MUSIC AWARDS
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IN THE LAND OF THE CONDOR
THIS SUMMER, 11 MÉTIS YOUTHS FROM ONTARIO SPENT 14 DAYS IN OTAVALO, ECUADOR DOING COMMUNITY SERVICE IN AN INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY ... PAGES 9-11

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NEW LITTLE MÉTIS ARE SPROUTING UP ALL OVER ... PAGE 2

Grandmother Marion
1926-2006
page 14

Senator Marion Larkman at this year’s Louis Riel Day Commemorative Ceremonies at Queen’s Park in Toronto.
THE MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

14th ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

has been awarded to the Thunder Bay Métis Council and is scheduled to run from July 9th to July 13th, 2007.

Now is the time to start planning your week in Thunder Bay. As in 2004, the event will be held at Chippewa Park on the shores of beautiful Lake Superior. For more news on the AGA watch upcoming issues of the MÉTIS VOYAGEUR and the MNO web site: www.metisnation.org

Mr. and Mrs. Pasquale Carelli, a Métis family from Region 9, wish to announce the birth of their darling daughter, Marly Pasquale Carelli.

Marly refers to Marly as ‘my little bundle of joy’. As Charles Cemetery.

Sadly missed by many nieces and nephews of Marly.

He’ll go far with a name like that

Roxanne and Kris Coulombe announce the birth of their son, Matthew Riël Coulombe, born August 25th, 2006 at 8:27 a.m. at Brampton General Hospital. Matthew weighed in at 6 lbs. and 14 oz. and has dark grey-blue eyes and a lot of dark hair (for now).

The proud and happy grandparents are Sharon, McCarten, Kris’ mother; Candice and Dave Coulombe, Kris’ father and stepmother; and Wilma Hildebrand. What lucky children to have three grandparents!

Both Kris and his father Dave Coulombe are staunch and committed members of the Hamilton Wentworth Council and work very hard for this community. We all wish them health and happiness with the new addition to their family.

- Kathleen Lamptey

Very loving and protective big sister Telyl (Chantelle), with little brother Matthew Riël Coulombe.

Congratulations to the family of Sadie Patricia Humphries. She was born on July 25, 2006, and weighed in at 7 lbs. 14 oz.

Proud grandma is Susan Mckinnon (wife of Region 9 Councillor Eric Scofield), the mostausras were a gift from Senator Lois McCallum and were made by Lynne Picotte.

The Grey-Owen Sound Council has relocated to a new bigger and better site in Owen Sound in order to provide better and better service to our community. The new address is: 310 9th Street East, Owen Sound, ON, N4K 1P1.

WEDDING BANNES: Congratulations on your wedding John McKinnon and Kathy Hunter July 27th in Aurora, ON.

CONGRATS: Congratulations to Michel Daoust, Jacques Mayer, Arnel Guillemette, and Gaston Savage on their ordination to Permanent Deacon. Congratulations to your fellow Deacon, Loretta Carter Shawn Bedford

Doddies has been well docked out by her Métis family. His sash is a gift from Senator Reta Gordon, his toque was made by Anne Scofield (wife of Region 9 Councillor Eric Scofield), the medals were a gift from Senator Lois McCallum and were made by Lynne Picotte.

Donna Schell

He’ll go far with a name like that

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Very loving and protective big sister Telyl (Chantelle), with little brother Matthew Riël Coulombe.
he day Louis Riel was hanged, November 16th, 1885, in Regina, Saskatchewan, was by all accounts a cold clear day. Since then 121 November 16ths have gone by and whether it rained, snowed or the sun shined, Métis people have recalled that tragic day with heavy hearts.

— BY MARC ST. GERMAIN

On Louis Riel Day Métis Nation of Ontario President Tony Belcourt spoke the following words at the Queen’s Park Legislature Building and presented Anishnabek Nation Grand Council Chief John Beaucage with a plaque to commemorate the eight First Nations men hanged with Louis Riel in 1885.

In memory of the Cree, Saulteaux, Lakota, and Dakota people who suffered, were unjustly imprisoned, or died during Kah Kee Mi Ah’kahmi’ках (the Time When Things Went Wrong) including during and after events in 1885 also known as the Métis Northwest Resistance, and honouring in particular the following eight men who were hanged together on the morning of November 27, 1885 in Battleford, SK.

**In Remembrance**

**Presented to**

Anishnabek Nation Grand Council Chief
John Beaucage

In commemoration of the historic Nation-to-Nation relationship between the Anishnabek Nation and Métis Nation

**LOUIS RIEL DAY, NOVEMBER 16TH, 2006**

**Presented by**

President Tony Belcourt of the
**Métis Nation Ontario**

A poem written by Louis Riel while he was imprisoned and awaiting his execution. (The poem as well as video and photos from this year’s Riel Day ceremonies are available on the 1885 website: www.metsnation.org)

The events at City Hall were hosted by long-time Toronto City Councillor Jane Pitfield, who read a Proclamation by the City of Toronto declaring November 16th Louis Riel Day in the city. After the words of the dignitaries the Métis flag was raised and flew proudly in front of the same Legislature building that put a $5000 bounty on the head of Louis Riel just a few generations ago.

TheColour Guard then lead the congregation on a wind-whipped march to the Northwest Rebellion monument. Senator Reta Gordon and National Métis Youth Role Model winner, Dalton Matthews, laid a wreath in front of a framed portrait of Riel at the foot of the monument.

Gary Lipinski, Chair of the revo, asked for a moment of silence and then moved the ceremonies inside the Legislature building.

Inside, President Belcourt took the microphone and recognized a very special person who had just arrived. Senator Marion Larkman was greeted by the crowd with a tremendous round of applause. Everyone was on their feet.

“I am very thankful for this great honour,” said Senator Larkman after she gave a short prayer.

“We are a big nation and we are growing. And we are only going to grow much more.” The spirits of all in attendance were lifted by the presence of this esteemed Elder.

“There was a time when I wouldn’t come into this building,” President Belcourt went on to say. “It will take a long time for gradually...
Aboriginal Service Centre opens after a long struggle. Community support is still needed to keep Centre thriving

— BY SHEILA GRANTHAM —

The need for an Aboriginal service centre, run by students for students, came from a group of Aboriginal students at Carleton. In the Aboriginal lounge at the university, in between classes, the students talked about what they would do to improve services for the Aboriginal student population.

At the time, the students were already volunteering their time to go to classes to raise awareness of Aboriginal issues and teach students about various aspects of Métis, Inuit and First Nations cultures. A few students were volunteering to go to the food bank and retrieve items for the lounge so that Aboriginal students would not feel any stigma or embarrassment attached to them when they were low on food.

We even received a donation of brand new computers, as well as a TV and VCR so we could have something to watch while we were low on food.

We were all very powerful speakers and role models to the students at Carleton. In the Aboriginal lounge, which accurately detailed the Indigenous communities of our ancestors’ way of life. Everything we did was a reflection of the cultural celebrations.

On September 23, a free jigging workshop was offered and 20 participants attended. Young and old were taught the Red River Jig and a few advanced steps. A dance and dinner followed with approximately 100 people in attendance. Sienna was joined by a six-year-old jigger, Michael “Slick” Harris, from Winnipeg. “Slick” is the World’s Junior Men’s Jigging Champion.

Sienna maintained a running narrative with the audience and her love of Métis heritage, music, and people in general, was obvious. Sienna is gracious in acknowledging others and highlighting their talents. Throughout the evening, she continued to entertain and eductate everyone about Métis culture and its importance.

On October 28th, it was a success! We are starting a social every second Saturday of the month at 8 p.m. at the Moose Hall lounge. Come out and enjoy, meet new friends, learn to jig and square dance.

On Memorial Day out veteran, Bertha Maceac, placed a wreath at the epitaph at City Hall. On Louis Riel Day, November 16th the Métis flag flew at the town hall in Dryden and also in Vermillion Bay at the municipal office. Open house was held in both communities.

Meetings are every third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at the office. Remember to call the office with changes or address or phone number.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and the Happiest of New Years, a very successful new year to all community councils out there, to our president and council as well as the staff at head office in Ottawa. May your wisdom and knowledge keep on leading us.

Alëcis Cimon is the President of the Northwest Métis Nation in Dryden.

DRYDEN MÉTIS MAKE THE SCENE:

just thought you would like to see the pictures of the Home and Trade Show, that was held in Dryden Sept 7th, 8th, and 9th, 06. It was a good show and just under 2,000 people attended. The media gave us great exposure.

BY CAROL P. HANSEL

MÉTIS COMMUNITY HARVEST 2006:

Dryden flies the Métis flag proudly

BY ANITA CIMON

The Northwest Métis Council President would like to send a very special thank you to everybody who helped and came to support our harvest feast on Saturday, October 28th. It was a success! We are starting a social every second Saturday of the month at 8 p.m. at the Moose Hall lounge. Come out and enjoy, meet new friends, learn to jig and square dance.

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Pics of Dryden's Harvest dinner show visitors looking on.

SUNSET COUNTRY MÉTIS COUNCIL:

Manitoba talents visit Métis council

BY CHAIRMANN LANGAIS & ANNE-MARIE ARMSTRONG

Sunset Country Métis (Fort Frances) would like to share with readers some of our cultural celebrations.

We all remember Sienna Noble from the 2006 Annual General Assembly in Sault Ste. Marie and how she taught us to jig, even Tony Tagoona from Fort Frances in 2005 and we were pleased that she returned to this area. On September 22, Sienna and her beautiful daughter, Kay-Nah-Chi-Wah-Nung Historical Society, Fort Frances, introduced to the visitors a two-schools to Métis music, history, and archaeological sites. After lunch, we observed the exhibits of the interpretative centre, which accurately detailed the wildlife and depicted the story of our ancestors’ way of life. Everyone enjoyed the day and found the town to be both interesting and intriguing.

Ongoing programs include an exercise class on Wednesdays at 11 a.m., a Kids Being Kids event on Thursdays from 10-11:30 a.m., traditional being at winnie and community kitchens. Everyone is welcome. Call 807-774-7098 for more information. Chaarmain Langais is the MMIC’s Health Services Coordinator and Anne-Marie Armstrong is the Aboriginal Healthy Babies Healthy Children Coordinator in the Sunset Country Métis Council Fort Frances office.

MÉTIS COMMUNITY HARVEST 2006:

Dryden flies the Métis flag proudly

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Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and the Happiest of New Years, a very successful new year to all community councils out there, to our president and council as well as the staff at head office in Ottawa. May your wisdom and knowledge keep on leading us.

Alëcis Cimon is the President of the Northwest Métis Nation in Dryden.
MÉTIS COMMUNITY SPORT INITIATIVE:

**Métis take over Christie Pits**

On Sunday, September 17th, the Region 8 Sport Initiative held its second “Find Your Sport - Try Them All” event. It was one of the last hot days of summer with temperatures climbing into the high 20s. It was the best participant turn out so far for the Toronto Sport Initiative. The event took place at Christie Pits, a large sunken downtown park that offers everything you would expect, a 450 people at dinner. It simply would have been impossible without you all! Thank you to the many, many volunteers who assisted in making this Rendezvous such a great success. It is only with people like yourselves that we are able to move this great Nation forward.

Thank you to the many demonstrators for teaching our culture, our heritage and our knowledge to all those present.

Thank you to the harvesters who were able to harvest bestducks, geese and fish for our citizens in need. It is so greatly appreciated. A personal thank-you to the committee, what a great job you all did! Congratulations. Thank you everyone and see you all next year!

Louise Goulding is the Captain of the Hunt for Region 7 and Chair of the 2006 Métis Rendezvous Committee.

**MÉTIS COMMUNITY HARVEST 2006 – MIDLAND:**

**RENADEZVOUS ‘06**

**– BY LOUISE GOULDING –**

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you! At Chair of the Métis Rendezvous Committee I send many thanks to all who attended the 2006 Métis Rendezvous in Lafontaine, ON. Without people like you there would be no community.

Thank you to the many volunteers who assisted in making this Rendezvous such a great success. It is only with people like yourselves that we are able to move this great Nation forward.

Thank you to the many donors for your generous donations. The food donations were unbelievable, allowing us to feed over 450 people at dinner. It simply would have been impossible without you all!

Thank you to the many demonstrators for teaching our culture, our heritage and our knowledge to all those present.

Thank you to the harvesters who were able to harvest best-ducks, geese and fish for our citizens in need. It is so greatly appreciated.

A personal thank-you to the committee, what a great job you all did! Congratulations. Thank you everyone and see you all next year!

Louise Goulding is the Captain of the Hunt for Region 7 and Chair of the 2006 Métis Rendezvous Committee.

**MÉTIS HISTORIAN HONOURED**

– BY SENATOR LEORA WILSON –

The September General Meeting of the Grey-Owen Sound Métis Council, held at M’Wikwedong Friendship Centre in Owen Sound, was also a celebration of achievement, when Patsy Lou Wilson McArthur of Port Elgin was presented with the Heritage Community Achievement Award. This award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to cultural heritage preservation in their communities.

Patsy Lou Wilson McArthur is a retired school teacher who has made it her mandate to bring to light the contributions of the Métis people who arrived in this area in the early 1800’s. She has become a competent spokesperson for her historic heritage through Métis history presentations made to organizations in this area.

Her tireless fact-finding adventures have brought awareness to the historic Métis communities in the Lake Huron Shoreline and Saugeen areas, previously unobserved in local history books. She has gathered a remarkable amount of information and because of the dedication to her heritage, there is now a publication exclusively following the paths of the Métis in this area. The book, Historic Saugeen and Its Métis People, by the Saugeen Métis Council of Southampton, and edited by Patsy Lou Wilson McArthur, is exceptionally detailed in stories and pictures of early Métis families.

Pat’s research and enthusiasm has proven invaluable. She actively spearheaded the interest group that resulted in the placement of a heritage plaque at the mouth of the Saugeen River in 2004, recognizing the Hudson’s Bay Post that occupied that spot in the early 1800’s.

She has generously spent some time at the uxo headquarters in Ottawa, in the Registry researching the genealogy of those applying for Métis citizenship. Having personally documented the movements of many early Métis families, her knowledge is now available to others. (See book review page 19.)
ABORIGINAL FESTIVAL BRINGS FRIENDS AND FAMILY TOGETHER FOR ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR

BY CHERIE DIMALINE

The Indigenous Knowledge of Health paid respect to the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Arviat Looking Horse, from the Nakajin Nation, and Betha Blondin, of the Dene Nation, were among the teachers and Elders who made it out to this year’s festival. The vendors catered to the youth with stall concentrations of Inuit and Native models calendars, the staples of braided sweet grass and star blanket quilts. It was an eclectic mix of traditional and modern, to match the diverse crowds who made their way to the stadium.

Métis singer sweeps 6

2006 CANADIAN ABORIGINAL MUSIC AWARD WINNERS

BEST FEMALE ARTIST
Tamara Podemski

BEST MALE ARTIST
Jared Sowen

BEST GROUP OR DUO
Eagle & Hawk

BEST ALBUM
Mike Gouche

BEST INDIGENOUS ARTIST
Sage Boyz & Angeld

BEST FEMALE TRADITIONAL ROOTS ALBUM
Andrea Menard

BEST MALE TRADITIONAL ROOTS ALBUM
Northern Cree

BEST FOLK ALBUM
Mike Gouche

BEST FOLK ARTIST
Cliff Maytwayensing

BEST SONG/SINGLE
M’Girl

BEST ROCK ALBUM
Red Bull

BEST RAP OR HIP HOP ALBUM
Red Bull

BEST INDIGENOUS ALBUM
NATIVE

BEST INDIGENOUS ARTIST—TRADITIONAL
Northern Cree

BEST INDIGENOUS ARTIST—CONTEMPORARY
Mikamo-Shig

BEST FEMALE TRADITIONAL ROOTS ALBUM
M’Girl

BEST MALE TRADITIONAL ROOTS ALBUM
Northern Cree

BEST INDIGENOUS ARTIST—SIMPLE SONGS
Tamarra Podemski

BEST SONGWRITER
Andrea Menard

BEST PRODUCER/ENGINEER
David R. Maracle

BEST ALBUM DESIGN
Samantha Aglukark

Visit www.canahb.com for complete festival details.

Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards showcase top talent for eighth great year

BY CHERIE DIMALINE

In the interviews following the show, Menard stressed the importance role Walsh plays in her success. “Robert and I are having a writing session and we’ll get at least two more albums out of it. Two more are coming, get ready!”

She also spoke about her mother’s artistry, “I love nostalgic music, old time folk singers, old, old country singers and jazz divas. I love that music.”

The event started with Native teachings, Native Christmas tree lighting, Native drumming, Native food, and Native models calendars, the staples of braided sweet grass and star blanket quilts. It was an eclectic mix of traditional and modern, to match the diverse crowds who made their way to the stadium.

During this year’s Traditional Teachings, The Indigenous Knowledge of Health paid respect to the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Arviat Looking Horse, from the Nakajin Nation, and Betha Blondin, of the Dene Nation, were among the teachers and Elders who made it out to this year’s festival. The vendors catered to the youth with stall concentrations of Inuit and Native models calendars, the staples of braided sweet grass and star blanket quilts. It was an eclectic mix of traditional and modern, to match the diverse crowds who made their way to the stadium.

Métis singer Andrea Menard co-hosted this year’s Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards and took home three awards.

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Métis singer and actor Andrea Menard co-hosted this year’s Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards and took home three awards.
Métis Nation of Ontario asks court to uphold the MNO-MNR Interim Harvesting Agreement and the Honour of the Crown

In light of the MNR’s breach of the Interim Agreement, the MNO has had bad resort to the courts in an attempt to force the MNO to uphold its commitments and implement the Interim Agreement in full.

BY GARY LIPINSKI

P

ear Friends, this will serve as an update on the June 6th court appearance on June 16th, 2006. As you know, the MNO-MNR Interim Harvesting Agreement continues to defend citizens with valid MNO Harvesters Cards who have been charged by the MNR and First Nation harvesters who are harvesting south of a unilaterally imposed sea line, even if these individuals are harvesting within their traditional territories and following the Harvesting Policy.

The MNR has decided to lay charges in complete violation of the Four Point Agreement (Interim Agreement) and the MNO President entered into with the Minister of the MNR on July 7th, 2004. The Interim Agreement that was negotiated and agreed to was and remains clear and unambiguous. It commits that all MNO Harvesters Card holders (up to a maximum of 1250 in 2004), who are harvesting in their traditional territories and are not in violation of any conservation or safety rules, will not be charged by the MNR.

Specifically, the Interim Agreement states that the MNR will apply its Interim Enforcement Policy (IEP) to issue Harvesters Card holders in the same way they do with First Nation harvesters in the province. The IEP explicitly states that under normal circumstances, if harvesters are not from First Nation harvesters who are harvesting within their respective traditional territories. As a part of agreeing to this Interim Agreement, the MNR had an and has an interim map of its Métis Harvesting Territory areas, where the Interim Agreement is to apply.

Despite the clarity of the Interim Agreement and the very public commitments of the Minister for the MNR, the MNR continues to charge MNO Harvesters Card holders south of its unilaterally imposed sea line (i.e. areas south of Sudbury and North Bay). The MNR has been recognizing and not charging MNO Harvesters Card holders in the First Nation territories north of Sudbury and North Bay. Despite the clarity of the Interim Agreement, the MNR has had to resort to the courts in an attempt to force the MNR to uphold the Interim Agreement and implement the Interim Agreement in full. The MNR has had to resort to the courts in an attempt to force the MNR to uphold its commitments and expecting the MNO to implement the Interim Agreement in full. The MNR has decided to defend their citizens’ rights by asking the court to stay charges (i.e. drop the charges) against three of our harvesters in the North Bay area who were fishing pursuant to the MNO’s Harvesting Policy and the Interim Agreement. These three citizens and Harvesters Card holders are Marc Laurin, Shawn Lemieux and Roger Lemieux.

The basis of our request to the court is that the MNR is not upholding the Interim Agreement or following the law of the land, as set out by the Ontario Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of Canada in R. v. Powley and other Aboriginal rights cases. We are asking the court to interpret the Interim Agreement, as it is written, and to stay these three charges. If successful, we hope this would result in the MNR dropping similar charges against our harvesters south of its unilaterally imposed line and respecting the Interim Agreement fully (i.e. not charging any MNO Harvesters Card holders in their traditional territories who are following the MNO’s Harvesting Policy and respecting conservation and safety rules). The MNO had hoped that on June 16th, Judge Rodgers would have been able to hear the case in full and render his decision shortly thereafter. However, because of disputes with respect to evidence, cross-examination of witnesses had to take place on June 16th in court rather than out of court. This meant that on June 16th the Crown spent the entire day cross-examining President Belcourt. Not only was the whole day spent doing this, but another day has been scheduled to continue the cross-examination of President Belcourt on October 16th. Following that, it will be the MNO’s turn to cross-examine the MNR’s witnesses, which is scheduled for November 2nd.

Upon completion of these cross-examinations, another date will have to be set for Judge Rodgers to hear the arguments from the lawyers on the merits of the case. Realistically, it looks like we are not going to have a decision from the court on this matter until next year.

I know most of you are wondering what that means for others who have already been charged, or who may be charged in the future. The MNO and the Crown have agreed to have these charges adjourned pending the outcome of our application for staying charges against the above mentioned three Métis harvesters. This means that existing and future charges will be dealt with after Judge Rodgers renders his decision on the stay application in R. v. Laurin, Lemieux and Lemieux. Our hope is that when the court provides its ruling on the interpretation of the Interim Agreement, all such charges will be withdrawn and we try, once again, to establish a respectful working relationship with the MNR based on the MNR upholding the honour of the Crown and the Interim Agreement.

For the MNO’s part, we have not wavered from our commitment to the Interim Agreement. We stand committed to undertaking the associated work contemplated in the Interim Agreement such as an independent evaluation of our Harvesting Card system and getting on with joint research. However, in good conscience, we cannot do this until MNR implements the Interim Agreement in full. How could we sit at a table with the MNR when they are not honouring the explicit commitments in the Interim Agreement but are continuing to charge our harvesters? We will not go back to a table to negotiate down from the clear and unambiguous deal President Belcourt reached with Minister Ramsay on July 7th, 2004. When the MNR finally decides, or is forced to honour the Interim Agreement in full, we will eagerly return to the table to get on with the work that is needed. Your negotiations teams look forward to that day.

Related to this update, the Captains of the Hunt and PGMNO have approved a new process and fee for MNO Harvesters Card application and renewal. Please see your Captain of the Hunt or our website for information on Harvesters Card renewal or for first time applications.

Of course, if you have any questions please feel free to contact me, the Captain of the Hunt for your region, or the MNO Head Office in Ottawa.

Gary Lipinski is the executive chair and the MNO’s chief harvesting rights negotiator.
Indigenous Ecuadoran reps pay timely visit to MNO head office

-- by Marc St. Germain --

The Métis Nation of Ontario was pleased to host representatives of the Confederación de Nacionalidades Indígenas del Ecuador (CONAIE) (National Confederation of Indigenous Peoples of Ecuador), when they paid a visit to head office in Ottawa this summer. The visit on August 9th was part of an extensive networking mission undertaken byConnor to meet with indigenous groups and non-governmental organizations in Canada and the United States. The delegation, made up of CONAIE Vice President, Santiago de la Cruz, and Director of Planning, Gerardo Obando, along with translator Marcelo Saezeda-Var-gas sought to exchange information and develop alliances throughout North America. Formed in 1986, CONAIE is the largest indigenous advocacy organization in Ecuador where about 30% of the population is native. CONAIE’s main focuses are strengthening indigenous identity, protecting the land and resource rights of indigenous people, and resisting destructive development by foreign multinational corporations. They also stand in opposition to U.S. military involvement in Ecuador and South America in general. With the aid of English/Spanish translation from President Belcourt’s assistant, Leticia Laeser, Executive Director Pete Lefebvre presented an overview of the CONAIE operations and a briefing on Métis history and culture. Pete led the CONAIE delegation on a tour of head office and the salsa Registry. Although on business in Mani-toba, vice president, Tony Belcourt, was also able to greet the CONAIE delegation using the MNO’s new teleconferencing technology. President Belcourt spoke about international issues he had been involved with, particularly with the Aymara in Peru and the Q’eqchi in Guatemala. He also spoke about the ongoing Métis struggle for recognition of our rights and recent victories in that fight, like the Powley Case.

"It is important to build alliances between indigenous peoples, because there are common issues and problems we all face."

Coincidentally the CONAIE delegation was in Ottawa just as an Ontario Métis were about to travel to Ecuador as part of the Métis Youth Global Adventure, a partnership between the Métis Nation of Ontario Training Initiatives and Canada World Youth’s Global Learner Program. Vice President de la Cruz, spoke about CONAIE, the work they do and some of the recent struggles of Ecuador’s indigenous people. "The main struggle we have been facing is protecting our natural resources, our territories and our indigenous rights," said Vice President de la Cruz through translator Marcelo Saezeda-Vargas. "Take other indigenous peoples across the world we have suffered the plunder of our resources and lands. We have suffered discrimination and systematic extermination practices. So, we struggle to recuperate our territories and have our rights recognized.

Vice President de la Cruz described the battle to have indigenous peoples’ collective rights recognized in Ecuador’s Constitution. In the late 1990s, CONAIE mobilized thousands of people, and with other Ecuadorian social movements organized massive demonstrations. In 1998 these actions resulted directly in Constitutional reforms that included recognition of indigenous self-determination and promises to preserve traditional political structures. Unfortunately, since then the Ecuadorian Government has simply ignored these reforms and indigenous people continue to be treated unjustly.

"It is important to build alliances between indigenous peoples, because there are common issues and problems we all face," said Vice President de la Cruz. Before they left, the delegates were treated to a traditional Métis lunch of moose stew and bannock, courtesy of AHWS Coordinator Lisa Pigeau and Senators Reta Gordon and Lois McCallum.

MÉTIS YOUTH

The Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council has a full contingent! Here they are again:

REG 1 Amber Griffiths
REG 2 Sean Barrie
REG 3 Scott Russell
REG 4 Jodi Labe
REG 5 Dan Lasperance
REG 6 Tina “Benny” McNaughton
REG 7 Alison Croft
REG 8 Chantel Kondraki
REG 9 Cherice O’Neil

STORY BEHIND THE PICTURE:

STONE HOUSE HAS MÉTIS CONNECTION

The City of Sault St. Marie and the Historic Sites Board recently asked Senator Jacques Leroux to smudge and bless the Ermatinger Old Stone House. You might well ask what we Métis have to do with old stone houses; in this case, quite a lot.

-- by Linda Lord --

Charles Oakes Ermatinger, of Swiss descent, launched his fur trade career in 1797 or 1798 in the Sandy Lake area near the headwaters of the Mississippi River. It was here that he met and married Mannowe, the daughter of Kawanabah, an influential political chief of the Sandy Lake tribe.

Ermatinger was associated with the North West Company by 1799, and continued in their employ until 1807, when Charles and the company went their separate ways. This led Ermatinger to resume his status as an independent trader. With his wife and four children, he moved his family to Sault Ste. Marie where he established a permanent residence and post.

Ermatinger began work on the property now known as the Ermatinger Old Stone House in 1812. Situated on 252 acres (30 of which were cleared), the house measured thirty-five feet by forty-five feet. It was constructed using a typical Quebec masonry method: stones of varying sizes were applied to both faces of the walls and then covered with a lime mortar without any attempt at pointing.

In 1814, American troops attacked Sault Ste. Marie with a force of 150 troops. They burned most structures, including the Sand Lake Company post, but Ermatinger’s house escaped unscathed.

After the Ermatinger family left Sault Ste. Marie in 1828, the house was variously occupied by a caretaker, a missionary, The Church of England, a collector of customs and post master, and in 1852 the “Stone House Hotel.” Over the next several years, the house served as a tavern, courthouse, post office, dance hall, tea room, and apartment building. In 1965, it was purchased by the City of Sault Ste. Marie and restored. It remains as it did originally at a cross roads of Canada’s history on the Sault Marry River and a testament to the Métis entrepreneurial spirit.


MÉTIS YOUTH IN ECUADOR

IN THE LAND OF THE CONDOR

This summer, 11 Métis youths aged 18-29 from across Ontario went on a 14-day trip to Ecuador to do community service in Otavalo, an Indigenous community. This project was a partnership with the Métis Nation of Ontario Training Initiatives and Canada World Youth’s Global Learner Program. Youth were responsible for fundraising a portion of the total costs (approx. $2000-$2500/person).

These young people were afforded a chance to increase their understanding of Ecuador and its culture by living and volunteering in an Ecuadorian community. Of course, being immersed in a culture different from one’s own stimulates thought about one’s own identity and culture as a Métis person. This mutual sharing of history, values, traditions and pride in arts and culture has enriched our young Métis travellers and they share some of their experiences and impressions with us in the articles which follow.

For more stories and pictures visit the Métis Youth website. To get involved in the next Métis Youth Global Adventure contact the MNO’s Provincial Youth Services Coordinator Ginny Gonneau by email: ginnyg@metisnation.org or phone: 1-800-263-4889, 613-798-1488 ext. 105.

MY PLACEMENT WAS NOT AT ALL WHAT I EXPECTED. I WAS SHOCKED AT HOW RUN DOWN THE DAYCARE WAS, ESPECIALLY THE CHILDREN’S TABLES—ONE ACTUALLY COLLAPSED WHILE THE CHILDREN WERE USING IT. THE TEACHER WAS AMAZING. IMPALITA, ALWAYS MAINTAINED HER COOL EVEN WHEN THE CHILDREN OF ALL AGES WERE RUNNING AROUND IN EVERY DIRECTION. SHE COULD ALWAYS DRAW THEM BACK IN WITH HER INTERACTIVE GAMES.

BY SHEILA GRANTHAM

I learned a lot from my Ecuador experience. At first I was really out of my comfort zone and thought I would not enjoy myself at all. My host family was absolutely amazing but they live very differently than I do. They have cold showers; their mattresses are not mattresses like the one I sleep on; they wash their clothes by hand and their food was primarily soups, rice and beans. Every morning they get up very early—and the rooster makes sure of that at four every morning! It was hard at first to adapt, but eventually I got into a routine every day.

BY SHEILA GRANTHAM

I will never forget the generosity this family showed me when I stayed with them and I hope someday I will be able to return the favour.

ECUADOR: A VISIT TO A DIFFERENT WORLD

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BY SHEILA GRANTHAM
My first impression of Otavalo came as I was being jostled around in the back of a pick up truck with my fellow participants on our way to meet our host families. After being dropped off with Katy and Farrah I peered through the cloud of dust the truck created as it left and saw the little town where I was to be staying. I'm embarrassed to admit that I immediately began wondering what we would do in a town so quiet you can hear the bus coming up the dirt road long before you can see it. Little did I know that by the end of the day I would meet the local bootleggers, taste contraband liquor, hand pick lemons from a tree grown by nuns, and end up tossing popcorn in my soup.

Otavalo is a place where one’s senses are overloaded. The vibrant local culture is exactly that—vibrant. It seems as though everything in Otavalo is exaggerated. Everything is larger than life—the mountains, trees, market place—not to mention the serving sizes at lunch (the main meal in Ecuador). Had I not been absolutely enamoured with my ultra-hospitable host family I would surely have believed they were fattening me up to kill me at Christmas. Being the most rotund of their three Canadian guests, I had the sneaking suspicion that they believed beyond my lips lay an enormous black hole that could never be filled. But how my host mother tried! Needless to say, my drink of choice while in Ecuador quickly changed from cervasa (beer) to Pepto-Bismol. Humour transcends language, thankfully, and my squeamishness became more of a joke than an insult. I had truly underestimated how much of a punch little Otavalo could pack.

In my naivete I had even underestimated the enormity of the market. The market scene on a Saturday in Otavalo is the most intense expression of local Indigenous culture. Believing I had become somewhat familiar with certain locations in downtown Otavalo, I got off the bus at our usual stop on Saturday and was stunned at how unrecognizable our little street had become. The entire downtown had transformed into the largest Indigenous market in all of South America. The Otavalo market absorbs the energy of the multitudes that walk through it and becomes a living entity, pulsating with the sounds, smells and colours of the local population. Everything in the market screams life, and not one ounce of space is wasted on the mundane. Everywhere I looked there were brilliantly coloured tapestries and blankets. Vendors raised their voices in broken English to potential customers, attempting to be heard above the music which is quick-paced, lively, and constant. I could not have imagined anything more exhilarating than the Otavalo market.

And then there was Mojanda—the mountain that almost claimed my life—if not my life, then my legs at the very least. I believe my initial reaction upon first seeing the distance that we were all expected to climb was to turn to my crew and express the doubt I had the ability to reach the summit. It took everything I had and all the motivational phrases they could muster to get me up that mountain. I owe them one of the best experiences of my life.

Lesson learned in Otavalo? Never judge a town by the amount of dust rising from the road.
I have only a few paragraphs in which to share all of Ecuador with you. I am not even sure where to start, so I will share just a few thoughts about all my adventures, because the adventures were many.

BY KIM ELTHERINGTON-VAUGHAN

Lessons Learned:

1) There are many ways to communicate and the spoken word is not always the most important, a little charade goes a long way.
2) Being rich has nothing to do with money and everything to do with family and friends.
3) Your cultural roots will keep you grounded, and respecting another’s culture is the greatest gift you will ever give them.
4) We are never too old to enjoy blowing bubbles—Irene brought bubbles for the children, a marvellous idea—it entertained our ENTIRE family for many hours. (It’s the little things that matter the very most.)
5) Being scared should motivate you, not cripple you. I said ‘yes’ instead of letting my fear talk; I said ‘yes’ before I could even think, and then there I was with an intense fear of heights climbing Mt. MOJANDA (capitals needed to emphasize the extreme scarierness), horseback riding in the Andes, and riding a bus to Otavalo (I needn’t say anymore for those of you who came along), but I am sure that I will never fear death so many times in two hours ever again.
6) I have something to learn from every person I pass on my journey. We are ALL teachers and we are ALL students!
7) Shrug it off and RELAX; it really makes life so much easier.
8) Goat head soup does not taste good and no amount of popcorn will make it better, but if someone makes it for you EAT it and smile, because they went to the trouble of making it.
9) The world would be a lot better place if we saw things as children do: if we didn’t care about the colour of skin and the language we spoke, and if we understood just how much a hug can help, and how powerful a smile is.
10) Don’t worry about a little dirt or a runny nose; live in the moment and wash your hands later!
11) Ketchup is not the same as tomato sauce. Do not attempt to make spaghetti from it: YUCK!!!
12) Oh yes, mustn’t forget that not everyone sees the need to name a horse. You should expect a very strange look if you enquire as to a horses name; they are all named ‘HORSE’!

Reflections on lesson #1:
Our final day: the van arrived and as Irene and I walked away I asked Milton, our brother, to tell our family they had touched our hearts. I turned away to cry, but then I stopped. My tears were not a weakness, I cried because I was brave enough to feel so strongly, to love these people I knew for only a brief time. My tears were of thanks and sadness and more than anything of happiness. I had finally lived one of my dreams; checked off one of my “to do’s” on that endless life list, and they had lived it with me. They had welcomed an unknown adventurer. Our paths met and they have changed my life in ways I will never be able to thank them for. So I gave them my tears and then they gave us theirs. Without any words we spoke the same language.
‘Catch A Fish Not A Buzz’ program for youth

As we continue from my last column, one key topic for parents to explore is how to develop and maintain their natural leadership in the home. This involves good communication of values and appropriate expectations, active listening, and clear communication, anger management, conflict resolution, and demonstrating the fallacy of the idea that drugs can alleviate their pain.

Good programs offer skills building curricula, which cover clear communication, anger management, conflict resolution, and self-esteem. Afternoon and weekend programs, considered essential by many experts, provide a safe place for youths to develop skills that they can engage in other negative behaviors, the most effective prevention programs concentrate on helping them develop constructive ways to manage stress in their lives.

Schools are also encouraging students, staff, and parents to recognize the many positive experiences that families provide, and they are expanding the definition of family to include blended, single-parent, extended, and foster families. The goal is to encourage family closeness and support, satisfying the needs of youth that otherwise might drive them to gang membership.

Fishing is a common thread between the generations. Most people you talk to have come into contact or have actually participated in fishing activities. I have created a program that is not intrusive and helps kids learn not to repeat the same mistakes their families are going through. They can engage in sports and other group activities that allow them to feel good about themselves, and receive educational support.

For comments or inquiries: ernie@catchafishnotabuzz.com
www.catchafishnotabuzz.com
Phone: 706-533-1579

Catch A Fish Not A Buzz
Box 5177
Penetanguishene, ON, L9M 2G3

Ernie Matson 1.C.A.D.C., is an Addiction Behaviouralist specialist from the Midland area.

MÉTIS ARTS FEST

July 14th, 15th and 16th Black Creek Pioneer Village came alive yet again to the Métis Artists’ Collective’s yearly spectacular. The first day was children’s day and brought in more youth than any Métis children’s day in the past. Native Child & Family Services camp participants provided art work that was displayed at the main stage. The theme of their art work was music and dance. Some of the highlights included main stage performances featuring James Cheechoo’s fiddle music accompanied by his wife Daisy on a Cree bear skin drum, singer-songwriter Sandy Scofield, Morning Star River, traditional drumming and dance. Ottawa Jiggers, On the Fly and Anne Lederman, fiddler extraordinaire, singer of songs old and new, composer, impresario and multi-instrumentalist.

A variety of workshops were also conducted by the likes of singer song writer, Dr. Annette Chretien, Nukarik, Inuit culture and music performers, Rudy Couture, Owen Sound Métis fiddler, Sweet Water Women, drumming, and the Métis Fiddler Quartet, consisting of Allysa, Gorlin, Nicholas, and Danton Delbaere-Sawchuk.

A variety of demonstrations was available too. We were very pleased to have Mme Guilbault-Lanoux sharing her extraordinary sash weaving techniques with us again this year, and Mr. Joe Paquette to provide Fire by Friction and traditional story telling. Thank you to Fire Keeper, Denis Thérien for his hard work.

Congratulations to the Métis Artists’ Collective and Black Creek Pioneer Village.

They are looking for volunteers, performers, visual artists and vendors for MAP 2007 which will be held July 21st (Ridu Creek), July 22nd and Sunday July 23rd.

BY BONNY CANN –

ED MCCARTAN is a long-time citizen of the Métis Nation of Ontario and has sat on the Hamilton Métis Council. He is a strong advocate of Métis traditions and culture and works diligently at acquiring skills and knowledge at every opportunity. The McCartans originate from the Midland/Penetang region, from the Drummond Island Métis community. His wife is a Métis with drugs for the same reasons children approach adolescence. When time their families are not home. There, they can engage in sports and other group activities that allow them to feel good about themselves, and receive educational support.

He and his wife have two children, both now in their teens. Whenever possible, Ed volunteers to assist people in any way that he can. The staff in the Hamilton office are proud that, as well as successfully completing his intervention, he excelled at his studies and made the Dean’s list at the college.

Kathleen Lannigon is the Regional Employment and Training Co ordinator for Region 9.

BY BONNY CANN –

MNO Training Initiatives Success Stories:
A very large ‘thank you’

Kathleen Lannigon
New Funding Opportunity for Métis Students Pursuing Healthcare Careers!

The Métis Nation of Ontario is offering scholarships, bursaries and training assistance to Métis students pursuing careers in health.

As of January 15, 2007, more information on eligibility requirements, a list of eligible health professions and the application process will be made available online at: www.metisnation.org or by calling us at: 613-798-1488 xt. 113 or toll free at: 1-800-263-4889.

This unique health education initiative has been made possible through a partnership between the Métis Nation of Ontario, Métis Nation Council and Health Canada.

A Little Help for Healing Hands

BY SENATOR LEORA WILSON

The Grand Opening of the Outdoor Education Centre near Wiarton featured a procession that led to the newly completed facilities. This procession followed a small portion of the old portage route between Lake Huron and Georgian Bay. The idea was to represent all the ways that that land had been used up until the present time. The canoe was loaned to the Centre by Parks Canada, and was built by First Nations people at Tobermory, under the direction of Lenore Tobias-Keeshig, a Parks Canada employee, who is also a noted author of aboriginal stories and children’s books. The Métis carried the canoe for the first leg of the procession, then it was handed over to the school principals, who in turn passed it to the teachers’ group. The procession was joined by the school children, and made its way to the new building where an opening celebration was held, and a ribbon cutting ceremony observed. The Métis were proud to be part of this day, and even more pleased to be featured on the front page of the Owen Sound Sun Times.

There have been many positive comments on this picture, including: “It was almost eerie; it could have been an old, old picture. You were walking in the footsteps of your ancestors.”

From left to right: Senator Leora Wilson, Malcolm Dixon, Keith Wilson (under the canoe), and Louise Chase. Photo courtesy of the Sun Times, 23 October, 2006.
It’s hard to imagine an Annual General Assembly or a Reel Day without Marion Larkman; she has always been there with her sparkling eyes and her determined chin.

When the Taynuper interviewed Marion in 1998, she recalled some of the events of her long life. She spoke about walking 11 miles to school and 11 miles home, everyday. It took her about three hours each way. Of course, that was only during the good weather. In the winter, the 11 miles was often impossible because of the depth of snow in the Burleigh Falls area, and Marion would then continue her schooling by correspondence, and in the evenings by coal oil lamp. In addition, she helped her dad skin and dress as many as 150 muskrats a day for the month or so that those animals could be trapped each year. When not trapping, her father made handles for axes and hammers from the local hickory, which he then traded for winter supplies, such as potatoes, turnips, and other staples.

English was the language used at school, but Ojibway was the language used at home, and Marion maintained her fluency in Ojibway. Her family history was truly Métis, a blend of Ojibway, Cree, French and Irish.

When Marion reached the age of 11 her father decided that it was time for her to go to work, so she did. Because her father hunted and trapped for a living, she went to work for the local fur buyer, and then for a short time she worked in the General Electric plant in Peterborough. In 1939 the Second World War started, and Marion joined the army. By that time she had learned to recognize opportunities and to seize them when they arrived—and the army had lots. While in the army, she completed her grade ten and learned to be a switchboard operator, but more important in terms of future jobs, she became a certified butcher and a chef.

After the war, Marion returned to Burleigh Falls and married a young man she had known in earlier years. Together they produced 12 children. However, being a mother did not mean that Marion could forget about earning a living. Over the years she was a chef in a variety of summer resorts, and then worked for 20 years or so in Toronto. At one point she worked in the post office on Front Street all day, and then walked next door to the Union Station and cooked all evening.

Despite her busy life, Marion was active in Métis and non-status Indian concerns since the early ‘70s. She was one of those who threw her energy into the fight for Bill C31. She worked with Tony Belcourt, President of the 1990, for many years. In fact, she recalled when, in 1970, at White River, she and Tony won a prize of $50 for baking the most original and best tasting bannock under a blanket of cedar boughs. Marion was a founding member of the 1990 and one of the four original Senators on the review. In 2001, she was presented with an Eagle Staff made by Metis artist David Hannan. In 2003 she received the Queen’s Golden Jubilee Medal. She was well known and well loved. We will all miss her.

— by Linda Lord

We mourn the passage of the beloved matriarch of the Métis Nation, Senator Marion Larkman. I offer the prayer below on behalf of the MNO Senators. — Senator Reta Gordon

We must let her go to the red road of life,
The one that leads across the sky.
It’s the way you live
That will help you get
To walk on that red road of life.
from Red Road of Life. by Laurence Martin
Métis students win Canada Millennium Scholarships

The Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation, is a private, independent organization established by a private act of parliament in 1998. The Foundation distributes $540 million in the form of bursaries and scholarships throughout Canada each year. Since 2000, the Foundation has delivered 670,000 bursaries and scholarships worth more than $2 billion to students across Canada. For a complete list of the year’s laureates and more information about the Foundation and its programs, visit www.millenniumscholarships.ca.

Among the more than 1,000 Canadians who received a prestigious entrance award this year were six Métis students. Recognized for their community involvement, demonstrated leadership qualities and interest in innovation, as well as their academic achievements, are Snéad Charbonneau (Medicine Hat, AB), Terryl Dallyn, (Meadow Lake, SK), Kelly Graves, (Port Moody, BC), David Lussier, (Welwescotég, MB); Chelsey Scragg (Saskatoon, SK), Christopher Swoden, (Port Alberni, BC).

Selected from more than 9,000 applicants, this year’s 1,051 entrance award winners were recommended by regional committees of volunteer assessors and subsequently approved by the Foundation’s Board of Directors. There are three levels of entrance awards: National—100 awards of $5,000, renewable for up to three additional years, to a maximum of $20,000. Provincial/Territorial—240 awards of $4,000, also renewable for up to three additional years, to a maximum of $16,000. Local—711 one-time awards of $4,000.

Local and regional awards are distributed in each province and territory based on their share of the Canadian population, while national awards are allocated to the most exceptional applicants across the country (42 in Ontario), regardless of provincial and territorial quotas. Nearly half of the students who received awards were residents of Ontario. If you are a highschool student, why not check out the Foundation? These financial opportunities are yours, and will not have to be repaid.

Métis-owned tattoo studio still going strong

The staff of Artistic Integrity Tattoo Studio in Toronto with owner Ian Greening (right).

A visit to ‘Artistic Integrity’ found Mr. Ian Greening at work. Between booking appointments and working on his next design, the shop was busy. Mr. Greening received a Métis Cultural Economic Development Grant almost six years ago and was then able to open the doors to the home of Artistic Integrity at 514 Lakeshore Blvd. East, in beautiful Port Credit, Mississauga, Ontario. He has since contributed to his local community by sponsoring little league teams and giving presentations to college students on entrepreneurship.

In June, he won an award for one of his designs that was entered in competition at this year’s International Tattoo Conference here in Toronto. Mr. Greening beat out the likes of designers from Miami Ink, a well known TV program, and sent it over to see Mr. Greening a few years ago for an update, he was creatively working on designs that really made statements. During his recent visit his growth as a designer was obvious. His tattoos today not only make a statement but tell entire stories! One can see from the winning tattoo that the complexity of his work has grown and he

Ian Greening is the very first to remind everyone that he got his start because the Métis Nation of Ontario believed in his vision.

Looking for Métis people with leadership skills?

Visiting Mr. Greening is like attending a meeting of the best of the best. This is a great opportunity to help develop transferable skills for the work place while furthering the agenda for Métis rights, programs and services to Métis people within the cts. The rewards are many, it is exciting to be a part of history in the making as we do our part to build a stronger Métis Nation within the cts. Assistance is provided by the Métis Nation of Ontario who supports councils in their development, so you would have a strong team with excellent experience behind you. Let’s expand our Métis family in the cts we have for good. Please and safe holiday for everyone. If you are interested please contact: Sharon McBride

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is currently looking for leaders in the Toronto area to help develop a charted community council within the Métis Nation of Ontario. This is a great opportunity to help develop transferable skills for the work place while furthering the agenda for Métis rights, programs and services to Métis people within the cts. The rewards are many, it is exciting to be a part of history in the making as we do our part to build a stronger Métis Nation within the cts. Assistance is provided by the Métis Nation of Ontario who supports councils in their development, so you would have a strong team with excellent experience behind you. Let’s expand our Métis family in the cts we have for good. Please and safe holiday for everyone. If you are interested please contact: Sharon McBride m. 905 846 8645 sharonm@metisnation.org.

Médoc – a new Lakeview restaurant

The due date for my sympathy will be spoiled by the time you have read this I would like to remind the community of the move to the new building—not a big move though, just next door from sesom. Our address is 445 Concession Street. We are settled in now—almost! Southern Ontario Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative (soadi) is also housed in the same location as well as council. Drop in and visit. Kathleen Laforme of soadi and I are planning our 2nd Annual Diabetes Fair which will be held again in March 2007. Great news! The Canadian Diabetes Association (cda) has come aboard to support the event. Miawpex to all of our partner organizations for the huge effort they put forth last year in helping sponsor the event; hope to see you this year. We are calling on anyone who would like to partake this year by way of donations, raffle items or door prizes or to set up a display table, to contact either me or Kathleen.

A Hamilton Health Staff hello

by Christa Lea Gray –

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is currently looking for leaders in the Toronto area to help develop a charted community council within the Métis Nation of Ontario. This is a great opportunity to help develop transferable skills for the work place while furthering the agenda for Métis rights, programs and services to Métis people within the cts. The rewards are many, it is exciting to be a part of history in the making as we do our part to build a stronger Métis Nation within the cts. Assistance is provided by the Métis Nation of Ontario who supports councils in their development, so you would have a strong team with excellent experience behind you. Let’s expand our Métis family in the cts we have for good. Please and safe holiday for everyone. If you are interested please contact: Sharon McBride m. 905 846 8645 sharonm@metisnation.org.

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Looking for Métis people with leadership skills?
Credit River Métis reach out to First Nations

Maanjidowin Committee recognized by Ontario Heritage Trust for efforts to link communities

By Linda Lord

Last year the Voyageur did a feature article on Credit River, New Credit history, and the Maanjidowin feast which was held on August 2nd, 2005. At this gathering, the Métis Nation joined the Mississauga of the Credit River to remember the signing of Treaty 13A. On September 27th, 2006, the Maanjidowin Committee received a Certificate of Achievement from the Ontario Heritage Trust (crrt) Commemorating the achievement. President Belcourt said, “The relationship you have developed with the Mississauga of Credit River is an outstanding success of our stated objective to develop good relations with First Nations. It is an extension of the efforts begun in our Nation to Nation relationship with the Missisheak Nation. It is a wonderful example of the goodwill and recognition brought upon the Métis Nation by establishing these relations at the community level.

Following is a quote from the nomination submission.

Aboriginal cultures and customs are important in understanding the foundations of the city, and are the roots and building blocks of every nation. Through the Maanjidowin, the community as a whole gained a better understanding of the origins of the different aboriginal groups within the Mississauga area. The committee was able to relay historical facts, as well as cultural information, increasing both heritage knowledge and consciousness throughout the entire city. By providing the community with the opportunity to learn more about the heritage of the city of Mississauga, the Maanjidowin committee encouraged a better understanding of the importance of First Nation Groups and Métis as part of that story, but increased better appreciation of personal heritage for those who participated.

If heritage is the inheritance of everything we value and wish to preserve for future generations, the Maanjidowin committee has made a legacy creating the foundation for greater collaboration between the Mississauga and its aboriginal founders. Once we begin to understand the importance of our past, we can provide both awareness and education about present surroundings and issues, thereby influencing the direction and heritage consciousness of future generations. Congratulations to Sharon and Ryan McBride!

Notes from the Registry:

Harvesters’ Certificates Renewal

By Karole Dumont-Reckett

The August 31 deadline for the renewal of our harvesters’ certificates was met successfully. A little over 94% of the renewal applications submitted was approved. Some applications are missing documentation to complete the approval process but they are expected to be authorized shortly. Questions about Traditional Harvest Territory (trt) and Treaty 3 arose frequently during this exercise and I would like to take this opportunity to clarify two important issues.

Traditional Harvest Territory is not a choice; it is determined by where one’s Métis ancestors were settled and harvested in Ontario at the time of (or before) Government Effective Control (GEC). In time periods fluctuates from region to region but in general it is the time frame at which city/town councils and government representation came into effect for that particular area.

Treaty 3 Traditional Harvest Territory

All applicants wishing to claim harvesters’ rights under Treaty 3 must clearly demonstrate that their Métis ancestors either resided in that area at the time (or before) the treaty was signed, OR, that their Métis ancestors signed Treaty 3. The Registry recognizes the facts that many ancestors were forced to identify themselves as “Indian” or “White” and takes it into account when assessing an application. Please keep in mind that applications are approved based on the documentation on file.

Captain of the Hunt Signature

Your harvester’s renewal application must be signed by the Captain of the Hunt residing in your Traditional Harvest Territory. Applications submitted without your CoC’s signature will have to be returned to you.

Citizenship Applications: a few important points to remember

- Every application for citizenship submitted to MNO must contain all the documentation necessary to establish a filial link between the applicant and his/her Métis ancestor.
- Documents confirming Métis ancestry must also accompany the application.
- The Registry cannot use the information from one citizen’s file to complete another’s unless explicit consent has been granted in writing by the said SNO citizen.
- Requests for replacement cards should be submitted in writing. The form is available by mail, fax or from our website: www.metisnation.org. Please remember that the Registry can only accept your original signature in blue ink.
- Please write your name and the date on the back of your photos.
- Thank you for your patience and understanding during the harvesters’ Certificate renewal exercise. We hope all our harvesters had a safe and successful Harvest Season!

Karole Dumont-Reckett is the MNO’s Registrar and Director of the Registry.

Urban Multi-Purpose Aboriginal Youth Centres:

Great summer for Sudbury youth!

Aboriginal youth learn how to handle a kayak at Richard Lake in Sudbury.

By Gail Charbonneau

As the seasons change, I would like to give you all a little information on what the Sudbury Métis Youth Centre did last summer. With the help and generosity of our community partners, the centre had a busy summer delivering workshops and events for the youth. Here are just a few of the activities our youth were able to attend:

- Aboriginal Awards Banquet: Youth receive achieve- ment awards in many cate- gories.
- Youth Drumming: Every Tuesday night the youth gather to drum, share stories and teachings.
- Tobacco/Sage Garden: Youth planted a tobacco and sage garden in the city. We had a very successful crop.
- 2nd Time Around Prom Dress Express: This project was intended to dress a youth head to toe for graduation. We are recycling dresses for the less fortunate youth to wear on their special night.
- Drumming for the homeless: Our youth were asked to attend a BBQ for the homeless and drum at the mission at a night event that was held in their honour.
- 6th annual Earn the Bike: Six youths earned bikes in exchange for 30 hours of community clean up.
- Kayak course: Twenty youths learned how to handle a kayak at Richard Lake.
- 6th Annual Cadet Camp: Youth attend this camp to have fun, meet friends and learn about their culture.
- 1st Annual Métis Golf Tournament: This year, Long Term Care and the Métis Youth Centre partnered to participate; raised money to put towards youth work- shops and events.
- 4th Annual Traditional Camp: This year the youth camped out at Richard Lake where they were treated to a talk by an representatives about bear behaviour and bear attacks, a community elder spoke about the responsibilities and duties of having a drum, a pharmaceutical speaker talked about the five sale, herbal medicine wheel and teachings, and the sacred pipe.

Aboriginal Career Fair: This event was held at the Cancer Care Unit at Laurentian University’s hospital encouraging Aboriginal youth to consider a career in the health care field.
- 2nd Anishinaabe-Kwe Water Walk: The women and young ladies of the com- munity got together to hon- our and educate the commu- nity and the schools about water pollution.

- Kits for Kids Backpack Program: This program through the United Way is an initiative to help families who can’t afford school supplies and backpacks. Each youth receives a backpack filled with school supplies deliv- ered to the families. This year the youth center was able to give 13 young back packs.

Message from the Sudbury Métis youth worker: It gives me great joy to deliver healthy workshops and events for the youth to enjoy. To make an impact on one youth in a posi- tive way will make a difference for the rest of his/her life.

This is my sixth year of understand- ing and giving what the youth need in the community. Their participation and the kindness of my community partners has made this initiative a great success. Thanks to all who participated, have a safe winter.

Gail Charbonneau is the Sudbury UMAYC Coordinator.
THREE CANOES

A group of Timmins Métis learns traditional canoe-building techniques

— BY RICHARD AUBIN —

Hello to all my Métis brothers and sisters. I was asked to submit this article that will promote the birch bark canoe building program that has now been going on for about two years. It was a challenging but very rewarding project that would not have been possible without the support of Paul and Len Rondeau. The idea behind this project was to promote our culture, a traditional teaching and work born from the land, and especially to foster prevention and awareness of diabetes amongst the Aboriginal population. The amount of work involved in harvesting the materials and shaping them is an activity that generates good health.

Our first experience began in Whitewater, Ontario, where we secured the services of our instructor, Mt. Tom Byers, who has been building canoes in the traditional way for the past 14 years. You can log onto his web site when searching for birch bark canoes. He has to his credit about 28 canoes so far. Thus we have sold for $8,000.00 each. Paul, Len, and yours truly spent three weeks in the summer of 2004 learning the art of canoe building. The time spent working averaged 12 hours per day. It was quite the celebration when the canoe was brought to life. This is a beautiful Ojibwa style canoe and she carries us very well with her sleek 15 feet of bark skimming on the water.

This canoe is presently hanging on display at the city library and generating a lot of publicity for our council. (See Voyager winter 2005)

The second canoe that was built in 2005 was to serve two purposes. First, it was to hone our newly learned skills. (Surprising how much you can forget the basic skills and knowledge involved in building a canoe and to bring these back to their respective communities so that the newly trained instructors could teach similar projects.) It took about two and a half months prior to this workshop to harvest the materials which consisted of bark, birch, and cedar. Finding quality wood is challenging.

When all the materials had been gathered the participants were contacted and we spent nine days cutting, shaping and lashing all fabricated items together with spruce roots and wooden pegs. Stitching and lashing was a very interesting process.

This second canoe was used as a fund-raiser with proceeds going to the Sault Métis community programs. The winner of the draw for the 15 foot canoe was Bonny Cann from Toronto. During the same summer the Temiskaming Métis Community Council took on the challenge of building a canoe with the support of one of our trainers. Now the Cochrane Northern Lights Métis Council is in the process of collecting the wood to do the same. A ripple effect has begun

Richard Aubin and family try some old-school canoeing.

below: The Timmins birch bark canoe gradually takes shape.

The canoe building project has brought numerous benefits. New partnerships have been formed; diabetes awareness raised, our culture promoted, our youth enjoyed the teachings, the media (both press and television) became involved. As you can see it grew and continues to grow. Bonny Cann will also promote our people with her new canoe displayed at community events down south and while paddling it on a quiet lake during events down south and while paddling it on a quiet lake during her leisure time.

I have submitted some pictures with this article for your enjoyment.

Richard Aubin is the MNO Diabetes Program Coordinator in Timmins.

Bony Cann was the lucky winner of a birch bark canoe built under the supervision of Richard Aubin. The canoe was raffled off, with tickets sold at the MNO-Timmins Council meetings.

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Richard Aubin is the MNO Diabetes Program Coordinator in Timmins.
The winter of 1869-1870 was an intense and tumultuous time for the women of Red River. Louis Riel had taken several of the local men captive who had opposed his actions, so there were many anxious and demanding circumstances for the women to deal with.

RIEL, REFLECTIONS AND RED RIVER WOMEN

by VIRGINIA BARTER — These marvelous recollections of the women who lived through the Red River era, were published in a book, Women of Red River, in 1923. Some of the stories are humorous, others recount dramatic scenes of deception and aventuresome escape, while some are deeply tragic, but all are a testament to the ingenuity and determination — and the absolute bravery — of the women of Red River during this extraordinary time. Louis Riel was certainly a romantic at heart. Mrs. Bernard Ross recalled being at Fort Garry when Riel raised the flag of his provincial government. She wasn’t sure if he would let her pass, but “Riel bowed low, with his left hand on his heart, and said very gallantly, ‘Ladies have always the first consideration, in war as in love!’” Here are a few of my favourite stories ...

BRANDY & BUFFALO ROSES

Mrs. Archibald Wright of Winnipeg recalled how among the men imprisoned by Riel they were newcomers at the time and had not even had their honeymoon yet. Mrs. Wright and Mrs. Crowson used to take the prisoners food. On the day before Christmas, Mrs. Wright was planning to smuggle in some good cheer. “I had a bottle of brandy which Mrs. John Sutherland had given me for a cold. I carried it under my arm inside the sleeve of a dolman I was wearing. Riel’s guards stood by me and were watchful, and I was in a perplexity. One of the prisoners, old Mr. Muligagan, was lying on the floor on a buffalo skin with another buffalo skin rolled up under his head like a pillow. I threw myself on my knees and put my arms around his neck and kissed him, and at the same time, slipped the bottle of brandy into his buffalo robe pillow. Mr. Muligagan thanked me profusely at my demonstration of affection. I tried to make my husband understand that I had put something under Mr. Mulligan’s head but the guards watched me closely and I had to be very careful. The prisoners found the bottle and Mr. Mulligan called me his woman.”

The death of John Hugh Sutherland

Unfortunately, all too often, conflicts like this escalate in an unexpected manner, ending in tragedy for the most innocent among us. Such was the case for the Sutherland family who suffered the loss of their young son. Mrs. Sutherland was unceasing in her appeal to Louis Riel to spare the life of Major Boulton, the military man Riel had held responsible for the death of her son. Where others had failed, she, and she alone, was able to change Riel’s mind. This is the story of one woman’s bravery and the recollections of her daughter, Mrs. Black.

One evening a young man named Parisien, a French-Canadian who was simple-minded, came down the road past the Kildonan church. He had been employed in Fort Garry sawing and chopping wood, and was on his way to his people, who lived across the river from St. Andrews. Some of Major Boulton’s men found him as a spy and made him a prisoner in the schoolhouse. In the morning he managed to make his escape; running to the river bank where he took a gun from one of the sleighs that was lying half unconscious with the blood streaming from a wound in the side of his head, which one of the men had given him with a hatchet. He died not very long after. By this time Major Boulton and many others were prisoners in the Fort. Riel had notified Mr. Eccles, Major Boulton that he must be prepared to die at noon on the day after his brother’s funeral.

Hiding Mr. Eccles

Mrs. Black (nee Sutherland) recalled the events of those days and the bravery of her mother. She said her sister, Mrs. Eccles, and her husband lived with them during that winter. One day Riel’s men came searching for Eccles. Her mother made him crouch under a chair, on which she sat with her voluminous skirts spread to hide him. He remained hidden in that way for a couple of hours while Riel’s men searched the place for him. Convincing he was not there, they waited for his return until finally they became tired and decided to leave.

The funeral of John Hugh

On the morning after my brother’s funeral, she told me afterwards, that when she left John Hugh, whom they had put in Mrs. Black’s bed at the manse, she knew he would not live until the morning, but she could not leave us children alone any longer. John Hugh died the next morning. “Poor John Hugh was crossing the river when he and the half-witted and badly frightened young Parisien met. Men were running from the river bank in pursuit of Parisien, who raised his gun and fired twice at my brother. John Hugh fell wounded from his horse. Some of the men who were pursuing Parisien carried John Hugh to Dr. Black’s house, while others returned to Parisien and dragged him back against the schoolhouse. My uncle, William Fraser, was helping to carry my brother into the schoolhouse. My brother said, ‘Riel, bow down, with your left hand on your heart, and say very gallantly, “Ladies have always the first consideration, in war as in love!”’”

Jump on a horse and ride as fast as you can across the river to Major Boulton and Dr. Schultz, and tell them that all the prisoners are to be set free!

by BRADFORD REIL — “On the morning after my brother was buried,” continued Mrs. Black, “my mother was ill in
**MÉTIS COMMUNITY COUNCILS NEWS:**

MÉTIS MEET AT MOON ISLAND

– BY LOUISE GOULDING –

On June 19th Métis and First Nations came together at a two-day domestic violence conference at the Chippewas of Nawash First Nation. Among those in attendance were the Chippewas of Saugene and Métis communities in Southampton and Owen Sound. Notables in attendance included Ms. President, Tony Belcourt; Vern Boone, Chief, Chippewas of Saugene; Paul Nadjiweta, Chief, Chippewas of Nawash; Ralph Akiwenzie, former Chief, Chippewas of Nawash; Senator Roland St. Germain, and Senator Leora Wilson.

The conference, Weaving Our Communities: Healing and Honouring, was a project of the Grey-Bruce Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee.

We wish to thank the Owen Sound Sun-Times and Mr. Andrew Armitage for allowing us to reprint this article which appeared in the Sun-Times, July 13, 2006.

**AUTHOR TELLS THE STORY OF A PROUD PEOPLE**

– BY ANDREW ARMITAGE –

On a sunny August day in 2004, one of Ontario’s distinctive blue and gold historical plaques was dedicated in Southampton’s Pioneer Park. A tribute to the fur trade along the Lake Huron coast, the plaque commemorates the Hudson Bay Company (HBC) in this area. Here, company men, Métis and First Nations people traded in the early 19th century.

A year later, Paty Lou Wilson McArthur, a retired secondary school teacher and descendant of North West Company voyageurs, has compiled and edited a history that retrieves an entire people from obscurity. Published by the Sagunique Métis Council, Historic Saugeen & Its Métis People (Epic Press, $33) is now available at selected bookstores and museums throughout Grey and Bruce Counties.

I have often been amused by local histories that credit European founders as the builders of such towns as Owen Sound, Kincardine and Goderich. Careful lists have been compiled offering the names of the first white children born in a community or the first white woman to take up residence in a village or other enumeration. But where is the story of those who came before an HBC post was established there in 1820? In Goderich, they had arrived before the Canada Company, bearing names like Belhumeur, Deschamps, Andrews and Landreau. In 1849, an Anglican clergyman visiting Sydenham (Owen Sound) noted, “As you come up to Squap Point, where a lighthouse is to be erected, you begin to see the houses of sundry French Canadia n half-breeds, who squatted on or near the military reserve and who live chiefly by fishing and maple sugar making.”

According to David T. McNab’s contributed article in Historic Saugeen, Métis is not a generic term for all persons of biracial descent. Instead, today Métis are defined by their distinct communities such as the Saugeen Métis Council and the Grey-Owen Sound Métis Council, both of which represent Métis in their traditional homeland of Lake Huron and Georgian Bay. Victimized by 19th-century racial labeling, today Canada’s Métis have been recognized in both Canada’s constitution of 1867 and in a recent Supreme Court decision.

Métis have been present on Georgian Bay and along the Huron coast for more than 200 years. They worked for the fur trade for both the HBC and independent traders, crossed the historic postage at the base of the Bruce Peninsula, fished the lakes, hunted in the forests, built boats, raised families and worshipped at St. Mary’s in Owen Sound. St. Peter’s in Goderich and St. Anne’s in Penetanguishene.

One of the surprises in Historic Saugeen and Its Métis People is the number of retired Hudson Bay Company employees who made their way from fur trade posts such as Ungava Bay, Port Chimo and Moose Factory to Bruce County. Most were either descendants of Métis or married Métis women.

The most noted of them was Captain William Kennedy. Born in Cumberland House, Rupert’s Land, the son of a Chief trader and Aggathas, a Cree woman, Kennedy is credited as being a co-founder (along with John Spence, another retired HBC factor) of Southampton. Recruited by Lady Franklin to search for her lost husband, Kennedy spent six years roaming the Arctic before retiring at a country gentleman to the Red River settlement.

Editor and historian McArthur also turns her attention to the Métis of Owen Sound and Big Bay. The Métis, who flourished close to First Nations villages, made their way to the site of the future port years before the town was surveyed or Thomas Butter, ford spent a first-winter there in 1840.

Among those were family names that can still be found in area phone books or as members of the Owen Sound Métis community. They had names like Couture, Lavallee, Desjardins, Jones, Boucher, Solomon, Payette and Faille.

Among the most legendary of Owen Sound’s Métis community was Joe Couture. He was described in a 1909 Owen Sound Sun-Times obituary as being of Herculean strength and his iconic form made him a well-known figure, as he rowed up the river in his fish boat or struck the Bay street trail in winter with his load of provisions slung on his back in the manner of a pack.

Allan H. Ross, an early resident of Leith, recalled that Joe’s sons were “the best man at a fishing boat who ever sailed into Owen Sound harbour.”

Joe Couture was involved in many personal collections of photographs, including dozens of him in Historic Saugeen. They stand out from the pile of proud faces with familiar names. They stand in front of their hunting dogs and dogs of all sizes, at the waterfront, in fishing shacks and shanties, posed with fiddles, cars and friends, or in a nameless photographer’s studio.

They are the Métis of George Payette and Ronn McArthur, a proud people who have reclaimed their history – even though they never had a name.
MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO TRAINING INITIATIVES:

Another active summer in Hamilton Métis offices

— by Kathleen Lannigan —

This year, for the first time, I took my grandson, David Lannigan, to the 2006 AGA, and he had a wonderful time. You will see David's picture on the inside back cover of this newsletter, sporting a very large, blue cowboy hat. He learned to jigg this summer and has taken to it like a duck to water. He just can’t get enough of it. I wonder if the young 16-year-old female fiddler from Manitou, Sierra Noble, had any influence on him. David turned 14 this September 7th. It sure didn’t hurt to have the music provided by another young person. He has expressed a keen interest in attending all the Métis events from here on in. I must tell you this makes me very proud.

Since the beginning of this year there has been a massive increase of interest in our programs and I have had a plethora of requests for funding. Fortunately, we have Scott France, the Métis Youth Worker, and had Alysha Kirkby our summer student to field our telephone calls and assist with the office tasks. These young people are a great asset to the office.

Some of you will know Scott France from when he has been active for many years working in the background to help make things run smoothly. Scott's son Rowlison's son has learned from his father an excellent work ethic. He works hard, takes direction well, and follows through on any task he is assigned. What more can you ask? Well let me tell you, when Scott Scott observes a task that needs doing, he doesn’t wait to be told, he just takes the initiative and does it. I can’t tell you how much I appreciate this character trait because he is extremely observant.

Alysha Kirkby is a First Nations’ student from Catholic High School and Melissa Cabazos, (our former Youth Worker, one of the 2004 Métis Role Models and Judi Trott’s daughter), recommended her to us a Summer Career Placement (SCP). Hamilton Regional Indian Friendship Centre funded her placement and she was an excellent addition to the office, pleasant, hard working, always in early and possessing excellent interpersonal skills. I hope to be able to have Alysha back again next summer.

Of course, you are probably all aware that there is a person in each region working as the “Sport Leader”. Travis Richardson is working out of the Hamilton office covering all of Region 9. Travis has just completed a four-year degree in Kinesiology (the scientific study of human movement) from the University of Western Ontario. He is quite a young man and is extremely industrious.

Melissa Myke is working with the council and has, in the past, been one of our summer students. She is lively and very creative. Melissa brings a fresh outlook to the office. She is generous with her skills and time offering to teach the staff crafts (beading and sewing) from her lunch hour.

Of course there are still Judi Trott, Christina Grey, from the Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Strategy (of the Ontario Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development) as a Regional Employment & Training Coordinator for the South East Region of Ontario. Kathleen Lannigan from the Southern Ontario Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development office and myself, Judi and I have got new titles. Judi’s title is now “Employment Officer”, and I am called “Regional Employment & Training Coordinator”.

Kathleen Lannigan is the Regional Employment & Training Coordinator for Region 9.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the good citizens of the City of Kenora for coming to the harbour front and helping to make Canada Day a success.

“Senator Kay Lynch rides a voyageur canoe in Kenora’s Canada Day parade.”

Joel Henley is the President of the Kenora Métis Council.
THE JOURNEY OF THE MCPHERSON FAMILY

Our story begins in 1745 in Scotland, during the 5th Jacobite Rebellion. On the arrival of Prince Charles in 1745, Ewen MacPherson of Cluny, who had been appointed the same year to a company in Lord Loudon’s Highlanders, had taken the oaths of government and thrown up his commission. He was one of the 600 MacPhersons who joined the rebel army after the victory at Prestonpans. Along the MacPhersons were led to take an active part in the rebellion, chiefly from a desire to avenge the fate of two of their clansmen, who were shot on account of the mutiny of the Black Watch (now the 42nd regiment) two years earlier. Clan Chief Ewen MacPherson of Cluny at first hesitated to join the prince. His wife, a daughter of Lord Lovat, although a staunch Jacobine, earnestly dissuaded him from breaking his oath to government, assuring him that nothing that began with perjury could end well. Her friends reproached her for interfering and at his clan’s urging he unfortunately yielded.

The MacPhersons were too late for the Battle of Culloden, where their assistance might have turned the fortune of the day had they not come up till after the retreat of Charles from that decisive field. At the Battle of Falkirk however, the MacPhersons formed a portion of the first line. In the subsequent devastations committed by the English army, Cluny’s house was plundered and burnt to the ground. Every exertion was made by the government troops for his apprehension, but they never could lay their hands on him. He escaped to France in 1755, and died at Dunkirk the following year.

The war cry of the MacPhersons was, “Graig Dubh,” the name of a rock in the neighbourhood of Cluny Castle. In the highlands the chief was called, “Mac Mhurich Chlanaidh”, but everywhere else he was better known as Cluny MacPherson.

First McPherson in the New World

The search for my first McPherson ancestor to arrive in Canada has been very frustrating. Recently, I found some information that allowed me to fit the last missing pieces into the puzzle. A biography of Colonel Neil McLean, found on the website, History of Toronto and County of York, yielded substantial reference material about Archibald McLean. In 1617 Mr. McLean was retained by the

North-West Company to take evidence relating to the difficulties between the North-West Fur Company and Hudson’s Bay Company, which had led to the killing of Governor Semple and his men (Battle of Seven Oaks). Archibald McLean married Miss Joan McPherson, a daughter of John McPherson, Esq., of Three Rivers (Trois Rivières, QC). She was the granddaughter of the man who accompanied Dr. Cameron (a first cousin to Scotland after the Jacobite Revolt of 1745. Dr. Cameron (brother of Lochiel), was taken captive and was the last man executed at Tyburn, June 7th, 1753 for high treason in the Jacobite Revolt. Joan McPherson’s grandfa- ther was pardoned and offered a commission, which he declined. He emigrated to Canada where he assisted in the defence of Quebec as one of the defenders of the Sault-au-Matelot, where Montgomery was killed. He was offered payment for his services and as compensation for his house, which was burned by a shell, but the old highlander replied: “I take nothing from the House of Hanover.” Joan was also the sister of Andrew McPherson, the fur trader, my 4th great grandfather.
THE JOURNEY OF THE MCPHERSON FAMILY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

A clue at last!

It is a series of correspondence opened by Andrew McPherson, a reference to Archibald McLean, his brother in law. From Andrew’s notes, I found the name of his father and his location. We had a match. I now had a link that would allow me to conduct focused research and lead me to the Battle of Quebec and Sault au Matalot.

The Battle of Quebec

The Battle of Quebec was an attempt on December 31, 1775, by American revolutionary forces to capture the British-held City of Quebec and enlist French-Canadian support for the revolutionary war. Benedict Arnold and Richard Montgomery were the two primary American commanders in the assault, which failed. The battle was the climax of the American invasion of Canada, and put an end to any hopes of French Canada rising in rebellion with the Americans.

Two expeditions were launched toward Quebec. Brigadier General Montgomery came up via Lake Champlain. General Benedict Arnold took his armies through the back country of Maine. Meanwhile, General Washington manoeuvred his armies to block the British from sending reinforce-
ments north. In late October, 1775, Arnold’s forces came within view of the City of Quebec. In November, 1775, Arnold took his forces across the St. Lawrence River onto the Plains of Abraham, where he summarily took over the city’s garrison to come out and fight. (During the Seven Years’ War, Gen. Montgommery was given 400 acres in Milton Township.

one daughter living in the market, upper town. We also find James McPherson, age 64. Of note, at the 1775 battle of Quebec, at Sault au Matalot, Montgommery was killed with his aid, Capt John McPherson. There were McPhersons with the British defenders and the Americans. One daughter living in the market, upper town. We also find James McPherson, age 64. Of note, at the 1775 battle of Quebec, at Sault au Matalot, Montgommery was killed with his aid, Capt John McPherson. There were McPhersons with the British defenders and the Americans.

James McPherson

James McPherson was born in 1712. I found minimal information on James himself, but I do have information on his family around that period. He is the brother of River McPherson’s, Chunt, 12th Chief of the MacPherson Clan and first cousin of Donald the Gentle Lochiel Cameron, 19th Chief of Clan Cameron and MacDougall of Lochiel. He is the cousin of Archibald Cameron, brother to Donald and the last known Camerons of Cove. He is the father of Simon Fraser, the 11th Lord Lovat, imprisoned for high treason, who was executed on June 7th, 1705 for high treason, in regard to the Jacobite Revolt of 1745. He was also husband of Jean-Baptiste Plante. The first voyageur recorded I found for him dates back to 1810 for Porsyth Richardson. Elisabeth and Francis had 13 children.

Andrew’s son, George McPherson, also took part in the fur trade. He married Isabella Okwikimighiwa, a half-blood born about 1810. According to his Hudson’s Bay records he was at Temiskamingue from 1831 to 1865 as interpreter. In Albany as interpreter from 1877 to 1894, and in charge at Osnaburg from 1845 to 1851. From 1851 to 1856 he was postmaster at Osnaburg, Albany; retired in 1865, became a partner in the Red River Settlement from 1856 to 1870; was postmaster at Port Pagot, Lake La Pluie in 1856 and 1859, then the clerk at Port Pagot, Lake La Pluie from 1859 to 1871.

John McPherson

John McPherson was born 1745/46. In 1775, he resided in Quebec City, in the market, upper town, with his wife Mary McPherson (nee Cameron) and one daughter. He was granted 400 acres of land in Milton Township, close to Three Rivers. Quebec. In Andrew McPherson’s inscription, John is listed as a Tavern Keeper of Three Rivers.

If John and Mary’s children, I know that three, possibly four, were involved in the fur trade. Andrew, Joan, Elizabeth and possibly Robert (I still need to confirm whether Robert was a son or grandson, of John). Joan McPherson was the wife of Archibald McLean, harrier, who took evidence for the North West Company in regard to the Battle of Seven Oaks. Elizabeth McPherson married John Sayer, wintering partner in the North West Company, on October 22, 1806. Andrew McPherson, voyageur and clerk for both the North West Company and even you may be able to carry the flame. The goals of the torch run are to unite Canada, Canada-wide pride and self-esteem while promoting individual achievement along with inclusiveness. Add to that an opportunity to highlight Métis historic sites, history and culture on the international stage. It’s anticipated that the torch will arrive somewhere in northern Canada in November, 2009, and travel thousands of kilometers before reaching its final destination in Vancouver to spark the beginning of the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. Each torch bearer will carry the torch on average about 550 meters. That means the torch will be passed along to thousands of torch bearers from coast to coast to coast. Whether it be elders, youth, local heroes or past Olympians, it is up to each community to determine who will receive the honour, and each community is being encouraged to come up with unique ways to carry the flame. This could mean beginning the day with a sunrise ceremony or carrying the flame by Red River cart.

Check out the following web sites for further information on how you can be involved in the Olympic Dream.

Olympic Dream? By Robert McDonald

The 2010 Vancouver Olympic and Paralympic Games may seem far away, but don’t wait to know it; it’ll be here. Now is the time for the Métis Nation to stand up and take hold of the Olympic spirit. Opportunity awaits.

Whether you’re a contractor, trades-person, artist, dancer, musician, or athlete, or are interested in getting involved as a volunteer in the 2010 Olympics/Paralympics, it’s a chance of a lifetime.

The aim of the Olympic and Paralympic Games is to encourage as much Aboriginal involvement as possible in building, organizing, coordinating and participating in the Olympics and Paralympics. But you don’t have to live in British Columbia to get involved. Métis communities across the Métis Nation can take part in carrying the Olympic/Paralympic torch.

Although the specific route is yet to be determined, it is hoped the torch run will pass through many Métis communities. Whether it is Batoche in Saskatchewan or the Red River region in Manitoba, the Olympic committee will be putting out a notice that the torch is coming and everyone may be able to carry the flame.

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History of Toronto and County of York

http://www.historyoftoronto.ca/history/bies/bor/McHtrcl.html

Our McPherson Ancestors:

JAMES MCPHERSON

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ANDREW MCPHERSON

Andrew McPherson was born November 50th, 1735, in Three Rivers, QC. He was one of John and Mary McPherson’s 12 children. He married his half-

the NWC in 1805 and was in sev-
eral locations. In 1821, he was posted to the Temiskaming District as a clerk and then clerk in charge. In 1837/38 he was granted a leave of absence and on his return to service, was sent to Port Alexander, in the Lac La Pluie District. He posted as a clerk in Cumberland House, Saskatchewan in 1840/42 then retired to Canada in 1843. Andrew married Mary Pluie, Okwikimighiwa. Family history reports that Marie’s father was French, in favor of marriage, so Andrew had two voyageurs kidnap her in the middle of the night. Andrew and Mary had 12 children, including George McPherson who married into the Morris- men led by Montgomery died on August 16th, 1847. Andrew’s daughter Elizabeth, married Francois Nault, in Baie Comeau, in 1856. Francois was a voyageur and met Elisabeth while bringing her to Cornwall in 1847. Francois Nault and Elisabeth McPherson married in August 1847.

Francois Nault and Elizabeth McPherson in 1856.

Murdoch McKenzie


Our McPherson Ancestors:

JAMES MCPHERSON

James McPherson was born in 1712. I found minimal information on James himself, but I do have information on his family around that period. He is the brother of River McPherson’s, Chunt, 12th Chief of the MacPherson Clan and first cousin of Donald the Gentle Lochiel Cameron, 19th Chief of Clan Cameron and MacDougall of Lochiel. He is the cousin of Archibald Cameron, brother to Donald and the last known Camerons of Cove. He is the father of Simon Fraser, the 11th Lord Lovat, imprisoned for high treason, who was executed on June 7th, 1705 for high treason, in regard to the Jacobite Revolt of 1745. He was also husband of Jean-Baptiste Plante. The first voyageur recorded I found for him dates back to 1810 for Porsyth Richardson. Elisabeth and Francis had 13 children.

ANDREW MCPHERSON

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Francois Nault and Elizabeth McPherson in 1856.
**ABORIGINAL PEOPLES SURVEY**

Don't be surprised if Stats Canada gives you a call asking you to participate in a survey of Canada's Métis, First Nations and Inuit populations.

The Aboriginal Peoples Survey (APS) was first conducted by Statistics Canada in 1991, but ten years passed before another was undertaken. The 2001 APS introduced for the first time a supplement specifically targeted to gathering information on Métis, designed by Métis organizations. Another APS will be conducted in 2006, which again will include a 25-minute questionnaire specifically for Métis. Data collection was set to start in October, with interviews to be conducted over the phone.

Although some people believe that we have been researched to death, this is in fact not the case. There are only two major sources of statistics on Métis in Canada: the Canadian Census and the APS. Until the APS came along, there was virtually no information on Métis health or living conditions in Canada, and certainly none that could be scientifically compared with data on First Nations, Inuit, or the general population for that matter. In the past, Kelowna environment, attention is increasingly turning to developing viable and reliable indicators of what progress is being made to improve living conditions of each of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada, including Métis people. The 2006 APS will provide critical information that Aboriginal leaders, governments and others will use to inform policy and program decisions in the coming years.

While the census provides a wealth of information on socio-economic conditions, such as income, employment and household and family structure, the APS asks questions that were not asked in the census, concentrating on exploring educational, linguistic and health conditions of Canada’s Aboriginal peoples. Over half of the questions in the Métis Supplement are health-related. There are also questions on family background, and on experience with child welfare systems and residential schools. In all, the adult Métis questionnaire is about 50 minutes long, including the Métis Supplement. A separate 30-minute Children’s Survey for children 6 to 14 years of age, will take place at the same time, while a major survey of Aboriginal Children 0-5 years of age is being launched in 2006 alongside the APS.

What are your chances of participating in one or the other of these surveys? Well, it depends. Both APS surveys—adults and children—and the Aboriginal Children’s Survey, are what is known as “post-censal” surveys. This means that they draw their samples from the 2006 Census, from persons who said on the long-form census questionnaire (received by one in five Canadian households) that they were Aboriginal or that they have Aboriginal ancestry. Consequently, if you did receive the long form census questionnaire, the chances are very high that you will be among respondents selected to be in the APS samples. However, if you received only the short census questionnaire on Census Day in May 2006, then you definitely will not be part of the sample and the APS will pass you by.

The Métis National Council has for many years been calling on Statistics Canada to include a question on the short form census questionnaire that would allow people to identify as Métis, First Nations or Inuit. That way, we would all have a chance to be part of these surveys, while at the same time reducing the risk of respondent burden on the 25% who do receive the long form. Statistics Canada is examining this issue and promises to introduce changes to census forms in time for the 2011 Census.

In the meantime, those who receive a call from Statistics Canada will have a choice to answer these surveys or not, which is crucial to your responses will provide the basis for the development of statistics on the entire Métis population, and for that, the Nation thanks you.

**BIG WHEELS, BIG DREAMS**

**by Linda Bensiller**

The Temiskaming Métis Community Council (TMCC) continuously assists our community members in locating funds for education and employment training programs. Jeremy Doonan chose to pursue a career in the transportation and construction industry. With assistance from the TMCC and vso Training Initiatives he was able to enroll with the 5th Wheel Training Institute.

We would like to take this opportunity to say congratulations to Jeremy Doonan. Jeremy graduated on June 23rd, 2006. We wish you all the best Jeremy. Anyone interested in pursuing a career in the transportation or construction industry, should start with training that will lead to employment and advancement opportunities.

For program outlines, application forms and prices, call the Client Care Team toll free at 1-888-657-7202 or e-mail them at info@5thwheeltraining.com. You can also visit their website at www.5thwheeltraining.com.

**MNO TRAINING INITIATIVES SUCCESS STORIES:**

Métis organizations. Another APS will be conducted in 2006, which again will include a 25-minute questionnaire specifically for Métis. Data collection was set to start in October, with interviews to be conducted over the phone.

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**A great Aboriginal Day by shores of Georgian Bay**

**by Tracy Bald**

The Georgian Bay Métis Council hosted National Aboriginal Day celebrations at Bayfield Park in Penetangushene. Approximately 200 people took part playing the games, enjoying the barbeque and music, and participating in beach demonstrations and craft workshops. Many thanks go out to those who made the day possible: Georgian Bay Métis Council members; Town of Penetangushene; Heritage Canada; Penetang IC; Penetangushene Parks Staff, SUN Cancers; Barkville Public School - Grade 3 class; Georgian Manor - seniors; Paul Ladouceur, Margaret Raynor and all vso program coordinators who participated; Mary Mackie, april, Tracy Bald, anns, Anthony Sauvé, Sports and Recreation, Louise Zoschke and Michelle Foster-Millard, etc.

**SALSA (medium hot)**

- 1/2 CUP OF VINEGAR
- 2 FINELY CHOPPED MEDIUM ONIONS
- 2 GARLIC CLOVES
- 1 FINELY CHOPPED RED PEPPER
- 1 FINELY CHOPPED GREEN PEPPER
- 1 (12 FL. OZ) CAN Diced TOMATOES
- 2 TBSP SUGAR
- 1 TBSP SALT
- 1 TBSP PEPPER
- 1 TBSP CORIANDER
- 1 TBSP CHILI POWDER
- 1 TBSP OREGANO
- 1 (16 OZ) TOSTADO SALSAS

Use a blender to chop onions, then the red and green peppers, then the tomatoes. Empty into a large cooking pot and add the remainder of ingredients. Over medium heat, cook for 45 minutes; stir a few times. Fill sterilized jars. Ready any time.

**COOKING**

- 1 (16OZ) TOSTADO SALT
- 1 (16OZ) TOSTADO PEPPERS

Use a blender to chop onions, then the red and green peppers, then the tomatoes. Empty into a large cooking pot and add the remainder of ingredients. Over medium heat, cook for 45 minutes; stir a few times. Fill sterilized jars. Ready any time.
The journey of my National Aboriginal Health Organization spirit stone began in Winnipeg, in March 2006, at an Elders’ conference to discuss land and water. On the last day of our conference the eight Elders were each given a bright colourful stone, approximately one inch in diameter. In the meantime, the advance payment application process will underway. The deadline for applications is December 31, 2006. In the Surivors who were alive on May 35, 2005, are entitled to a “Controlled Experience Payment” of $10,000.00 to compensate for loss of language, culture and identity. Survivors who were under the age of 100, on May 30, 2005, are able to apply through eight regional programs.

For an application form call the Indian Residential Schools Truth and Reconciliation Fund office toll free at 1-888-616-7273 or visit their website: www.irsr-ncpg.ca.

New step back 62 years in time, to November 20th, 1944, into a Wellington two-engine aircraft belonging to the Royal Canadian Air Force. During a night cross-country training flight over Wales the plane crashed into Cregg Goeh Black Mountain in Swansea Wales. It was a cold stormy rainy night, the aircraft was smoking and the starboard engine was giving them trouble, so they radioed for permission to descend below the clouds. In doing so they ran into the mountains at full speed, exploding into a fiery death. The Welsh people down in the valley saw the glow of the fire on the mountain. All six Canadian eagle airmen were killed. Five of them came from Quebec and one from New Brunswick. The navigator, Jules Rene Villeneuve, was my step brother, a Metis warrior born to Clara Marie Chartrand. A young Welshman, about 22 years old at the time, went up to the mountain the next day and found the wreckage spread over a large area. He picked up a piece of a wing and found a picture of an airman.

About 60 years he asked his daughter if she could find out, who he was. She put the picture and info about the Wellington aircraft M.F.590 on the web and the stories started coming in. A Mr. Wes Cross in Montréal, who works at McGill University, picked up the story. He informed me he was going to Wales in May, 2006, to attend a memorial at the crash site with the Welsh people. They erected a small cairn, made with the stones and rocks on Cregg Goeh Mountain. While I was invited to attend the services, my legs not being too good I decided not to go. He asked me to send some objects to be left at the monument. So I decided to send my stone. A paper was said over my stone for the spirits of these six fallen eagles of Canada. I put the stone in a bubble envelope and sent it to Mr. Cross in Montreal. There it was put into a small trunk by the Aboriginal women at First Peoples’ House of McGill University. They also sent small pouches of tobacco and sweet grass and sage. Lynn Fletcher and her co worker fixed it up, right hand and drummed and my drum stick in the flow of energy into your life. “The sacred spirit is one of the oldest known symbols of personal power. It can give you personal vision and enlightenment. Awaken your grouse medicine by meditating, and visualizing the spirit of energy surrounding you. “Dancing with spirit movements will also release this power. Dance freely with drumming as your background (music). This will open a new flow of energy into your life. Dancing in a circle is the act of creation.”

So, I got my drum, with the grouse stone in my left hand, my drum and my drum stick in the right hand and drummed and hobbled around in a circle. This I will do as often as I can. My aim is that the stone be sur-reyed to the mountain in Wales where it is at peace. Mr. Cross and his Fiancee asked me so one would take it away.

Chee Miquetech to all who helped in this journey.

Editor Notes: For more information search for Cregg Goeh on-line.
by Daniel Charland

My adventure into northern Ontario began the first weekend after completing my second year at the Faculty of Dentistry, University of Toronto. For months I had been planning this trip with the help of my classmate Marc Yaras chanting and contacts referred from the University of Toronto’s First Nations House; it was now about to begin.

We drove from Toronto to Timmins on Sunday June 4th, and on Monday morning we took a flight from Timmins to Attawapiskat, a “flight-access-only” First Nation on the western banks of James Bay. Our purpose was to give oral hygiene education to the elementary school children of the community. Before departure from Timmins the first glitch had the plane not going to make it onto the plane with us, and we had to wait until Tuesday morning for the seat to arrive with our teaching supplies. On Monday afternoon we got to know our host, Principal Vince Diamond and toured the community.

From a portable classroom at J.R. Nakogee School, we gave presentations on oral health, including an interactive plaque disclosing exercise and tooth brushing instruction; the youngest students also had a little arts and crafts session where they decorated toothbrush shaped bookmarks and brushing charts. Each class from junior kindergarten to grade seven participated.

Leading our MNO TRAINING INITIATIVES -- INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING:

We returned to Timmins on June 11. The next morning we flew four hours north-west to our second First Nation destination, Constance Lake. After meeting Principal Leo Grzela and a volunteer coordinator, we set up shop in the life skills classroom. The day was done yet, we set out to meet and plan with the Healthy Babies program coordinator Corina Cheechoo.

On Tuesday morning our coordinator brought in the first group of six children. Over the next few days, groups of six elementary school aged students passed in and out of our classroom every 45 minutes. Our coordinator’s assistance made it feel like a miniature factory producing educated and diligent young toothbrushers!

We ended our visit to Constance Lake with a parent education session at the local health center. We provided booklets for the parents and health center operators outlining important facts and frequently asked questions on infant, toddler, child and adult oral hygiene practices and technique.

In all we provided oral hygiene instruction to over 400 First Nation children over a span of two weeks.

In all we provided oral hygiene instruction to over 400 First Nation children over a span of two weeks.

We are pleased to be part of this venture.

I congratulate all who participated in this task. I wish you well and may everyone who enters these premises be blessed. So much can be accomplished by the dedication of people such as these.

The week of November 6th was Aboriginal Veterans Week. The First Nation veterans were invited to speak at Métis veterans in Ishkatow Lodge, at Health Canada. Shaun was the presen ter and I offered the opening and closing prayers. On November 8th, Ottawa Council Senator, Lois McCallum, Shaun Redmond and I placed wreaths at the Aboriginal War Memorial and did the same on the 11th at the Genographers. The following week, Métis Week, was celebrated at the same lodge and Senator Lois gave daily presentations on the Métis Nation. Her helper was Ottawa Council Women’s Representative, Lynn Pantuso.

PCMNO Senator, Audrey Valerie and her husband Man had a busy October. In a one week period they attended a trial in North Bay, the Indigenous Veterans Program, at Sturgeon Falls, and a few days at a reception held at Queen’s Park in Toronto, at the invitation of Minister Papatello (Dr. Sandra Papatello is Minister of Economic Development and Trade Minister Responsible for Women’s Issues in Ontario).

Audrey is advisor to the portfolio holder of the w sosov. Temiskaming Senator, Ernie Levallee, reports that after only 15 minutes of hunting he bagged a 394 lb. moose, just five miles from home. Good shot Ernie!

Windsor-Essex Senator, Earl Scolfield has been his usual busy self. See page 24 for the details. Oshawa Council Senator, Claire Kears, underwent major surgery recently, but I am happy to report all went well and slowly but surely she is bouncing back. Keep well Claire!

Please remember in your prayers our warriors who are in war torn countries fighting for peace and democracy. May the Creator send down his angels to protect them.

At this time I am in Florida, but please be assured, I am not just resting by the pool. I still work a couple of hours by phone, e-mail, fax, conference calls, letters, and long distance calls. All of my contact information is below.

I close with this prayer for you and yours: For this Christmas, the New Year and many tomorrows.

May the Holy Spirit watch over you, granting you peace and guiding your steps, and leading your heart down a trail of many joys.

CONTRACT:
retag@metisnation.org
ph: 954-485-7464
You may also call head office in Ottawa (1-800-263-4889) and leave a message. I am in contact with the office everyday and I will call back.

4711 NW 44th St.
Tamarac, Florida 33319 USA

This is to remind hunters and gatherers of wood, or even flowers, that these gifts are part of the bounty given to us by the Creator, and when we take them, it should be with an offering of tobacco and a prayer. Senator Reta Gordon offers this prayer as an example for Métis hunters:

We give you, thank you, bless you, (name, moose, etc.) for give up your life in order to sustain us. We offer you this tobacco to honour your strength and speed. We thank the Great Spirit for creating you—a majestic animal. May your spirit soar forever in green pastures and peaceful woods.

MÉTIS VOYAGEUR 25
FALL/WINTER 2006 •
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By Louise Logue

On June 21st, 2006, the Moon River Métis Council celebrated their first ever National Aboriginal Day. Celebrating with us were 200 students, the public, and various dignitaries. When I brought to council the idea of not only celebrating Aboriginal Day for the first time but using it as a way to teach youth in the area about Métis culture, council was always jumped in with much enthusiasm.

It didn’t take our Women’s Representative, Verna Porter, long before she had found the perfect place to hold our celebrations and to eagerly submit our proposal to Heritage Canada for funding to assist us in pulling this off. The day-long celebrating, teaching, learning and Plain Old Fun was held at Muskoka Heritage Place in Huntsville Management. Muskoka Heritage Place was excited and very willing to assist us in celebrating our heritage and they were instrumental in the success of the day.

The day was filled with Métis culture and tradition. The 200 students who attended our celebration were very enthusiastic and participated fully in many of the many demonstrations during the day. They were able to dance a jig with fellow students and Métis jigger, Victoria Spiers who was accompanied by amazing fiddle player Carl Tice. Both Victoria and Carl were big hits. The many students were also able to taste traditional foods, such as smoked fish, maple syrup, and fish chowder. The fish chowder made by Lisa McCroon was a big hit with the kids. They enjoyed listening and watching trapper, Jim Grisdale as he spoke of trapping and its relationship to the Métis. One of the students’ favourite parts of this demonstration was when Jim set off a trap or two and had the students guessing what pelt belonged to what animal.

The students also very much enjoyed Scott Carpenter’s Métis Culture exhibit. He too had them guessing and playing with items from years gone by. Ruth Quesselle did a demonstration on traditional clothing of the Métis and another highlight for the students was trying on a capote. One of the best parts of the day, according to the letters we received from many students, was spending time with Chris McLeod and learning all about Métis culture, including more games and hands on learning. Chris, as many of you already know, participated in the Canadian Expedition and in one of the letters we received from the students they wrote that it was cool to meet “a real live Métis warrior”!

A welcoming ceremony took place at noon when several dignitaries addressed the crowd. Among them was Mr. David Lowe, Chief Parliamentary Assistant to the Hon. Minister, Tony Clement. A flag exchange took place between Mr. Lowe and the Moon River Métis Council. A very large cake was then cut and served. Councillor Irene Peel made the cake and had decorated it with a Métis sash.

Every student went home at the end of the day with a gift bag full of goodies, including items such as a miniature Métis flag, maple syrup sucker, stickers, pins, etc. Each individual school also received a gift basket consisting of a Métis flag, sash, information sheets, etc.

Such a great day could not be possible without the help of a dedicated council, their devoted and very supportive spouses and many volunteers. I would like to thank every one of them for their help in making our first Aboriginal Day celebration such a huge success. A special thank you to Verna who did a great job organizing and to her husband Doug who, well, just did a great job taking orders all day long!
Hi-tech Métis

Satellite high speed wireless Internet hooks up delegates at last year’s Annual Assembly in Sault Ste. Marie

—at last year’s Annual Assembly in Sault Ste. Marie.

W hen the 13th Annual General Assembly was to be held last summer at the Ojibway Tent and Trailer Park in Garden River near the city of Sault Ste. Marie, the only option for internet would have been dial-up. But that contained a problem in itself as the park has only one phone line and one public pay phone. To compound the problem, due to the location of the park, there was no DSL service, no Cablevision, and no wireless coverage.

A solution was found at Quattra SCS Ltd., a company that specializes in communications products and services in Sault Ste Marie. A portable internet satellite system was installed at the park by John Trudeau, a service technician from Quattra. It was also interesting to note how quickly John set up the satellite dish on a portable stand, acquiring the direction and height of the satellite in the sky by eye, and then confirming and tweaking the direction slightly using a special measuring tool to increase the signal. He connected the dish to a satellite modem and within five minutes the modem had acquired and configured itself to the internet signal from Xplornet Internet Services. John also plugged in his laptop computer to confirm for himself that the signal had been acquired and the modem had acquired and configured itself to the internet signal from Xplornet Internet Services. John also plugged in his laptop computer to confirm for himself that the signal had been acquired and the modem had acquired and configured itself to the internet signal from Xplornet Internet Services. John also plugged in his laptop computer to confirm for himself that the signal had been acquired and the modem had acquired and configured itself to the internet signal from Xplornet Internet Services. John also plugged in his laptop computer to confirm for himself that the signal had been acquired and the modem had acquired and configured itself to the internet signal from Xplornet Internet Services. John also plugged in his laptop computer to confirm for himself that the signal had been acquired and the modem had acquired and configured itself to the internet signal from Xplornet Internet Services.

However, before the Internet was used, and because security is always an issue, the xscs IT department helped out by connecting a SonicWall switch with internal security features for protection that provided two feeds, one for council and the other for the xscs accounting department. The wireless network was also divided into two areas with a wireless hub being located at the park store and a wireless bridge link that re-transmitted the signal a distance from the store over to the big tent. It was nice to see folks sitting around the store using their laptops as an outdoor internet café and others online inside the big tent. The bridge link to the big tent was made possible by using wireless bridges which were on loan from Martin Wyatt, General Manager of the xscs Telecom of Sault Ste Marie. The xscs Telecom a few years back made headline news when it announced that it had tested and would distribute high speed internet over the power lines to home users.

The wireless network, which was also set up as a demonstration at the AGA for the xscs to consider for future xscs was experimental and utilized all low powered equipment that is readily available. The wireless bridge towers that housed the equipment used some home engineering ideas created by me as everything had to be water proof. We even had some laptop users at the store who were surprised that they could connect to wireless at the big tent but with a weaker signal. However, one must remember that wireless is "line of sight" and is hampered easily by any obstruction, and without proper antennas distance is reduced. Having satellite Internet and a wireless network at an AGA was a "first time event" for the xscs, but it wouldn’t have happened without the donated help and equipment from Quattra SCS, xscs Telecom, Sault Ste Marie Council, and the xscs. Everyone worked together to provide a fun week for those at the xscs, or should I say fun Internet.

This program invests in the development of facilities that provide Aboriginal community services and encourage business activity. These facilities foster healthy lifestyles and skills development, especially among Aboriginal children and youth.

Aboriginal Community Capital Grants Program

Eligible Applicants include First Nations, Aboriginal non-profit incorporated groups and Métis Nation of Ontario (mno) Charter Communities sponsored by that Secretary. Eligible Projects include those involving construction, acquisition, renovation and expansion of community, friendship and small business centres, and feasibility studies leading to the development of each. An eligible applicant community can obtain one-time infrastructure funds for such a Community/Friendship centre Small business centre to a maximum of $300,000 (not to exceed 75% of the total eligible project costs). For remote, fly-in communities, a maximum of $500,000 will be considered on a case-by-case basis (within 75% max. cap). An eligible applicant community can obtain funding for a feasibility study for each type of infrastructure project to a maximum of $50,000 per project (not to exceed 75% of total eligible project costs). The program is comprised of two components.

The Ontario Native Community Infrastructure Projects component helps develop community and friendship centres that contribute to a healthy social base in Aboriginal communities. These facilities provide essential community services and activities.

The Native Small Business Centres component helps develop small business centres that support entrepreneurial activities and provide opportunities for business development in Aboriginal communities. These facilities support early stage growth of small businesses by providing rental space, shared services and business counselling assistance.

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SHANNON CORMIER
Program and Development Officer, Agent de programme et de développement
Status of Women Canada – Northwestern Ontario Office
(807) 346-2903
www.aboriginalfairs.osaa.gov.on.ca/english/economy/grants.htm

Ontario Métis Music

RAINBOW COUNTRY
Métis musician, Larry Coald, has produced a cd to promote "Rainbow Country". Think of it as a musical postcard. There are four songs (Sudbury, Espanola, Manitoulin, Area Code 705) and a photo fold-out. The cd sells for $9.95 with a portion of the proceeds being donated to the Espanola Nursing Home. www.metismusic.com

MÉTIS FACES & PLACES - OWEN SOUND

Wilkeminkang country singer, Al "Hardy" Peltier (left), Basil Johnston (middle), organizer and author of 16 books on native history and culture; award-winning Métis songwriter and producer, Larry Coald (right), celebrate Canada Day at the Kelso Beach bandshell in Owen Sound, ON.
Inuit film opens Toronto Film Festival

Inuit filmmaker, Zacharias Kunuk’s latest cinematic creation, The Journal of Knud Rasmussen, received the coveted opening screening at the 2006 Toronto International Film Festival in September.

The film, shot on location in the Canadian Arctic with Inuit actors speaking in Inuktitut, is set in the 1920’s with Inuit society on the cusp of immense change. It tells the tale of the last great Inuit shaman, Aua, and his encounters and struggles with Danish scientists who have come to study his people. Zacharias Kunuk’s 2001 film Atanarjut: The Fast Runner, also filmed in the Arctic and acted by non-professionals in Inuit language, won the Caméra d’Or at the Cannes Film Festival.

The Toronto Film Festival, an annual event for over 30 years, has become one of the premiere showcases of film in the world.

Brazil’s Arara under threat of extinction

A federal prosecutor has ordered FUNAI, the Brazilian government’s Indian affairs department, to draw up a plan to recognise a land of a group of Arara Indians.

The prosecutor stated that, “environmental crimes are being committed daily” on the Indians’ land and that “the government’s negligence is threatening the Arara people with extinction”.

The Indians live in the heart of the Amazon in a territory called Cachoeira Seca (Dry Rapids).

FUNAI will incur a daily fine of $4,700 (US$) if it does not present a plan within 30 days. It was supposed to have drawn up plans to demarcate the Cachoeira Seca territory by June 2005.

The TAC will continue to try to persuade other groups to give indigenous people a wide berth. “We have warned repeatedly that indigenous groups in Colombia are at risk of extinction and of the ongoing conflict.”

Remains of indigenous Tasmanians returned to homeland

Two bundles of ashes, the created remains of indigenous Tasmanians, were recently returned to their traditional territory.

The remains have been held at the British Museum in London since the 1830’s when they were taken to England by Tasmania’s British governor. Last year, the British Prime Minister imposed a law that encouraged museums to repatriate Aboriginal human remains in their collections.

The Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre (TAC), a social service provider and advocacy agency, has been fighting for the return of Tasmanian ancestral remains for decades. The TAC will continue to try to persuade other museums to return remains, including skulls and skeletons from their collections.

Nukak return to rainforest

The Colombian Government is returning the Nukak people to a 20,000 hectare ‘safe haven’, although that area is a fraction of the size of their original reserve and in a region not part of their traditional territory. The nomadic Nukak took refuge in nearby villages last March when violence related to Colombia’s long-running civil war chased them from their rainforest home.

The Nukak were contacted for the first time in 1988. Since then, the Arara and paramilitary guerilla groups have encroached on their lands. The Nukak population has been cut in half since first contact.

Roberto Meier, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees representative in Colombia has urged armed groups to give indigenous people a wide berth. “We have warned repeatedly that indigenous groups in Colombia are at risk of violence and even of extinction amid the ongoing conflict.”

Reflections, Riel & Red River Women

Continued from page 18

bed when Mr. Bannatyne and my mother’s cousin, Vicky MacVicar, arrived in Mr. Bannatyne’s cutter. He had driven down from Fort Garry as fast as the horse would go. I wish I could tell you how fine a character Vicky MacVicar was. She and Mr. Bannatyne had been pleading with Riel for the life of Major Boulton, who was a prisoner in Port Garry with many others. He was condemned to be shot at noon that day. Miss MacVicar said to Mr. Bannatyne that there was nothing left to do but go with her to save Major Boulton’s life.

They went into Riel’s council chamber. Riel strode up and down the room and said, “No, Mrs. Sutherland, Boulton must die at twelve o’clock! I hold him accountable for the death of your son, the first bloodshed since the resistance to my government began, and he must pay the penalty. A life for life! He is guilty of the death of a man born on the soil of this country and he must die for it!” My mother pleaded all the more earnestly, and besought Riel on her knees to give her Major Boulton’s life. Riel stopped his pacing up and down, and rest against the end of the table, covered his face with his hands. At last he said, “Mrs. Sutherland, that alone has saved him. I give you Boulton’s life!”

With that Riel went out of the room and went straight to Donald A. Smith, who had been using every argument and persuasion with him to save Major Boulton’s life. After another interview with Mr. Smith, Riel went to the prison and told Archdeacon McLean, who was with Major Boulton, that the execution would not take place, and asked him to explain to Major Boulton and the other prisoners that after a meeting of the council, which was about to be held, they would all be released. When Major Boulton was a freeman he came straight from Fort Garry to our house to thank my mother. He told her she was a very brave woman. No one can know the anxiety my mother went through in those terrible days. Major Boulton spoke the truth when he said she was a very brave woman. He worked hard helping my father to prevent strife and the shedding of blood.”

Thousands gather to remember Maori queen

Tens of thousands of people gathered at Taupiri Mountain near Hamilton, New Zealand as the Maori Queen, Te Atairangikaahu, was laid to rest on August 21st, 2006.

The 75 year old monarch’s funeral services drew Pacific political leaders, Maori and other peoples from across New Zealand and were broadcast on television to an estimated audience of 450,000.

The Kingitanga or Maori King Movement was started in the 1850’s by indigenous people on New Zealand’s north island in hopes of uniting differing Maori groups and creating a leader who would have similar standing to the monarch of the colonizing British. Today the Maori King or Queen is still a widely respected position of considerable prestige, although they have no legal powers.

The Maori King Movement was started in the 1850s by indigenous people on New Zealand’s north island.

The Maori monarch is appointed by leaders of Maori groups of the Kingitanga.

Although the position is not hereditary all Maori kings to date have been descendants of the first, Potatau Te Whero Whero. Before Te Atairangikaahu’s funeral services her eldest son, Tuheta Pali, was crowned as the latest Maori king.

Financial assistance is available for Metis students pursuing post-secondary education through the Metis Nation of Ontario Bursary Program.

for more information & regional office locations: 1-800-263-4889 or www.metisnation.org
Alexander Angnaluak, 13, is from Inuit and first Nations descent and is currently living in Cold Lake First Nation, Alberta. He is involved in a variety of sports, including volleyball, basketball, track and field and downhill skiing. He especially enjoys science classes and recently won first place at the Treaty Six Science Fair. Alexander’s goal is to go to post-secondary school for environmental sciences.

Alisa Blake, 28, is from Fort McPherson, NWT. She is of mixed ancestry including Cree, Inuvialuit and Métis. Her inspiration is her son, Austin. In 2005, Alisa received the Aviation Career Development Award and compiled a list of her top three choices to the the MNO Chief Electoral Officer by May 2 each year. The Chief Electoral Officer shall compile a list of the top three candidates who shall then complete their second ballot vote by June 2. The Chief Electoral Officer shall list the votes of candidates by ballot number and forward them to the President of the MNO, the name of the person who obtained the most votes. In the event of a tie for the third place candidate, all candidates in the tie shall be included in the list. The list shall then be circulated to the panelists who shall then complete their second ballot vote by June 2. The Chief Electoral Officer shall list the votes of candidates by ballot number and forward them to the President of the MNO, the name of the person who obtained the most votes.

May 2006. A new call will be made in January, 2007. “Lead Your Way” is hosted by the National Aboriginal Health Organization and funded by Health Canada. The National Aboriginal Role Model Program aims to: Promote healthy lifestyles and self-esteem among Aboriginal Peoples; Strengthen Aboriginal Identity; Create positive public images of Aboriginal Peoples; Facilitate availability of Aboriginal Role Models to Aboriginal youth and communities; Influence behaviours and attitudes of Aboriginal youth toward healthy lifestyles; and Foster Aboriginal-inspired leadership.

Twelve strong, accomplished and motivated youths were named “Aboriginal Role Models” at an award ceremony held at Rideau Hall in Ottawa, on October 31, 2006. It was hosted by Her Excellency the Right Honorable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada. The nomination call for 2006/07 Role Models closed in

Caitlin Tolley, 15, is Algonquin from Kitigan Zibi First Nation, Quebec. She received the Foundation for the Advancement of Aboriginal Youth bursary for her academic achievements, where she maintained an 82 per cent average for three years. She is currently a Secondary IV student at Kitigan Zibi School. Caitlin is involved in band hockey and a rock and roll band called, The Horse Band. She speaks fluent Algonquin and is a jingle dress dancer.

Daniel McKennitt, 23, is from the Ojibway community of Sandy Bay First Nation, Manitoba. He currently lives in Edmonton, Alberta, where he recently obtained his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Alberta. He is enrolled in the University of Alberta’s Department of Medicine, where he is studying to become a physician. Daniel has worked for many organizations including as a youth advisor for the Urban Multipurpose Aboriginal Youth Centre with the Department of Heritage.

Derek Sanderson is a Métis from Winnipeg, Manitoba. At 17, he found a way to balance his school work, a job and participation on various sports teams. He was recently selected to play as the starting tight-end for his high school football team, the Kildonan Eastside Eagles. He also enjoys playing baseball and hockey. Derek has maintained an 80 per cent average in his school courses since 2004.
OBITUARY

Joseph Prevost
1913 - 2005

In Memory of Joseph Prevost who passed away September 27th, 2005, at the age of 91, Mr. Prevost was the son of the late Bruno and Marie-Louise (St. Pierre) Prevost; beloved husband of Yvonne Seguin of Noeville; loving father of Ernestine (late Albert of Ouellette); Germaine (late Ovila Turgeon); Mariaine (late Leopold) of Geralton; Raymond Prevost (late Yvonne Seguin) of Hector Prevost; loving father of Ernestine (late Albert of Ouellette); Germaine (late Ovila Turgeon); Mariaine (late Leopold) of Geralton; Raymond Prevost (late Yvonne Seguin) of Hector Prevost; Predeceased by his brothers Lucien (late Aurore Prevost), Theodora (late Leodas St. Louis); Germaine (late Ovila Turgeon); Mariaine (late Leopold) of Geralton; Raymond Prevost (late Yvonne Seguin) of Hector Prevost;

Joseph Prevost was born on November 5th, 1913, in Quebec. In 1928, when Joseph was only seven years old, his parents moved their family to Ouellette, Ontario. At the age of 12 Joseph was withdrawn from school to help with the farm chores. He was ploughing and cutting wood for the stoves in the winter, while his father and older brothers were gone to the lumber camps. Throughout his labourious days Joseph remained devout to the church, and was an altar boy for many years. In 1928, when the construction of St. David’s Church was complete, 15-year-old Joseph was asked to bring forth a sacred stone. It was a great honour to carry this commemorative plaque during its benediction.

In 1930, at the age of 17, Joseph went to the Gogama lumber camp. Eight years later, on September 26, 1938, he married his great love, Yvonne Seguin, daughter of Henri dit Laderoute and Eva Lafreniere. These two shared eight wonderful children, many grandchildren and 67 lovely filled years of marriage.

In 1948, Joseph and his wife bought a big farm near the village of Noeville. Joseph owned a threshing machine which he used and loaned to many neighbours. In 1950 he began to work for the Department of Highways.

Joseph was also an expert fisher and hunter who loved being in the forest or on a lake. Sadly, in 1959, he had to give up his passion after a terrible accident broke his leg, but even this could not keep him away for long and soon he was back fishing and hunting.

In 1967, Joseph moved to Alcan to work in the sawmill as a night watchman, where he worked until his retirement in 1978, at the age of 65. In 1983, he moved to Noeville with his wife. There, until his death, Joseph kept busy gardening, fishing and hunting.

This is a poem dedicated to Joseph Prevost. It is written by Métis artist, Timothy Mohan.

My Child...Sorry my child, it is hard to say goodbye. I wish I could take these tearsdrops To throw them back into the sky. I know you are resting, so far away. Stretching your wings out, wish you had stayed. Living peacefully in another world, a different place. Joseph kept busy gardening, fishing and hunting. Wishing I could make everything all right, to guide you along your way.

Sorry my child, I wish I had another chance. To give you my world, how I was watching you dance. And the pain I feel has opened my eyes to see. That your soul is free; I know you’re an angel watching over me. I begin stretching my wings out, far into the night. I know deep in my heart, everything will be all right. The new day has begun and I know God has smiled on you. Sometimes I feel lost, living in this world without you... Timothy Mohan ©2006
Volunteerism is the backbone of the Métis Nation

Lisa Pigeau, OTTAWA
Lisa is the Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Worker for the Ottawa Métis Community Council. Average Hours Volunteered per month: 60

Jean Dorion, MIDLAND
Lisa is the Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Worker for the Ottawa Métis Community Council. Average Hours Volunteered per month: 70

Richard Sarrazin, SUDBURY
Richard serves as the President of the Sudbury Métis Community Council and is the MNO’s Captain of the Hunt in Region 5. Average Hours Volunteered per month: 160

Volunteer activity adds value to the Métis Nation

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<th>Position</th>
<th># Volunteers</th>
<th>Estimated Salaries</th>
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MNO Volunteers put in thousands of hours per year: The MNO could not function without the dedicated hours of our volunteers. The Long Term Care Program alone relies on the expertise of 88 volunteers giving their time to help the Ontario Métis community better.

MNO Program/Area | # Volunteers | Total Hours
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| TOTAL VOLUMENTS | 383 | 50,492 hours/year