Minister launch winter activity program in Huntsville

January 22/08 -- The Honourable Tony Clement, Minister of Health, with ParticipACTION celebrated the launch of WinterActive 2008 by leading a group of local community residents and grade school students in a snowshoe relay race at Deerhurst Resort in Huntsville, Ontario. The event was kicked off with a demonstration of a traditional Métis activity by Tony Belcourt, President of the Métis Nation of Ontario.

“The Métis Nation of Ontario takes a holistic approach to health and understands fully that physical activity is fundamental to sustaining the emotional, spiritual aspect of our overall health,” said Mr. Belcourt.

“The MNO encourages a lifestyle for our people which includes physical activity as that has been part of our very existence through voyeurets and fur trade to today. We commended Minister Clement for launching the 2008 WinterActive program and will certainly promote it amongst our people and in our communities.”

— excerpted from Public Health Agency of Canada Press Release

MNO President Tony Belcourt (right) leads Minister of Natural Resources, the Hon. Donna Cansfield (second from right) through the Registry.

Minister Visits MNO

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is very pleased with the report by Statistics Canada that pegs the number of Métis in Ontario at a level consistent with self-identification estimates. Statistics Canada recorded the highest increase in Canada’s Aboriginal population among the Métis in Ontario, 73,605 of whom self-identified as Métis.

Although Métis represent 33% of the overall Aboriginal population in Canada, only a small percentage of government funding goes to Métis. As an example, the Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Strategy, which is delivered by the Ontario Provincial Government, has an annual budget of $480M but allocates only 3.35% of this funding to the Métis Nation of Ontario. Furthermore, the Métis do not receive any funds from the Federal Indian and Inuit Affairs Branch whose budget is exclusively for Status Indians and Inuit.

The Métis represent 33% of the overall Aboriginal population in Canada, however ... Métis do not receive funding from the federal or provincial governments that are proportionate to the statistics.

MNO President, Tony Belcourt, said: “The Métis Nation of Ontario is not advocating that the funds set aside for First Nations be diverted to the Métis people. We are, however, calling upon both federal and provincial governments to fulfil Canada’s constitutional obligations to all of the Aboriginal peoples of this country including the Métis.

This latest Census Canada data points to glaring discrepancies in funding and we call on both levels of government to rectify the situation. Clearly there are not enough funds set aside to address the needs of our people.”

continued page 4

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Moon River Métis Council’s Lisa McCron (left), Tony Belcourt, MNO President (centre) and Health Minister Tony Clement (right) during a snowshoeing demonstration at Deerhurst Resort.

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MNO helps Health Minister launch winter activity program in Huntsville
S
outhampton Métis fisher-
man Jim McLay on Friday
finally got back gig nets
that conservation officers
seized more than two years ago.

But neither the apology the Saugeen Ojibway Nation (SON) of Canada ruling on a Sault Ste.
Marie case which effectively extended Métis rights to sus-
tainance and ceremonial hunting.

But Gibson said the agreement only affected Métis hunting
rights in traditional territories north of the French River. Those
rights did not extend to southern Ontario until after a judge ruled
last June 1 that ministry officials should honour the agree-
ment throughout the province.

McLay said the June ruling
proves he was doing nothing
wrong when conservation offi-
cers seized his gear. He said he
was fishing for his own consump-
tion and for ceremonial food, which was to be served to about
100 people, at the Saugeen Ojibway Nation annual fall bar-
quay. “I feel that I deserve an apolo-
gy,” he said. “Those fish weren’t
just for myself, they were for our
citizens, children and elders.”

McLay was never charged with
any offence, but said he has not
fished in over two years because
ministry staff threatened to also
seize his boat.

The main point of today is
that I did nothing wrong and I
want my children to know that,”
McLay said before his nets were
returned. “I’m not getting off on
a technicality. I didn’t find a loop-
hole, I did nothing wrong, I was
acting completely within the
agreement that the Métis Nation of Ontario had with the Ministry
of National Resources.”

Earlier Friday, Gibson said in
a telephone interview the officers
were responding to complaints from local First Nation commer-
cial fishermen about illegal gig netting within their quota area.

The officers seized from McLay a half-mile of gig net, enough
to catch 2,000 pounds of whitefish in a day under favourable condi-
tions.

At the time the Métis agree-
ment with the ministry did not extend to southern Ontario and the
enforcement officers also doubt-
ied McLay was fishing for his own purposes.

McLay said he has thought about his fishing gear everyday for
the almost 800 days since it
was seized. He also said he
expects different treatment now
that the law is clarified. He said
he has nothing to hide and offered
to let conservation
officers know ahead of time if he
plans to fish.

“This is not an end, it’s a begin-
ing,” he said. “And what I hope
does is convince the min-
istry to stop what I essentially
through some of our heads.

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We need Métis history & culture books
The Niagara Region Métis Council has formed a com-
mittee to create a small library and reading area in the
lounge of their council office. The
lounge has an area that would
be perfect for this purpose.

This council is hoping that individual or other estab-
lished councils will be able to help by donating books on
Métis history and culture. When the
library project is successful, the
council hopes to create a liter-
ary program for citizens in the
future. Any donations may be
sent to:

The CENSUS ENUMERATED
85,500 Métis in Alberta
62,2% of the tot.
68% of Aboriginal pop.

73,605 Métis in Ontario
15% of the tot.
66% of Aboriginal pop.

71,805 Métis in Manitoba
18% of the tot.
64% of Aboriginal pop.

59,445 Métis in British Columbia
16% of the tot.
61% of Aboriginal pop.

48,115 Métis in Saskatchewan
13% of the tot.
60% of Aboriginal pop.

1,345 who spoke Ojibway, anoth-
er language, compared with 9% of
people aged 45 to 64. Less than
75 years and over were able to
converse in an Aboriginal lan-
guage, compared with 9% of
people aged 65 to 74, and 6% of
people aged 45 to 64. Less than
3% of Métis aged 44 and under
spoke an Aboriginal language.

The most commonly spoken
Aboriginal language among
Métis is Cree. In 2006, 9,360 Métis
could converse in an Aborginal
language, which compares with 1,620 who spoke Dene, an Athabaskan
language, 1,444 who spoke Ojibway, anoth-
er Aboriginal language and fewer
than 1,000 who spoke other Algo-
rqian languages, including
Michif. Michif is the traditional
language of the Métis which evolved from the intermingling of
Cree and French languages.
**Niagara Métis honour Riel**

*by Senator Stephen Quinnell*  
*Niagara Region Métis Council*

On November 16, 2007, the Niagara Region Métis Council raised the Métis flag at Welland City Hall in honour of Louis Riel. Welland Mayor, Damian Goulbourne and Councillors, Rick Alakas and Sandy O’Dell were in attendance on an exciting day for the Métis of the Niagara Region.

We were able to accomplish this within six weeks thanks to the help of Patricia Le jouat and Jane Brennan at the 3eso Head Office. We wish to express our thanks and great appreciation to these two ladies, without whose help we would not have received the flag in time.

The Niagara Region Métis interim council was formed on October 27, 2007, out of the former Welland Métis Council, so that we can all be seen as one community. We would like to thank Gary Lipinski, 3eso Chair, France Picotte, 3eso Co-Chair and Hank Rowlinson, 3eso Senior Policy Analyst for coming to Welland to help with the organizing and installation of the new council. I would also like to express my sincere thanks to Senator Berta Gorden for all her wise counsel and encouragement. What would we do without her?

We are settling into our new offices, thanks to Glen Lipinski, who is graciously sharing some of his space with our council and we are now looking forward to an exciting year of new purpose and endeavour to draw the Niagara Region Métis people together.

The blue infinity of the Métis flag flies over Welland City Hall.

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**Flying Colours**

*by Senator André Bosse*

A gain this year I had the great privilege of carrying the Métis flag during Grand Entry at the Toronto Aboriginal Festival at the Roger’s Centre in Toronto. The Toronto Pow Wow is the largest Aboriginal gathering in the province and I feel it is imperative that the 3eso be represented there. How are we to prove to the Government of Ontario that there are Métis in Ontario, specifically in the south, if there are none at this most public venue. The 3eso has been in court for years now trying to prove that there are Métis in southern Ontario and I feel that when there are no Métis at gatherings like this it makes the case harder to prove. And, there are government representatives at the gathering. I coincidentally shared a lunch table with a woman from the new Ontario Ministry for Aboriginal Affairs. She was there in an unofficial capacity, she had brought her son to see the festivities. In 2006, Karen Gellman, Toronto Co-ordinator of Aboriginal Healthy Babies Healthy Children, and I were the only Métis in the Grand Entry. In 2007 Karen and I were joined by Anthony Tempelier, Gregory Bloom, and Devin Eby. This is a very poor showing for a nation of thousands of people. I realise that the 3eso is under severe monetary restrictions. Therefore, I am hoping that individuals would find it possible to finance their own trip, especially people who live a few hours drive from Toronto. Admission to the stadium is $10.00, and I am worth the expense even if for the thrill of seeing the “Drones” from the playing field. The Pow Wow is held the last weekend in November, and details can be obtained at their website. I hope to see you there in 2008.

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**Windsor’s renewed Council**

*by Jim Turner*  
*Windsor/Essex/Kent MC*

Up of the Métis chapeau to all the new councils in Ontario and my hope that we can all work together to make the Métis Nation stronger. Without volunteers, organizations such as ours would not be able to run efficiently, so kudos to all.

This new council has a vision to be the best one that Windsor can put together. We have imagination and take inspiration from one another as if we were family. We invite our community to call any of us with problems or maybe just to attend a meeting to see what’s going on. As with any new council there are some bumps in the road, but slow and easy wins the race and we take one thing at a time so as not to be overwhelmed.

We are also working in conjunction with First Nations people in the area to make this coming year’s Aboriginal celebration a great success. As far as I know now, we are planning on having 2000 people attend the festivities, and we are going to make it an international event as well. If everything goes as planned it will be the biggest one in the area, and of course anyone that reads this newspaper is invited. The details are now being ironed out and we will put our efforts into making this weekend a memorable occasion. Camping facilities will be available for this two-day powwow style event. It will be held at a gorgeous park down on the Detroit River in the west end of Windsor in the historic area of OHLIE SANDWICH TOWN. We know it will be worth the drive and there are plenty of places to stay if you wish to take in both days.

For all the details please call our office at 519-948-9908.

Jim Turner is President of the Windsor/Essex/Kent Community Métis Council. He can reached at ctturner@y59w00n.com.
MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

A Very Good Year
HIGHLIGHTS OF 2007
INCLUDE CHARTER SIGNING
FOR NEW GRAND RIVER
COMMUNITY MÉTIS COUNCIL

BY BARBARA WHITE

2007 was a great year for the Métis citizens of the Grand River community area. We held our first meeting, with over 30 Métis citizens in attendance, on March 31, 2007, at the Doon campus of Conestoga College in Kitchener. An interim council was formed at this successful meeting. The interim council held several meetings in 2007. It was at these meetings that we had the opportunity to learn how council meetings were to be conducted. We also had an opportunity to meet and learn from fellow Métis citizens. Eric (Captain of the Hunt for Region 9) and Anne Scofield attended our first meeting, and presented us with an official Métis flag and a talking feather. At another meeting, Acting Regional Employment and Training Co-ordinator, Kathleen Lannigan, from Hamilton showed us how to smudge. We were graciously invited to attend a Hamilton council meeting, where we were afforded the opportunity to meet with members of the Hamilton Council. They have taught us so much that we can share with our fellow citizens.

To cap off a year of firsts, we signed our official Charter Agreement on October 29, 2007. It was a tremendously proud day for all of us in the area. MNO President, Tony Belcourt; PCMNO Chair, Gary Lipinski; and MNO Co-Chair, Francine Picotte were in attendance for this momentous event. The dignitaries shared interesting Métis and soo history, traditions, accomplishments, and details of what the soo is currently working on. We were also fortunate to have the attendance and support of local dignitaries: Waterloo Mayor, Brenda Halloran, and Federal MP Andrew Telegdi. Although the interim council held several meetings in 2007, it was at these meetings that we had the opportunity to learn how council meetings were to be conducted. We also had an opportunity to meet and learn from fellow Métis citizens. Eric (Captain of the Hunt for Region 9) and Anne Scofield attended our first meeting, and presented us with an official Métis flag and a talking feather. At another meeting, Acting Regional Employment and Training Co-ordinator, Kathleen Lannigan, from Hamilton showed us how to smudge. We were graciously invited to attend a Hamilton council meeting, where we were afforded the opportunity to meet with members of the Hamilton Council. They have taught us so much that we can share with our fellow citizens.

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COUNCIL CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING VOLUNTEERS (ALL INTERIM POSITIONS):

Ruth Robbins: President
Mark Courtepatte: Chair
Sandy O’Brien: Sec/Treasurer
Don Crawford: Senator
Barbara White: Women’s Rep
Sean Paquette: Councillor
Linda Giesler: Councillor
Carol Levai: Councillor

Kitchener Mayor, Carl Zehr, was unable to attend, he sent a letter of support. While we enjoy learning the history of our forefathers, the Métis citizens of this area have embarked on making history of their own. Part of that history will be the Grand River Community Métis Council (Cacc) will hold its first election in 2008. We are aiming for April. We will be electing Métis citizens for the above mentioned interim positions. We look forward to as many of our Métis citizens as possible participating in this event.

In closing, the Grand River Community Métis Council would like to thank the many Grand River citizens who made contact with us before we had a chance to make contact with them, and we invite all Métis interested in becoming members of our local community to contact us. If we have not contacted you and you are part of Grand River area please email interim President Ruth at: ruthrobbins@rogers.com and she will be sure to respond. We thank the Métis Nation of Ontario, and all of its citizens who have supported us in our quest for a council.

Barbara White is the interim Women’s Rep for the Niagara Region Métis Council.

Strengthening Families for the Future in the Soo

BY KAREN POSSAMAI


Intended for families who are dealing with addictions and/or other issues, the program intends to reduce risk factors and enhance protective factors. It started in October, 2007 and will run until May, 2008. To begin with, parents, children and facilitators meet and share a meal or snack. The families and facilitators also make a component of the meal together to create a relaxed and open atmosphere. The sessions are broken into two one-hour sessions with facilitators to lead separate sessions for children and adults during the first hour. Next, the parents and children come back together for the family session during the second hour. In the family session, by sharing information, they discuss what they learned. The facilitators are available to open up discussion and answer any questions or concerns. At the time of writing, we have completed session one and have had exceptional attendance of between 35 and 47 individuals.

Those who attend are always looking forward to the next session and to learning new techniques for positive reinforcement in parenting, anger management skills and communication.


I would also like to thank Ontario Works for their support and dedication to making it possible for Strengthening Families to have continual success! If you would like more information on this program or know a family that you think might be interested in registering, please contact:

Karen Possamai
Co-ordinator
Historic Sault Ste. Marie MC
26 Queen Street East
Sault Ste. Marie, ON, P6A 1Y3
Ph: 705-254-1768
mno-scm@shaw.ca
The Oshawa Métis Council was honoured that we were once again part of the Cannington Dogsled Races for the third time. Thanks to Chris and Larry O'Connor who generously sponsored the Oshawa Métis Council.

This event was held on February 24, 2007, at McLeod Park in Cannington. The Oshawa Métis Council did the annual smudging at the start of this event that attracted mushers from all over Ontario as well as from the US. Over 4,000 people attended this non-stop action event.

MÉTIS HERITAGE CELEBRATION

The Council also hosted a Métis Heritage Celebration in Brooklin, on June 23, 2007. Thanks to “Celebrate Canada” for their sponsorship of this event. There were Métis games, displays and demonstrations of traditional leather work, beadwork, bannock making, fiddling and a fiddle display by Senator Ruth Wagner-Millington of the Métis Nation of Ontario; a dramatization of Louis Riel’s wife’s life by Amy White; Trapper Bob; a jigging workshop and performance by Lawrence “Teddy Boy” Houle; jigging contest, silent auction and a 50/50 draw. There were also Native and Métis tales and legends, the Shwa Drummers of Oshawa, a potluck dinner, and much more. This was a fun event through which the Oshawa Métis Council was able to expose over 500 family, friends and the general public to the Métis culture and history.

Special thanks to all our volunteers, especially the women who organised the potluck dinner; Cecilie Wagar who organised this event and to the MNO, for making this event possible.

MÉTIS FLAG--OSHAWA CITY HALL

The Oshawa Métis Council also raised the Métis flag on November 16, 2007, at Oshawa City Hall in honour of Louis Riel, to remember his contribution to the people of Canada. About 30 people attended this non-stop action event.

MÉTIS HOLIDAY POTLUCK

The Oshawa Métis Council held its 3rd Annual Métis Holiday Gathering and Potluck Get-Together over the Christmas holidays on December 29, 2007. We had an evening of good food, conversation, and some Métis dancing and music. Although we had a bigger hall than last year, with over 100 people in attendance, we have again outgrown the hall.

Thanks to all those who attended our get together and all the volunteers who made this event, enjoyable.

The flag raising ceremony where Mayor John Gray proclaimed this day to be “Louis Riel Day in Oshawa”. Our flag flew proudly that day and for the next two weeks. Louis Riel Day is now an annual event here in Oshawa.

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Bigger hall next year!
Métis Voyageur

**Métis Nation of Ontario Registry undergoing automation which will greatly reduce time to process applications**

**BY KAROLE DEMOY-BEECKETT**

MNO Registry

Please note, regular Registry activities are being reduced considerably in order to complete the digitisation of citizenship files. As a result, for the next two months, telephone inquiries will be directed to our voicemail and only urgent calls will be returned within 48 hours. This project is the first phase—and a very important component—of the Registration Automation Initiative and the creation of a genealogical documents archive. Although it will take two years to complete these initiatives, the result will be worth it; the time required to process applications will be reduced by 75%.

Our goal is to have the resources to assist our applicants with research for supporting documentation.

We apologise for the delay and inconvenience this will cause to citizens and applicants. The Registry team expresses its sincere gratitude thanks to the Métis community for your patience and understanding in this time of intense activity.

**Walking sticks**

**BY GAETAN LEROUX**

I t all started with a family reunion that was held in Cornwall last year for the Leroux family (See the fall 2007 edition of the Voyeur). My oldest son, Kevin, was able to take part in the three-day weekend ceremony and made it a special day for me. My youngest son however, was in South Korea on a teaching contract and not able to attend. Keith returned home about two weeks after the great reunion.

During our meeting our cousin, Senator Jacques Leroux, provided us with many articles pertaining to the Métis people, among them was a walking stick. I believe that my oldest son Kevin must have mentioned it to his younger brother Keith. No sooner said than Keith went to work on carving me my very own walking stick (with over 100 hours of craftsmanship) and presented it to me at Christmas (2007).

I was amazed at the details and research he put into it and would like to share it with others. I hope these pictures will do it justice. In the meantime I have applied to the site and am waiting to get my two sons and myself approved for citizenship.

**Walking sticks carved from a birch branch by Keith Leroux.**

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**Genealogy**

**TO GAIN SOME INSIGHT INTO WHAT JEAN BAPTISTE WENT THROUGH . . . WE DECIDED TO TRY TO RETRACE HIS STEPS TO NEW FRANCE.**

BY SENATOR JOSEPH POITRAS

ONASIS METIS COUNCIL

I over the last few years I’ve developed an interest in my family genealogy. Thinking back, I believe my interest was sparked by the Métis Nation of Ontario tracing my Métis bloodline. Before that I did not have a great deal of interest in my family history. The only paternal ancestors I could easily name at the time of my application for MNO citizenship, without doing some tracing myself, were my father and my grandfather.

My brother, who lives in Winnipeg, provided me with some family background information that he got from the Manitoba Métis Federation (1993). The information obtained through our really fuelled my curiosity. The sour records showed that my original European ancestor, Jean Baptiste Poitras, was born in the Clisson/Cugand France area circa 1614. He was also the only Poitras to migrate to New France.

With information found on my computer I discovered that every Poitras in North America has a common ancestor and that is Jean Baptiste Poitras. The more information I gathered the more it seemed that Jean Baptiste was a relative of more recent vintage than someone was born in the 1600s. I don’t know why I felt especially connected to him, knowing he migrated to New France in the mid 1600s, a very long time ago.

I discovered that Jean Baptiste managed quite well in New France. He is referred to as “bourgeoise”. He was married twice and had 27 children. Given that kind of start, small wonder that there are so many people who share my surname in North America. Regardless of the many Poitrass there are in North America, I’ve only known my immediate family.

My wife, Elsa, reluctantly decided to sell her business which she loved so much and retire in early November, 2007. We occasionally talked about going to the Clisson/Cugand area of France to see if we could find any trace of my European ancestors. Elsa’s retirement was the springboard we needed to help us decide that this would be a good time in our lives to go to France to see what we could find there of the Poitras family.

Neither of us was optimistic; we would find much Poitras information in Clisson/Cugand. We had little expectation of finding cemetery records, which we knew could be helpful. We were told that in France a burial plot usually belongs to the family of the deceased for 50 years. That kind of information made it easy for us to believe that our search would lead us nowhere. We decided to go there regardless of the expected outcome; enjoy our trip, and not be overly concerned about the probable lack of a positive result to our search.

In order to gain some insight into what Jean Baptiste went through to get to the new world, and believing that some insight would be all that we would come away with from our trip, we decided to try to retrace his steps to New France. We included visiting La Rochelle in our plans. We wanted to see the seaport from which this teenager sailed to the new world. We would then go on to Italy for the rest of our trip.

The most accessible mode of transport in France is the railway. We went from Paris to Nante, via train then took a commuter train from Nante to Clisson. Just as an aside Nante is a very beautiful city in the Loire Valley of approximately 200,000 citizens. Although it’s larger it reminded me of Quebec City.

Cugand and Clisson are about three miles apart. A very helpful young lady in the tourist bureau in Clisson suggested we start our search in Cugand, which is the smaller of these two neighbouring small cities. In addition, because of developments in the history of that part of France Cugand would more likely have the records we were looking for if in fact some records existed. She suggested we start our search at Cugand City Hall, which this young lady said than Keith went to work on carving me my very own walking stick (with over 100 hours of craftsmanship) and presented it to me at Christmas (2007).

I was amazed at the details and research he put into it and would like to share it with others. I hope these pictures will do it justice. In the meantime I have applied to the site and am waiting to get my two sons and myself approved for citizenship.
The duties, beliefs and experiences of a Métis Elder

by Senator Gordon Calder

Sunset Country Métis Council

I first joined the Métis cause in the fall of 1994 and have been involved as a Senator and a volunteer for the Sunset Country Métis out of Port Frances ever since. I wish to tell everyone that we not only lose our immediate family, but help out our different government programs and work with other health programs and committees, such as the United Native Friendship Centre, Seven Generations (Education Institute), designed to provide for the education and training needs of Aboriginal people in the Rainy Lake area, and the healthy food box program which is a project to help everyone eat green veggies and fruit. We started with 46 boxes but that has grown to 500. At the Métis Hall at 714 Armit Avenue about 30 volunteers pack the boxes. For $20 a month you get approximately $50 worth of bananas, oranges, apples, cantaloupe, celery, etc. (See below for more info.)

We help out with the Fun in the Sun activities (an annual festival including Mall Days, Teddy Bear Picnic, Canada Day Parade, Queen & Mini-Queen Pageants, Fireworks, Horsehoe Tournaments, Pie Sales, Fish n’ Chips, Food Booths, Children’s Activities, Bathtub Races, and much more) and the Sunset Country’s Métis Fish Fry at the world famous bass tournament, and we ran the July 1st and Labour Day horse show tournaments. We also help out with Relay for Life. “Relay for Life” is a 12-hour event running from 7 p.m. on a Friday until 7 a.m. on Saturday, in which teams of pledged participants take turns walking a course. All proceeds go to the Canadian Cancer Society.

Life is what you make yourself out of and it can be very satisfying. I myself have coached junior hockey for 35 years and helped send four boys to the NHL and six to college hockey in the States where some have stayed to coach their college teams.

Life’s been good to me. The Lord blessed me with five girls and three boys who produced 14 grandchildren and several great grandchildren. We elders do our share to help the world.

Gordon Calder is the Senator for the Sunset Country Métis Council.

Thank you Gordon!

by Linda Lord

A good health comes in a box

PARTNERSHIP ENCOURAGES HEALTHIER EATING HABITS IN FORT FRANCES AREA

Good health comes in a box

by Linda Lord

T his program began over a year ago as a partnership between the Northwestern Health Unit and Sunset Country Métis in an effort to create healthier eating patterns among local residents.

“We saw the need for such a program in the area and decided this was the way to go about it. (It) promotes healthy food consumption,” said Arnie-Marie Armstrong, health educator for the Sunset Country Métis.

On the first Wednesday of the month, anyone who wants to purchase a “healthy living food box” must drop off $20 at the Sunset Country Métis office at 426 Victoria Avenue. Then, on the third Wednesday of the month the box is ready for pick-up at the Métis Hall.

Each box contains in-season fruits and vegetables, as well as whole grain products, canned foods, and basic healthy items. The types of foods change each month to offer variety. Basic items, such as potatoes, carrots, onions, apples, bananas, and oranges, are usually included each month. Participants may even request recipe ideas and shopping guides (just ask when placing your order).

The entire $20 goes directly toward the food purchases which actually cost more than that. The extra cost is covered by corporate sponsorships. “We’ve had a lot of support from some really great people and groups in our community, and we work extremely hard to put the boxes together,” Armstrong noted.

Volunteers hand fill the boxes with fresh produce, from a local distributor, and get them ready for pick-up. Anyone can participate in the program which is open to the public and designed to benefit every household.

It is ideal for people who find it difficult to get enough fruit and vegetables in their diet, or to get out to shop for groceries. The program helps ensure that families have healthy food items in their kitchen cupboards every month.

The items in the box can provide meals for a family of four with only a few added ingredients and “people don’t have to order a box every month if they don’t want to,” said Armstrong. “The idea is to get people to plan ahead and think about healthy diets.”

Thank you Gordon!

by Senator Ruth Wagner

Métis Senators

What it means to be a Senator

Citizens of the world may wonder what the role of a Senator is. As they all know, we meet separately for our own meetings at the AGA. We are available for our individual councils to give Elder presence, advice, and Métis cultural stories. Beyond that, we all have individual lives.

My life is surrounded with music. I play music—fiddle and piano and organ—and also make and repair violins and other stringed instruments. When I was a child I was fortunate enough to have parents who paid for many years of musical instruction. My maternal grandmother used to say that music was a gift from the Creator. Many people might want to play but do not have the talent, and because it was a gift, we were to share it, not to keep it to ourselves, thereby bringing pleasure to others as well as ourselves.

For ten months of the year I go three times a month, once to each of the nursing homes in my community, and play fiddle for a group of seniors who dance for the residents. It is pleasurable to see people in wheelchairs, often not really with it, perk up and smile and tap to the dancing and fuddling to the tunes and dances they knew and did.

This December, I played the piano at nurunges home tice for the Boy Scouts as they sang and entertained the residents. I played my usual three afternoons. I played on Sunday, December 23rd, for two sittings of a Christmas meal given for people who were going to be without if they didn’t have the community rally round; on Christmas Eve I played the church organ, and Christmas Day I played for another dinner, this time for those who would have been alone.

At each of these occasions, I wore my bright red Métis dress, making a public statement that it wasn’t just Ruth playing, but Senator Ruth doing so with great pride in my ancestry.

This article was submitted by the social and Health Branch staff at the Sunset Country Métis Council office: Dana, Sabrina, Charmanie and Jene-Marie.
Métis Council's busy year

Community Council re-learning Métis history and traditions while building for the future

BY LEORA WILSON
GREY-OWEN SOUND METIS COUNCIL

The Grey-Owen Sound Métis community had a busy year, with lots of opportunities to confirm their presence in the area.

Our annual Aboriginal Day picnic at Harrison Park was a resounding success, attended by representatives of Region 7, of 106, and by local dignitaries, including the acting mayor and councillors of Owen Sound, as well as provincial and federal government representatives. We had music from the Aboriginal Métis musicians, lots of great food, and a wonderful crowd of over 100 people attending this year. We invited the youths whenever possible and discovered new talents for future gatherings.

As Senator, I was honoured to represent our community at the AGM in Thunder Bay. The Senator's Forum filled the weekend with a wonderful blend of business and fun. There were 33 of 53 Senators of the 107 attending. The rest of the week was full of events, with interesting business reports keeping the various representatives informed and current. There was also ample opportunity for entertainment, fun and socializing. Heavy rainfalls damned some of the AGM enthusiasm, but all in all, the week was enjoyable, enjoyable and educational.

This was Owen Sound's Homecoming year and 150th birthday celebrations. These events brought lots of invitations for the Métis community to participate.

At the “Hottest Yard Sale” I was invited to take my auto-harp to a stopover for the Amazing Race at M’Wikwedong Friendship Cultural Centre and accompanied Ralph Cadotte, Métis fiddler. A float entered in the Homecoming Parade completed the busy week. One of our citizens was named a special guest speaker at a Métis-specific trappings, and several Métis citizens, including me, were carried proudly through the city streets.

I enjoyed the Métis Day celebration in August at Discovery Harbour in Penetanguishene. It featured displays, activities, music, etc. Representing grass, the St. Germain’s presented their toboggan display, and Rudy and Jean Couture were featured musicians.

The 2nd Weaving our Communities Conference held in September at the Outdoors Education Centre near Waterton was a huge success, again including a Métis presence. I was honoured to represent our council as a Métis Elder. A large display by Scott Carpenter, a Michif language workshop by René Laurin, and Métis fiddling by Ralph Cadotte were a few highlights of the two-day event.

Many of the communities attended the Métis Forum in Lakefrontaine in late September, with so many displays and events to attract and entertain visitors. There, you are assured of meeting friends from all the communities. I was honoured to be able to once again make music with the talented Senator Ruth Wagnner-Millington. We entertained ourselves and a small crowd that gathered to hear several songs composed by the two senators. We both hope that we are able to make this a tradition.

In late September, our council hosted a meeting sponsored by the sico featuring Gary Lipski, Hank Rowlinson and Doug Wil- lson as guest speakers. I learned of some of the ways that the sico is working for the Métis communities in Ontario.

In October, Scott Carpenter came to our gathering place and offered a film on the Métis Canoe Expedition, as well as a movie on Port William at Thunder Bay, surprising us with his acting talent. We were honoured at this time to be presented with an autographed book written by author Kathleen Colecold of KASKA, a Métis business in Saskatchewan.

The children's book of legends was nominated for “Book of the Year” in Saskatchewan in 2007, and was brought to us by the author Patsy. In October nominations were received for a new council, replacing the interim council. The following people were acclaimed by the process: President: Peter Coture, Vice-President: Jeff Wilson, Secretary-Treasurer: Ernie Coates, Youth Rep: Shannon Coates, Councillors: Tony Couture, Peter Coture & Peter Gendron; Senator: Leora Wilson.

WE HAD MUSIC BY OUR TALENTED MÉTIS MUSICIANS, LOTS OF GREAT FOOD AND SOME WONDERFUL GAMES... OVER 100 PEOPLE...

The new council hopes to represent our community well over the next few years.

Here in Owen Sound we are blessed with a new, comfortable gathering place. We have a library of Aboriginal reading material. There is a full kitchen where we can share potluck gatherings or just enjoy a cup of tea. The large room is perfect for a small gathering or meetings. We plan to hold various workshops in the coming year.

We look forward to another busy year and council members are proud to represent and reach out to our community. We thank the sico for its continued support in all our endeavours. Our goal as a council is to continue to reach our colourfull community and the traditions of our forefathers in this area. We are indeed blessed.

We are indeed blessed with many achieved ambitions in 2008.

Leora Wilson is Senator for the Grey-Owen Sound Métis Council

 skeptic of the story of Jean Baptiste. I am hoping for and need any suggestions anyone is kind enough to make to find any trace of them. Perhaps that’s because the name is spelled at least four different ways. Jean Baptiste had siblings, but I am having a hard time to find any clue to his story. I need any suggestions anyone is kind enough to make to find any trace of them.
Every canoe voyage begins with a single paddle stroke

2007 was indeed a milestone for our nation, collectively we can be very proud of our many accomplishments. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our Senators, and indeed everyone who has helped out over the last year. Without question, the hard work done by our Senators in their respective constituencies has set the stage for bigger and better things. Our Senators are not only leaders at home, but ambassadors of their communities to the severe and sources of knowledge and inspiration to us all. Never before have the Senators worked in such a cohesive manner, for this I thank them.

The staff of the Seniors is to be congratulated on another successful year. Without their generosity and assistance the roll of Executive Senator would be much more difficult.

The voices of our Senators cry out loudly and their actions shine brightly for all to see. Our numbers grow, as our community council grows, and our new Senators have jumped right in, rolled up their sleeves and got down to work. Our nation’s government has steadfastly listened to our advice and directions and how thankful I am for the quality of leadership that we enjoy in the Métis Nation of Ontario. The nation is vibrant and we can all be proud of its many stories of successes.

2007 was not a good year when it came to the affairs of the Métis National Council. Over the last few years I have had the honour and privilege of representing our Senators and our nation at the various meetings of the Seniors. The failure to elect a national president was not just disappoint but irresponsible on the part of those wishing to advance their own agenda while disregarding the common good of all Métis. How proud I am of our president and executives as they work tirelessly to successfully resolve this unfortunate impasse.

This May, the SMD will hold an election for the KDMO. The KDMO is comprised of the nine regional councillors, four Senators, women’s rep, youth rep, post-secondary rep, and the executive.

The four Senators are selected by their peers in July, at the Métis National of Ontario’s Annual General Assembly and one of those Senators is selected to represent the Executive. It is the intention to seek the support of my fellow Senator for my re-election.

The KDMO has come a long way since that founding meeting in 1993. I remember the handful of people gathered in Toronto as we set into motion the mechanism to establish our proper place in Canadian society. Much has been done and much more is yet to be accomplished. Every path begins with a first step; every canoe voyage with the first stroke of the paddle. Our first steps and our first strokes of the paddle have been taken; we are now on well on our way. At times our voyage gets rough and at time we must deviate slightly or make a portage, but our resolve remains and the Métis people, as a Nation, will one day have their inherent right of self-determination and self-government recognised and respected. Our nation is inspired by the values and traditions of our ancestors, we are proud of our rich heritage and I am proud to call myself a Métis.

Reta Gordon sits on the PCMNO as the Executive Senator.

Métis lobbyist makes replica Hudson’s hawk

I promised you that I would send you a picture of my rendition of the Hudson’s Bay decorative hawk. There was a pipe bowl on one end and the blade on the other. Depending on who owned it and how functional they were supposed to be they would be adorned differently. Some were decorative, some were plain.

The handles from all accounts were made from round stock hardwood I have always been intrigued with this type of Hawk, because it had the weeping heart cut out of the blade. On this one it is oversized because that’s the way I wanted it, but to be totally authentic the heart would be smaller. It is only a copy, from some scratchy old photos, but I made it to the exact same size. I made the handle from scratch. Being retired its perks you know. The pipe bowl was made on the lathe and the rest was fabricated out of iron. These were originally made from cast iron and the plans ones were used for everyday use in the bush. Note the little hook on the underside of the blade. That was for reaching into the water and pulling up traps by their chains. It took a bit of detective work to find that out. I guess it just goes to show that some people have a lot of time on their hands.

Next I will send you a picture of a grinding stone that I found the other day. Our ancestors used to put grain in the bowl part of the stone and have a stone or hardwood handle (peckly) to grind with. I also found a wild boar’s tusk the same day, at least it sure looks like one.

Jim can be reached by email at clartner@gushueone.com.

Want to show off your skill? Send your story and pictures to Host.LA@king居ans.net.
MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

I n December, 2007, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) expressed shock at the decision of Justice Alan D. MacInnes of the Manitoba Court of Queen’s Bench, in the matter of the Manitoba Métis Federation et al v. Manitoba and Cana- da. Justice MacInnes dismissed this case concerning the massive swindle of Métis lands that were set-aside for Métis in the Manitoba Act of 1870. “This decision is unbelievable and needs to be challenged,” said MNO President, Tony Beland. “It is an intolerable dis- missal of the facts of history and we are behind our people in appealing this deci- sion. We sympathize with the sorrow they must feel after their long struggle to even get to court in the first place. We are mindful that our constitutional rights have been recognized by the Supreme Court of Canada in R. v. Powley. We are certain that on appeal this decision will not stand.”

“The COURTS HAVE IT WRONG, AND THIS DECISION NEEDS TO BE APPEALED.”
– Gary Lipinski, MNO Chair

Aboriginal News Bits:

TORONTO

Ontario turns over Ipperwash Park to First Nation

Ontario has returned Ipperwash Provincial Park, which was there before a long-standing aboriginal grievance in the province. We are returning Ipperwash Provincial Park lands to the Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation, Aborigi- nal Affairs Minister Michael Bryant said. “In doing so, we are securing our sovereign rights that the McGuinty government is acting on the premier’s ambitious agenda on aboriginal affairs.”

SAUGEEN FN.

Saugeen Ojibway Nation and Enbridge Ontario Wind Power Sign landmark her- itage and environmental agreement

The Saugeen Ojibway Nation and Enbridge Ontario Wind Power recently signed an agreement on heritage and environmental issues respecting Enbridge’s wind farm now under construction in Kincardine, Ontario.

WINNIPeG

Former Prime Minister posed to fund new business school

Former Prime Minister Paul Mar- tin has launched a new national business program for aboriginal students at a Winnipeg high school. “It’s teaching aboriginal students about business in a way of staying in school and not drop- ping out,” Mr. Martin said.

TORONTO

Norval Morrisseau: Famed native painter dies at 75

Norval Morrisseau’s death recently at Toronto General Hos- pital, at age 75 after a long and feisty battle with Parkinson’s dis- ease, won’t end the gritty story of the great Anishinaabe painter once called “the Picasso of the north” who signed his canvases “Miskwaak Animiick” or Copper Thunderbird. “He always wanted to be a role model,” he told the Star several years back, his words stunned and barely audible even then. “He always wanted to stay an Indian. I wanted the little kids to know that.”

TORONTO

CAW Local Donates Toys at Native Canadian Centre

Just in time for the holidays, the Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) Local 112 donated thousands of dollars worth of toys for use at the newly renovated children’s play area at the Native Canadian Centre in Toronto. In addition, dozens of core members in the Greater Toronto Area vol- unteered their labour at the centre, with donations of cub- bins, computer desks and termi- nals from several local unions.

SUDBURY

1886 act could result in millions in resource rights

A lucrative act of patronage by Sir John A. Macdonald in 1886 could ultimately result in several mil- lion dollars of compensation for a native band in northern Ontario. A decision made by the Ontario Court of Appeal recently may also affect the way historical damages are calculated in dozens of negoti- ations across the country between native bands and the federal government. The appeal court found that the federal gov- ernment breached its duty to the Whitefish Lake Band in 1886 when its timber rights on the 120- square-kilometre reserve, just west of Sudbury, were sold for $316 to a Conservative politician. A few months earlier the federal government told the Whitefish Band that it was in its best inter- ests to sell its timber rights.

NOTICE TO MÉTIS CITIZENS IN ONTARIO

CONSULTING THE MÉTIS COMMUNITY ON THE IPPERWASH INQUIRY REPORT

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is currently undertaking consultations with the Métis community on the Ipperwash Inquiry Report and its recommendations. Based on these consultations with Métis citizens, the MNO will be developing a response to the Ipperwash Inquiry Report, outlining the Métis Nation’s perspective, priorities and suggestions on future collaboration with the Ontario Government in the implementation of the Ipperwash Inquiry Report.

What is the Ipperwash Inquiry?

The Ipperwash Inquiry was established by the Gov- ernment of Ontario under Public Inquiries Act. Its mandate was to inquire and report on events sur- rounding the death of Dudley George, who was shot by an Ontario Provincial Police officer in 1995 during a protest by First Nations representatives at Ipperwash Provincial Park and later died. The Inquiry was also mandated to make recommenda- tions that would avoid violence in similar circum- stances in the future, relating to improving relation- ships between the Ontario Government and Abo- riginal peoples.

The Ipperwash hearings began in July 2004 and ended in August 2006. The Ipperwash Inquiry Report and its recommendations were released on May 31st, 2007. A complete copy of the report, along with all related documents from the Inquiry is avail- able at: www.iperwashinquiry.com

How can I participate in the MNO’s consultations?

There are several ways Métis citizens can participate in the MNO’s consultations:

1. You can complete a questionnaire. The MNO has developed a questionnaire that can be completed by Métis citizens and submitted to the MNO. These questionnaires are available through your local Community Council or the MNO Head Office. The MNO has also established a webpage dedicated to the implementation of the Ipperwash Inquiry Report at www.metisnation.org/iperwash. The questionnaire is avail- able at this webpage and can be completed online or by faxing your written response back to the MNO.

2. You can participate in a phone interview. The MNO will be conducting interviews with Métis citizens and leaders at the local, regional and provincial levels. If you are interested in partici- pating in an interview, please contact Paul Heighington at the MNO Head Office.

3. You can contact your MNO Regional Councillor or a member of the Provincial Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO). If you have specific priorities or issues you would like to see addressed in the implementation of the Ipperwash Inquiry Report you should contact your Regional Councillor or a member of the PCMNO. The PCMNO will be meeting on the Ipperwash Inquiry Report and your suggestions can be brought for- word at that time.

How can I stay updated?

The MNO will continue to provide updates to Métis citizens through the Métis Voyageur. As well, the MNO will continue to update our Ipperwash Inquiry Report webpage at: www.metisnation.org/iperwash
Tony Belcourt not seeking re-election

FEBRUARY 2008

MÉTIS NATIONAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

BY LINDA LORD

he Métis National Council (MNC) elections are finally over, and Clem Chartier has been re-elected president. The election had been delayed for well over a year. In fact, it was originally scheduled for April 2, 2006, to which date Mr. Chartier was seeking re-election. However, as a result of the extraordinary circumstances arising from the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan (MNS) election controversy, the MNC Board of Governors (BOG) postponed the April 2, 2006, election.

On October 11, 2006, as those circumstances still existed and the election could not be held, the MNC suspended Mr. Chartier’s term as president for a further year, until October 11, 2007. That extension was contested by the MNC at its meeting on July 31, 2007. Mr. Chartier’s term was deemed to have ended. Bruce Dumont, President of the Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC), was then named “Interim President” until elections for MNC President could be held. Those first elections were to be October 15th and 14th.

Meanwhile, the leaders of the four remaining governing members of the MNC (MNBC President, Tony Belcourt; Manitoba President, Bruce Dumont; MBF President, Aubrey Poitras and MNA President, Robert Doucette) condemned the actions of Chartier and Trépanier for having the courts intervene in the affairs of the MNC and for de-legitimizing the elections. It was the contention of these members of the MNC that both Mr. Chartier and Mr. Trépanier had abandoned the Mètis value of self-determination and made a mockery of our claims to the right of self-governance by asking the courts to interpret the MNC’s by-laws rather than having this decision made by the Métis leaders themselves, an Assembly. Further, asking the court system to intervene in the affairs of the MNC resulted in postponing the MNC presidential elections indefinitely, and Mr. Trépanier launched another court action, this time about a decision he had made by the courts of Manitoba, denying the Métis people the right to have a court decide this matter.

On January 3rd at the settlement conference before Justice Todd Ducharme, a Métis judge of the Superior Court of Ontario, an agreement-in-principle was reached by all five members of the MNC. The agreement-in-principle was to seek funding in the courts to now deal with the MNC issue of court costs and the claim for damages by Mr. Chartier.

The next day Assembly Chair Dale LeClair, reversed his ruling; Mr. Chartier objected strongly to the new ruling and challenged the Chair. After the Chair was threatened with legal action, he adjourned the meeting for the day stating that he would consider written submissions on his ruling and would announce his decision in the morning.

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As a result of these delays, the issue of court costs and the claim for damages by Mr. Chartier was to seek funding in the courts to now deal with the MNC issue of court costs and the claim for damages by Mr. Chartier.
The Métis Nation has always said that governments must consult with us when they make decisions that will affect Métis rights, interests and way of life. Unfortunately, until the Supreme Court of Canada’s decision in the landmark Powley case, the Ontario Government did not even recognize that Métis people and communities existed in this province, let alone recognizing that we had constitutional rights. Moreover, the facts show that the federal and provincial governments have always acted unilaterally when it comes to use and control of natural resources in what they considered to be their jurisdictions. When Aboriginal peoples raised concerns about Crown actions, the response of government was usually ‘go to court and prove you have a right and then we may listen to you’. Of course, then the government would move ahead and do what they wanted anyways. The recent findings of Justice Linden in the Ipperwash Inquiry Report confirm this shameful history.

However, in 2004, in two cases known as Haida Nation and Tulik River, the Supreme Court of Canada rejected the government position that Aboriginal peoples had to go to court first before the Crown had to do anything to address their rights, interests and way of life. In essence, the Supreme Court said that governments have a duty to sit down with us, in the spirit of reconciliation, and ensure that any proposed government policy, legislation, action or approval does not harm our rights, our interests or our way of life. We do not have to go to court first in order to trigger this duty. The duty flows from s. 55 of the Constitution Act, 1982 and the honour of the Crown and it is triggered when the Crown has real or constructive knowledge of credible Métis harvesting rights, claims and interests.

In Ontario, the Crown has real and constructive knowledge of credible Métis harvesting rights claims throughout the province. Powley confirms Métis rights in the Sault Ste. Marie region. Our historic July 7th Agreement with the Ministry of Natural Resources is based on the Crown’s knowledge of credible Métis harvesting rights throughout our traditional territories across the province. As such, the Crown’s duty is triggered when it contemplates actions or contemplates allowing others to take actions that have the potential to affect our harvesting rights in our traditional territories. Crown development in the areas of mining, wind power, nuclear energy, hydroelectricity, forestry, etc., all have the potential to dramatically affect the lifestyle and way of life of our communities.

The Ontario Government and the Government of Canada are beginning to recognize they need to change the old ways of doing business. Increasingly, our communities are being engaged by government and industry. However, it is not enough for the government or industry to simply send us a letter or meet with us once or twice, in order to discharge the Crown’s duty to consult. It requires real consultation. Consultation is a process of give and take and it’s a process that takes time. Think of consultation as an ongoing dialogue. A good consultation process results in informed decision-making in a manner that furthers everyone’s interests.

We also have roles and responsibilities in ensuring effective consultation, but we must have the capacity and information required in order to effectively participate with governments and industry. We must also have access to the needed expertise to know what type of accommodations to ask for once we determine our rights and interests will be affected (i.e. impacts and benefits agreements, guaranteed contract for Métis businesses, jobs for Métis citizens, etc.) and how to negotiate these with government and industry. In order to move forward on developing a consultation framework or model for the Ontario Métis community that will allow the Métis Nation to develop this capacity, the MNO will be undertaking community consultations this year. Both the Ontario Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and the Office of the Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians are providing the MNO with funding to undertake this work.

Our upcoming consultations will have two main objectives:

1. Providing information to Métis citizens on the duty to consult and accommodate, and;
2. Engaging discussions in order to develop an Ontario Community Métis Consultation Framework.

There are many questions we must grapple with in developing such a framework. What does the ‘duty to consult and accommodate’ really mean? What should a Métis-specific consultation process look like? How should the MNO and community councils work together on consultation issues? In cases where more than one Community Council is affected, how should Community Councils work together? What information is needed in order to ensure effective consultation with the Métis community takes place? How can we ensure that Community Councils and Métis at the local level have the information they need to make informed decisions? These meetings will provide us the opportunity to begin these discussions, with the support of MNO staff and the expertise of the MNO’s legal counsel.

Based on these consultation meetings, the MNO hopes to develop a draft framework that can be brought back to our communities and to the next Annual General Assembly for consideration. In order to address the influx of consultation requests the MNO and its community councils are now receiving, we need to develop capacity in this area in order to respond in a manner that protects Métis rights and the Métis Nation’s long-term interests. In our history, we have always taken the strong and consistent position that we are one nation, one people. We have a track record of success when we work together as a collective: the creation of the MNO, the MNO Registry, the MNO Harvester Policy and Harvesters Card System. Similarly, we need to develop a framework that reflects this tradition and our values. As well, we must develop a framework for consultation that works for the Métis Nation and meets our unique needs.

In the next few months we will be advertising and holding community meetings as well as some videoconferencing workshops. I encourage all citizens to come out and participate. The MNO will create a webpage dedicated to this initiative at www.metisnation.org/consultation where MNO citizens can receive information on our upcoming meetings and updates on our work. This webpage will also have a helpful Guide for Métis on Consultation and Accommodation that citizens and communities can download. A hardcopy of this guide can also be obtained by contacting the MNO Head Office in Ottawa.

I look forward to working with MNO citizens and community leaders on this important initiative. It is just one of the areas the MNO is building on based on the Powley decision and pressing forward on our rights agenda. If you have questions or comments, please feel free to contact me by phone at 807-274-1516 or via email at garyl@metisnation.org.

Developing A Métis Consultation Framework:

Consultation. What does it mean? We use the word all the time in the Métis Nation, but in light of several decisions from the Supreme Court of Canada on the Crown’s duty to consult and accommodate Aboriginal rights and interests this word has taken on a new meaning and increased importance.

Our Ongoing Métis Rights Agenda

by Gary Lipinski

Gary is the Chair of the MNO and portfolio holder for Natural Resources and Consultation.
My Endless Journey

Over the past two years I have had the honor of working with some wonderful individuals. I have learned many lessons that will stay with me throughout my life. One of the most important lessons I have learned as part of the MNO health branch is that we should practice what we preach or even better if you’re going to talk the talk you better be prepared to walk the walk.

I am the Region 4 Sault Ste. Marie Community Sport Leader. All of my life I have had a weight problem. I was always on a diet and I was always trying new ways to help reduce my weight and deal with health issues. Each attempt would end in failure. As I came into this position I was considered to be “obese” and I did not realize that I was. I always thought that my weight was slightly high and avoided any and all mirrors that might show me other wise.

During an information session on lifestyle change in December, 2006, it was pointed out to me that I too could stand to improve my health by losing some weight. First, I was insulted and ignored the comment. It wasn’t until August, 2007, that I realised I needed to take a good long look at my own lifestyle. I started mixing out of my clothes and I felt tired sluggish and just awful all the time. I decided to make some changes to my eating habits. It is very important that you have good eating habits and an exercise program that can be altered to accommodate the time of year, season as well as lots of support. You need sound individuals that you can bounce ideas off of, get suggestions from, and just sound off to when you are having a difficult day.

Since deciding to make my lifestyle change I have lost 15 pounds. Although I still have some weight to go, I am no longer “obese” and I am no longer feeling sluggish and tired, and I am not afraid to look in the mirror.

I would like to challenge all the MNO Health Staff and all the MNO citizens to take a good long look at their lifestyles. It is one of the hardest things a person can do. After you have done this, look at all possible ways that you can make changes to improve your quality of life. It may be to lose weight; it may be to stop smoking; it may be to add exercise to your daily routine, or it may be adding some fruits and vegetables to your diet. Each step you take will bring you one step closer to your best health.

Good luck in this new year with all your endeavours. Having said this, I would like to thank the Métis Nation of Ontario for all of its support and for giving me the opportunity to work with the public to help them make their lifestyle changes. I look forward to all the challenges that the new year will bring.

Patti Moreau is the MNO Community Sport Leader in Sault Ste. Marie.

MNO HEALTH BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENT  As of December 17, 2007:

Lyne Picotte (Timmins) is Health Program Supervisor, Aboriginal Healthy Babies, Healthy Children.

Michelle Foster-Millard (Midland) is the LHIN Lead.

Patricia Messenger (Windsor) is the Long Term Care Lead.

BY GLEN LIPINSKI  MNO ADDICTIONS WELLNESS COORDINATOR

To play or not to play, to gamble or not to gamble: these choices face many of us on an increasing basis, and we may have unwanted help making the choice.

If we now understand that gambling is “any gaming behaviour involving stakes where money or valuables may be won or lost”, then we need only decide whether we should take part or not. Availability and access to gambling activities often have a direct bearing on participation. During a discussion at a recent responsible gambling meeting the following question was posed: “How much opportunity or incentive is there for us to gamble in our communities today?”

The short answer is: “there is opportunity and plenty of it.” We are constantly bombarded with gambling opportunities in the form of glitzy advertising campaigns—mostly for casino gambling, lottery tickets and even mega bingos.

The Ontario Government historically spends over $248 million on advertising and promotions of gambling activities. At the same time, the Government of Ontario offers a meagre $56 million for treatment, prevention and research annually (Ammer, Jason, 2005). Although the government has committed not to open any new casinos in Ontario, for the time being, it has continued to spend millions of dollars to upgrade and expand the casinos already established in Ontario and has also greatly expanded slot machines at racetracks.

There are more opportunities to gamble in Canada today than ever before. The last 20 years have seen a dramatic increase in the number of casinos, electronic gaming machines, and other gambling activities in this country. There has also been a corresponding increase in gambling revenues, as well as an increase in the number of people experiencing problems related to gambling.

In 2005/06, there were approximately 40,567 gambling venues in Canada (crn, 05/06). Ontario and Quebec have the most venues overall. For a detailed list of gambling venues by province, please see the Canadian Gambling Digest 2005-2006, (an annual report on Canadian gambling statistics produced by the Canadian Partnership for Responsible Gambling and released in October 2007).

Casinos have become much more common in Canada in recent years. They provide an important source of revenue for provincial governments and are often (supposedly) set up to direct money to health care and various community and charitable organisations.

British Columbia and Alberta have the most casinos at 20 and 17, respectively. Ontario has 10 regular full time operational casinos. Also, Ontario and British Columbia have the greatest number of gambling tables in their casinos, 552 and 454 respectively (crn, 05/06). One of the most common forms of gambling available in Canada is lottery tickets. In fact, many people do not consider this to be a form of gambling at all. Lottery ticket outlets are most numerous in Ontario and Quebec (crn, 05/06).

Bingo has a long history in Canada and was one of the few types of gambling available for many years. Five provinces have full-time designated bingo facilities. Quebec has the most at 291, while Saskatchewan has the fewest at 21. Ontario has 101 registered bingo facilities (crn, 05/06). In addition, BC, Alberta, Manitoba and Ontario also offer electronically linked bingo halls.

The total government operated gaming revenues for 2005/06 were: $4,850,500,000 (after the prizes were paid out).

To help further understand the impact gambling has on all of us and our communities and to try to get an answer to the question continued page 18
Most readers of the *Voyageur* have probably had some experience with genealogy. Over the years we have printed several exciting and heart warming stories of people digging for and finding their roots. However, sometimes digging for roots is more like digging for buried treasure with a rusty shovel in one hand and an enigmatic map in the other.

Usually, by the time a story reaches these pages most of the confusion and mystery has been sorted out. This particular story is a work in progress with lots of unanswered questions. Many of you will recall the bewilderment that results when several generations all have the same name, or when a younger child is named for an older one who died, or for an uncle. It was common practice at one time to name babies for family members who had recently died. To add to the puzzlement, spelling was much more fluid than it is now, and this could affect both given names and surnames, and that's just the European side of the family who were much more likely to have some sort of written record.

This story was sent to me by a new *Voyageur* citizen, 82 year old Capt. Donald Maxwell Fowler, C.D. (Ret'd) of Brockville, Ontario. Donn has been trying to sort out his ancestors. (We've been corresponding quite regularly over the past couple of weeks, so I feel I can call him "Donn," which comes from the Scottish clan, "McDonnell of Glengarry," the tartan lab he occasionally wore in winter.) Some of what follows is conjecture, some is proven fact, but I think most of us can relate to the frustration and the thrill that accompanies the hunt.

1621—Pierre Morissette

(b.1621—married Marie Guillebene (b.1624—d.1713). They had four offspring, in France: son, Vincent Morissette (b.1647—d.1715) m. Marie Anne Beaufort in 1675. Vincent died in Repentigny, Quebec. His wife's mother was Marie Lanson/Lamond. And the name of Morissette, as recorded in the publication, *The Morisson Family* by Dianne Sheppard, Spruce & Payes, Gail Morin, and from Tanguay and Jette; extends over nineteen generations of births from 1621 to 1888. However, my concern with the name of Morissette begins in 1647, and is relative not only to Repentigny, Quebec, but also to "Detroit Michigan", and a few other geographic locations, in particular, to 1767, (q.v.).

1740—Jenkins Daniel (b.1740-d.1824/25) might—or might not—have been, at age 49 (in 1790), the father of Mary (Daniel?) Corrigal (b.1788—d.1823) at the old Martin Falls HBC post. He was with the HBC from 1765 to 1825. Jenkins Daniel was from the Parish of Glengarry, Wades and served at the Albany post. A son was Jacob Daniel (b.1792—d.1890) more likely the father of a "Mary"

1747—Antoine Jean-Baptiste Morissette (b.1747—d.1801) married, in 1770, at Repentigny, PQ Genevieve Grenon who died in a Sanamian, in December 1891. But their son, Antoine, was born in 1772 (q.v.)

1761—Robert Goodwin/Goodwin

(b.1761-d.1805) is believed to have died on the way to Martin's Falls. Robert may have deliberately surnamed some of his—la facon du pays—seven children with "Goodwin" or with "Goodwyn", as follows: the "GOODWINS"; Caroline; Nancy; William, and Margaret "Peggy", their mother was Margaret (Cupier) Goodwin. And with the surname "GOODWINS/GOODWIN"—Mary, Anne, and Margarette; their mother was "Jenny" Mignonette, the daughter of Packer/Brant/ins and spouse, who were the native grandparents, and "in-law" grandparents, of all these Goodwin/Goodwyn children. It appears, too, that Jacob Daniel could have been the father of my great-grandmother, Mary Corrigal (b.1788—d.1823) at age 35. Mary Corrigal's thiry-five years of life, from birth to death, enabled her to produce five girls and one boy; between 1802 and 1818, with an average interval year of 1810; all this while Jacob was Master at Martin Falls from 1802 to 1812; moreover, Jacob Corrigal was on furlough from 1812 to 1813 and "Mary Corrigal" (Corrigals a la façon du pays' wife) was age 22 in 1810, and Jacob Corrigal was then age 38, and Mary's daughter, "Mary" would become eventually—Mary ("Corrigal") Scollie, who was born in 1811, and carried the "pre-occupied" somewhere along the Albany River. In brief, could Mary (Corrigal) Scollie, the daughter of Mary (Daniel) Corrigal, the mother, probably have had as her father, the Antoine Morissette who was born in 1808 and did later marry a "Mary" (Daniel) Morissette? (Reference The Morisson Family, pg 5 document confusion).

This Mary's daughter, Mary (Corrigal) Scollie, did marry Jacob Corrigal's HBC employee, Robert Scollie, on the 31st of March of 1813 when she was twenty-three, and he was thirty-three; moreover, they were wed on an HBC post ship,靠近 at Albany. However, Jacob (Daniel?) Corrigal was 22 in that same year, the year in which her daughter, Mary, (b.1811-d.1862) could have been conceived, with the assistance of the youthful seductive "Jacob Daniel (b.1792-d.1870)". And that might explain why Mary (Daniel) Corrigal's name was never mentioned in Jacob Corrigal's Will, in 1844, when he died, at Cobourg, Ontario. All this may not have actually been his own child; nevertheless, she was reared with Corrigal's other children following 1811. It is important to recall that Jacob Corrigal did go on furlough, from Martin Falls, Albany District, for a year, from 1812 to 1813, returning on the "Eddystone" in 1814. From 1814 to 1821 he was District Master at the Old Factory Albany, and became an m.c. Chief Trader in 1821, nineteen years before he retired to Cobourg.

Interestingly, the daughter, Mary (Daniel) "Corrigal" Scollie (b.1811-d.1862) had a son, George Jacob Scollie (b.1837—d.1918), and that son was mentioned in Jacob Corrigal's Will. George Jacob Scollie married my great aunt; Anne Fowler (b.1837—d.1918), a sister of my great grandfather, Samuel Fowler (b.1848—d.1911), in addition, Samuel Fowler's own wife, was my great grandmother; Margaret Charlotte Corrigal (Scollie) Fowler (b.1890-d.1950), and was a sister of the above George Jacob Scollie, so two Fowlers, namely, Anne and Samuel, married two Scollie's, namely, George Jacob and Margaret Charlotte Corrigal Scollie, in 1864 and 1862 respectively, but Samuel and "Maggie" remarried again in 1872 at Peterborough, both having originally been born in Benton, Minnesota in 1862, when both were very young, indeed.

The search continues.

If any of your readers has information that might be useful to Donn, you may contact him by email at donf@mtelus.com or phone/fax: (613)-345-5436.
After living rock n' roll lifestyle Métis drummer pursues more serene dreams

BY JENNIFER KING

“The fishing and music are perfectly at opposite ends of the spectrum for me,” says Steph Leroux, “but often these two worlds collide. It takes a lot of sticking round to keep me to the two in line. Not being a hockey player, I kind of have to do it by myself in half to do them both.” He just can’t get enough of either. When Steph is not writing a line in one of northern Ontario’s trout streams, he is rockin’ on with his band, Anchor, in some local park or bar.

Known to his friends as “The Canadian Fishin’ Musician”, by day he gathers material for his website (stephsfishinline.com) and by night is one of the area’s hardest working rock drummers. Combining both of his loves in life is the perfect way for this Corbiel resident to find the ultimate life style.

Even though stephsfishinline.com has only been up and running for a short time he has had over 9,000 users and 13,000 hits. “That’s a lot of world-wide internet activity for a small town guy like me. When? I must be very popular.”

Leroux, North Bay area local drummer and singer, has opened at Toronto’s old El Macambo, Gasworks, Piccadilly Tube, Larry’s Hideaway, Nahani Phillips Square, the Carlsberg Pavilion and the Grandstand Stadium of the CNE with Twitch for such acts as Blondie, Burton Cummings, Platinum Blonde, Colin James and the Downchild Blues Band. This veteran of the Canadian music scene has touched upon the likes of Goddo, Kim Mitchell, April Wine, Matt Minglewood, and Ellen Foley who sang on the Meatloaf album, Bat Out Of Hell.

“The biggest gig to date for me has to be opening for The Ramones at the old El Macambo in Toronto. These legends of rock and roll were outstanding in the long list of performances that I have worked with. I found Johnny and Mark Ramone very friendly and down to earth guys to share a dressing room with. Most memorable!”

Nice accomplishments for a drummer who hitch-hiked his way from North Bay, to Toronto to do his first gig in 79 with the band called “Twitch”! After a month’s rehearsal in his dad’s basement Twitch was ready for the stage. Bob Segarini discovered them at The Nickelodion matinee up stairs at the Hard Rock Cafe on Yonge St., brought them to El Macambo to open for paid programming contract offered to him in northern Ontario to cover production cost. With the outcome of streaming sites like YouTube, Leroux came to the realisation that he could reach more view-ers in a different way.

“Far seven and a half years I pounded the pavement in many cities for a sponsor for this show with no luck at all.” It is all a really style TV show where Leroux is one on one with his roster of both music and fish-ing guests. Some are celebrities that I have worked with. I found rock and roll were outstanding musicians I realised that they all had a love for the outdoors and fishing, I had to do something with that as a starting point to my current career.”

Now at 50, Leroux says that this web site is a dream come true as he always wanted to host his own fishling show featuring famous musicians as guests. In fact, Leroux has received a num-ber of letters of intent from such celebrities as Slip Prolog of lighthouse, two members of the Downchild Blues Band, and Jason McCoy from The Road Hammers, just to name a few for the ice fishing season.

Steph Leroux is a Métis and lives on Lake Noshinising in Corbiel ON. He could not find the sponsorship needed to start a fish show. “Steph’s Fishin’ Line has the technical direction of all three Leroux brothers behind it. Steph is the front man and writer, Bernie Leroux of Northlight Pic-tures does some video editing, special effects and mixing, while brother Vince Leroux has helped with computer graphics, letter-ing and some video shoots, and all of them have wanted to run him that night and it was on and up from there.

Working with these famous musicians I realised that they all had a love for the outdoors and fishing, I had to do something with that as a starting point to my current career.”

When I was in Toronto I missed the fishing. My Toronto life was very one sided to the music. I devoted a lot of time to rehearsing and doing studio sessions by day. Sometimes I would even do up to three shows on one date, an afternoon matinee, an early evening opening show and then a late night headliner. That life was great and I gained a lot of experience as a pro drummer, but I still felt empty inside. This venture with Steph’s Fishin’ Line fulfills all that for me.

“I also play in my classic rock cover band Anchor with my son Dan Perreault from Steegeon Falls on the bass. We have just recruited an old friend of mine on guitar by the name of Danny Unger, Danny and I were members in a band by the name of Miss Lead”, back in the ‘80s, great to be playing the old 80s covers again.”

The long-term dream for Steph’s Fishin’ Line is to have a full length television show series one day soon. Maybe this inter-net exposure will connect them to that source. “Right now it is all pre-production exercises and stepping stones to the big time. I want to be a pro, high-tech fish-ing show host in my own rock and roll kind of way. I’ll never let that dream die.”

Check out Steph’s online: www.freeveda.com/therewasachair www.stephsfishinline.com

Originaly published November 8th, 2007, courtesy of the Winnipeg Free Press

Should we continue to pay the rent?

Chief Peguis envisioned annual payments forever

BY BILL REDKOP Winnipeg Free Press

PIETERSFIELD—You stole our land, says one side. You don’t pull your weight, counters the other side.

That’s not just today’s rhetoric. It dates back a couple of centuries, according to Donna Sutherland’s book, Peguis: A Noble Friend.

Peguis is one aboriginal leader celebrated by all Canadi-ans. Born in 1774, it’s highly likely Peguis was Metis, or so he told settler Jeanne Gunn Muckle.

Peguis claimed his mother was Ojibway and his father a French fur trader, according to the Gunn family archive. When his father abandoned the mother, she abandoned the baby, and the baby was adopted by an older Ojibway woman.

Peguis, of course, is best known as the native leader who saved the first Selkirk set-tlers in 1812 from being slaugh-tered by the North West Com-pany fur traders, allowing the Red River colony to take root.

But later, Peguis made the same sort of complaints about non-native land ownership in the 1850s as, say Hollow Water First Nation made recently when it blockedaded roads into cottage country in northeastern Manitoba.

In 1857, Peguis ventured against the arrival of Euro- peans in a long letter to the British newspaper Colonial Intelligence, known to be sympathetic to native peoples. “The Silver Chief”, as Peguis called Lord Selkirk, never paid him in full for the land taken by the settlers, he said.

Peguis wanted a kind of landlord-tenant relationship. Selkirk paid Peguis tobacco and ammunition as a first payment ever.
We’re proud of you, Helen!

BY LINDA LORD

The Métis Nation of Ontario wishes to congratulate Helen Bradley. Helen has been presented with a “Good Citizenship Medal” by the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, the Honourable David C. Onley. “Best wishes to you! This is very deserved and I applaud the Georgina Bay Metis Council for their initiative in ensuring that your hard work and dedication has been recognised with this honour,” said Mr. President, Tony Belcourt.

Helen Bradley (nee Legape) is the daughter of a commercial fisherman on Georgian Bay where she still lives. Over the years Helen has volunteered as a genealogist, assisting people who need help with a translation of documents from French or Michif, as a board member at the Enahtig Healing Lodge and Learning Centre as a Metis Elder, at a local correctional facility; as a foster mother, and just about anywhere else that she can help.

Well known for her expertise in cooking and preparing wild meat, Helen is also a wonderful beader and keeper of the craft. She quilts and of course understands that these circles held in the centre she started so many years ago, are not about the crafts but about the sharing of history, coming together as a people and feeling good about companionship.

Commenting on the event, Helen said: “I want to thank the Georgina Bay Metis Council that made this possible for me. I am very honoured and cannot express how happy I am. I had tears in my eyes when I received the phone call from the Ontario Government way back in December and was told that it was confidential… I could not even tell my children why I wanted them to attend this ceremony… in Toronto. Thank you everyone. I am a very proud Métis person and will continue to volunteer as much and when ever possible.”

Smartly dressed in a black skirt and vest bedecked with a Métis sash, Helen Bradley was a fine example of Métis pride. Accompanying Helen were her son, Larry and his wife Elsie, as well as her daughter Linda and partner Daryl, all sporting Métis regalia. Helen’s good friend, Cyndy King (MNO Provincial Apprenticeship And Employer Coordinator) was also there as her special guest and to assist. Hosted by the Honourable David C. Onley, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario and the Honourable Michael Chan, Ontario Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, the Investiture ceremony took place on the grand staircase of Queen’s Park, Toronto. Senator Maria to-camera and travelling to his home to interview him on film for the program. They discussed his stance on anti-bullying, the volunteer work he does for the Aboriginal community, his National Role Model Award, and thanked him for his work.

The event was also a fundraiser par excellence and a fundraiser par excellence and represented the award at the ceremony. They recognised for outstanding achievement, and their exemplary contribution to our province and beyond.”

“The men and women receiving the award are role models who have made their communities better places to live,” said Mr. Chan, Ontario Minister of Citizenship and Immigration.

MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

that are host-at a cer-

To Play or Not to Play...

BY HANK ROWLINSON

We are always proud of the contributions that citizens throughout our communities make to the values and pride of Aboriginal people and how such efforts directly influence our children. December 9th, 2007, was “International Day of Children in Broadcasting.” Television programming was dedicated to inspirational children from different countries and was broadcast around the globe. TVO Kids aired a program called “Super Citizens.” This program featured Ontario youth role model Super Citizen Award recipients, their contributions and influence on society. The Métis Nation of Ontario’s own Dalton Mathias (13 years old) was chosen from the hundreds of children interviewed. In the spring of 2007, producers contacted Dalton and travelled to his home to interview him on film for the program. They discussed his stance on anti-bullying, the volunteer work he does for the Aboriginal community, his National Role Model Award, and thanked him for his work.

The impact that our children can make in bringing Aboriginal people to the forefront is a testament to the pride in our culture, our past and future. Congratulations to Dalton on his accomplishments in sharing his stories and bringing a little Métis insight to other children around the globe.

Hank Rowlinson is a Senior Policy Analyst with the MNO.
installment on the land but Peguis expected to be paid “annually,” a perpetual rent. That never happened.

Settlers who arrived later made payments in tobacco and ammunition but aboriginal bands were upset at the payment levels and how the numbers of settlers grew and spread “all the lands between the Assiniboine and Lake Winnipeg — a quantity of land nearly double of what was first asked of us,” Peguis said.

But, Peguis also conceded aboriginal people had “derived great benefit” from the settlers. The Scottish settlers brought European ingenuity, everything from log home construction, pots and pans, medicine, agricultural production, rifles and ammunition, and, deviously, alcohol. Aboriginal people welcomed most of the comforts.

Peguis also sided with the colonists because he didn’t like the fur traders. “The traders have never done anything but rob and keep us poor,” Peguis said. (This is likely true but keep in mind that wholesale buyers, from the Manitoba Fresh Water Fish Marketing Board to Walmart, are rarely loved by their suppliers.)

We are rarely loved by their suppliers.

Peguis also confirmed that he believed the settlers might be useful allies against the Sioux. But mostly, Peguis was a magnum opus person. He wasn’t from the area either, having arrived with his Ojibway band from Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., in the 1790s.

“I think he saw himself as someone who came from somewhere else, and that there was room for everyone,” said Sutherland, a Métis whose ancestry dates back to the 1730s when an Orkney ancestor married a Cree woman.

But her excellent book on Peguis and the four other bands that signed the Selkirk Treaty of 1817 right to expect ongoing rent payments from immigrants?”

The rent idea persists today. Grand Rapids Chief Odelle Mercereau is now demanding rent for cellphone signals crossing First Nations airspace, despite the benefits to him and others from rural cellphone service. Manitoba Hydro’s next northern power line may ultimately be routed along either the east or west shore of Lake Winnipeg — depending on which First Nations charge the least rent.

Don’t blame these ideas on author Sutherland, a Métis whose ancestry dates back to the 1750s when an Orkney ancestor married a Cree woman.

No blame these ideas on author Sutherland, a Métis whose ancestry dates back to the 1750s when an Orkney ancestor married a Cree woman. But her excellent book on Peguis and the four other bands that signed the Selkirk Treaty of 1817 right to expect ongoing rent payments from immigrants?”

Were Peguis and the four other bands that signed the Selkirk Treaty of 1817 right to expect ongoing rent payments from immigrants?”

It’s based almost entirely on unfiltered primary sources — the letters of the early Selkirk settlers and Peguis sifted from the Hudson’s Bay Co. archives. “You can form your own opinions,” she said.

Contact bill.redekop@freepress.mb.ca

JOURNALISM isPJ’s CROSSWORD

Let’s do this crossword puzzle together!

ACROSS

1. Birds have these all over their bodies

2. Four-footed rodent valued for its fur; trading of its fur lead to early trading posts in Canada

4. A long boat used by Aboriginal people of the northwest

5. The act of threading beads to make jewellery

6. The work of finding or capturing animals for food or pelts

7. Objects used to catch an animal

9. A stringed instrument sometimes called a violin

DOWN

1. A wide piece of brightly coloured cloth worn around the waist or over the shoulder

2. Beading

3. Voyageur

5. Beaver

6. Hunting

7. Traps

8. Fiddle

9. Feather

ANSWERS:

1. Bird

2. Beading

3. Voyageur

4. Canoe

5. Beaver

6. Hunting

7. Traps

8. Fiddle

9. Feather

Let me go there this weekend. I love the outdoors and the fresh air.

Till next time, have fun and laughter...

For more information, please visit: www.naho.ca/rolmodel or call 1-877-602-4445

THE NATIONAL Aboriginal Health Organization is looking for Canada’s top Aboriginal youth (between the ages of 13 and 30) who are positive role models to others. Role models are First Nations, Inuit or Métis who have shown leadership in school, in sports, or in their communities.

The nomination deadline is March 28, 2008.

For nomination forms or further information, please visit: www.naho.ca/rolmodel or call 1-877-602-4445

FEBRUARY 2008
ATTTENTION ALL CITIZENS OF THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

ELECTION NOTICE2008

DATE OF ELECTION:
May 5, 2008

DATE OF ADVANCE POLL: May 3, 2008

HOURS OF POLLING: 9:00 AM ET to 8:00 PM ET

ADVANCE POLL: 3PM to 7PM in each relevant time zone

POLLING STATIONS: Tentative List below

CLOSE OF NOMINATIONS: April 15, 2008, 5:00 PM ET

POSITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR NOMINATIONS:
All candidates must submit a written acceptance of the Nomination and a statement that the candidate has read the MNO Electoral Code and MNO Bylaws and is eligible to be nominated as a candidate in the MNO election.

POSITIONS FOR ELECTION TO THE PROVISIONAL COUNCIL OF THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO (PCMNO):

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- Candidates require seven signatures by registered voters from each region
- $100.00 non-refundable deposit

- Candidates require 21 signatures by registered voters from within their respective region
- $100.00 non-refundable deposit

- Candidates require four signatures of registered voters per region
- $50.00 non-refundable deposit
  (Any registered voter can nominate Post-Secondary Representative).

- Candidates must be 16 to 26 years of age on date of election.
- Requires four signatures of registered voters who are under 29 years of age from each region.

SAMPLE NOMINATION FORMS:
Made available through MNO Council offices or by email from the Chief Electoral Officer.
Will be accepted by the Chief Electoral Officer up to and ending on the nominations closing date of April 15, 2008, either in person, by mail or facsimile. Deposits, where required, must be received by end of closing date. If nomination forms are submitted by facsimile, the original forms must be received by mail or in person before the posting of candidates April 22, 2008.

FINAL VOTERS’ LISTS:
MNO ELECTORAL CODE: The procedures and rules governing these elections are contained in the Métis Nation of Ontario Electoral Code: Part A, and will be available through MNO Community Councils and on the MNO website: www.metisnation.org.

** Must include a statement that the candidate intends to be a student at a post-secondary institution in Ontario for at least 2/3 of the term of office.

* Must include a statement that the candidate is a veteran.

Candidates require seven signatures of registered voters who are 16 to 26 years of age on date of election.
Candidates require seven signatures of registered voters who are under 29 years of age from each region.

MNO MAY 2008 PROVINCIAL ELECTION TENTATIVE POLLING STATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REGION 1</th>
<th>Kenora Métis Community Council</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>70 Park Street</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenora, ON P1N 1Y6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunset Country Métis Council</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>436 Victoria Avenue</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fort Frances, ON P3A 3M7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northwest Métis Council</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>348 King Street</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dryden, ON P8N 1B7</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>REGION 2</th>
<th>Thunder Bay Métis Council</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>226 May Street South</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thunder Bay, ON P7E 1B4</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>REGION 3</th>
<th>Timmins Métis Council</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>347 Spruce St. South</td>
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<tr>
<td>Timmins, ON P3N 1N2</td>
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<tr>
<td>REGION 4</td>
<td>Hébertville Métis Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 Queen Street East</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sault Ste. Marie, ON P0A 1Y1</td>
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<td>REGION 5</td>
<td>Sudbury Métis Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>260 Alder Street - Upstairs</td>
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<td>Sudbury ON P3C 3M4</td>
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<td>REGION 6</td>
<td>Ottawa Regional Métis Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>500 Old St. Patrick Street</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit D, Ottawa, ON K1N 9G4</td>
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<tr>
<td>REGION 7</td>
<td>Georgian Bay Métis Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>9170 County Road 93 W.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit 201, Midland, ON L9R 4K1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grey Owen Sound Métis Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>380 - 9th St. East</td>
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<td>Owen Sound, ON N9K 1P1</td>
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<tr>
<td>REGION 8</td>
<td>Credit River Métis Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>170 Steelwell Rd., Unit 102</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brantford, ON L6T 2T3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Metis Nation of Ontario</td>
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<tr>
<td>103 Richmond St. E. Unit 404</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toronto, ON M5C 1N9</td>
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<td>REGION 9</td>
<td>Niagara Region Métis Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 Division St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Welland, ON L3B 3Z6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Windsor-Essex Métis Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>145-600 Tecumseh Rd East</td>
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<tr>
<td>Windsor, ON N9K 4X9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hamilton-Wentworth Métis Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>445 Concession St.</td>
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<td>Hamilton, ON L8A 1C1</td>
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MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO