

MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

90 days
2,000 km
1 lifetime adventure

— Continued on page 11



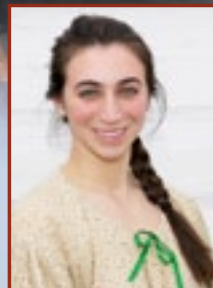
Jeremy BROWN
Kenora, ON
Expedition Guide
Owner of Lake Escapes



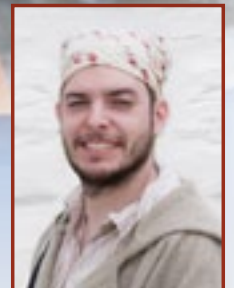
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Fergus, ON
Fleming College Student



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North Bay, ON
Candor College
Graduate



Amilia DiCHIARA
Thornhill, ON
University of Windsor
Graduate



Kyle GRENIER
Midland, ON
Georgian College
Graduate



Geneviève ROUTHIER
Sault Ste. Marie, ON
Cambrian College
Graduate



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Faculty of Law Student



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Sault College Student



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University of Ottawa
Graduate



Elizabeth CLAPIN
Manotick, ON
University of Ottawa
Student



SUMMER YOUTH CULTURAL PROGRAM

Learn about the 2014
training experience.

Page 3



CREDIT RIVER BUILDS RELATIONSHIP

MNO Council builds
potential opportunities
with Region of Halton.

Page 18



WISE BEYOND HIS YEARS

Mitch Case honoured by
Ontario Government with
Young Volunteers Award.

Page 21



ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Learn more about the
2014 AGA and view the
draft agenda.

Page 24

THE
MÉTIS
VOYAGEUR
SUMMER 2014, No. 81

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

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

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

**2014 / 2015
submission deadlines:**

September 5, 2014
November 1, 2014
January 23, 2015
March 13, 2015
May 15, 2015



Nominations for the 2014 Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award closes on: July 25, 2014

The Suzanne Rochon-Burnett VOLUNTEER of the YEAR AWARD 2014



Brenda POWLEY
2013 • Sault Ste. Marie



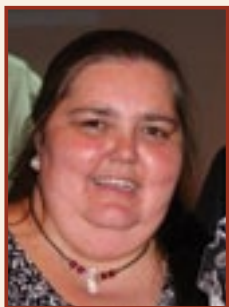
Marlene GREENWOOD
2012 • North Bay



Olivine BOUSQUET-TIEDEMA
2012 • Oshawa



Gordon CALDER
2011 • Fort Frances



Pauline SAULNIER
2010 • Penetanguishene



Louise GOULDING
2009 • Moon Island



Richard SARRAZIN
2008 • Sudbury



Reta GORDON
2007 • Ottawa

OBJECTIVE:

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

PROCESS:

Any MNO citizen can nominate a volunteer for the award by completing a nomination form and sending it to:

**Volunteer of the Year Award
Hunter Courchene Consulting Group
1065 Boulevard de la Carriere
Gatineau, QC J8Y 6V5**

Deadline for nominations is **July 25, 2014.**

CRITERIA:

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

Nomination forms for the Volunteer of the Year Award are available on the AGA section of the MNO website at www.metisnation.org

The 2013 Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year was presented to Senator Brenda Powley. Senator Powley was nominated by several MNO citizens who outlined the reasons they supported her selection as the 2013 Volunteer of the Year.

“Senator Powley has served the Métis Nation tirelessly for the past two decades as a community member, organizer and Senator since the mid 2000s,” stated one of the nominators. “Brenda has volunteered thousands of hours to our community, helping organize feasts, dances, information sessions, AGMs and has represented this community and the MNO as a whole on numerous committees and boards.”

Over the years, Senator Powley has made significant contributions to the Métis Nation.

“The Senator is present at every community council meeting, council or staff support event from set up until clean up, always the first to volunteer to do the work that needs to be done,” explained one of the nominators. “She worked tirelessly to support her husband and

other community members in the establishment of the Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council and in the opening of the Sault Métis Centre.”

Senator Powley also dedicates much of her time with youth and to sharing and teaching Métis culture and history.

“Brenda is wholly committed to ensuring that our distinct Métis Way of Life is passed on to future generations of young, healthy Métis people,” said one of the nominators. “Under the auspices of the Sault Métis Dance Club, Brenda and Anne [Trudel] visited almost every school in the district to do presentations on Métis history, culture and dance; helping Métis children to understand their history as well as providing First Nations and non-Aboriginal children with an opportunity to understand who the Métis are.”

One of the nominators stated that she “played a very big role in getting me involved as a youth in the MNO.”

Much of Senator Powley’s life has been dedicated to the betterment of the Métis Nation. “Brenda works as the matriarch of a very strong active Métis family, supporting her husband

Steve and son Roddy along with the Métis Nation of Ontario in the ten year battle to secure our Métis hunting rights,” said a nominator.

“Brenda could never be replaced in our community and without her, our Métis community would not be the same...With only 1000 words it is difficult to express the achievements and dedication of this incredible Métis woman,” concluded one of the nominators.

The award was presented by MNO President Gary Lipinski at the 20th Anniversary Feast, Dinner Theatre and Dance during the 2013 MNO Annual General Assembly in Ottawa. Senator Powley was thrilled and surprised to receive the award.

“It was kind of a funny moment because I really didn’t see it coming. I had actually nominated someone else,” said Senator Powley. “It is very nice to be honoured with this award; there are so many hard working people who deserve it. Everyone does so much for the Métis community. It is hard to pick one person because we work together; it’s just who we are.”



DR. SUZANNE ROCHON-BURNETT

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

Re-enacting the past, educating the future

The MNO Summer Youth Cultural Program

This summer, 19 Métis youth will embark on a journey of self-discovery as they take part in the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Summer Youth Cultural Program (SYCP).

Designed to strengthen and share Métis culture and history, SYCP is a MNO community based initiative comprised of students who deliver Métis inspired programming across Ontario through experiential education and “hands on, minds on” approach. This summer’s project focuses on creating greater awareness on the contributions of Métis in Canada through presentations, re-enactments and other events.

Gaining experience that will last a lifetime, these 19 youth will spend the summer connecting to their roots, sharing Métis heritage and traditions in their local communities and immersing themselves in all things Métis.

Before taking on their roles as MNO SYCP Interpreters, the young Métis took part in two weeks of comprehensive training in Midland and Fort William Provincial Historic Park in Thunder Bay. Training was provided by Scott Carpenter, MNO Manager of Projects and Partnerships and Sahra McLean, MNO Education Officer as well as Fort William staff.

The interpreters included some returning participants while many others were joining for the first time. Training at Fort William required full immersion into the Métis way of life. Upon arrival, students were provided with traditional Métis attire including strap dresses for the women and corduroy pants and linen shirts for the men.

When entering the room where the youth were gathered, one could sense their eagerness to learn about their culture. There was not a quiet moment as the room filled with talking and laughter, it was as if these young Métis from across the province

were not meeting for the first time but have been friends forever.

Alicia Blore, a returning interpreter who has been involved with the MNO for seven years could not wait to join the program for the second time. “I met so many great people last year and I wanted to build those connections again,” she explained. “I can’t wait to bring this knowledge back to my community in Toronto.”

Interpreters were provided a Métis character, based on historical ancestors, to portray. These characters will stay with them throughout the summer as they will be bringing them to life at future re-enactments.

Attentive and excited to learn about their ancestors, the interpreters really immersed themselves into their new role. Witnessing these young Métis act out the scenes from history, created a feeling that they had traveled back in time to the 19th century.

Returning Midland participant Katelyn LaCroix used interesting twists and humour to bring her character to life. Improvising with fellow returning participant from Thunder Bay Lucy Fowler, the crowd erupted with cheers and laughter. The two make a really great team.

This is the programs’ fifth year and the group of youth grow every year as more and more young people join and discover their Métis ancestry.

One in particular is Paige Mathieu from North Bay. “I just found out that I am Métis and these past two weeks I have learned a lifetime of knowledge,” she explained. “Everyone is so down to earth and I can relate to the fellow interpreters right away as we are all on this journey of discovery together.”

“I have known for a while that I’m Métis but was not very knowledgeable about Métis culture and I wanted to learn more ... through these past two weeks of training I have really found out what this culture is within myself – it is very unique. I can’t wait to spread this knowledge within my school.”

— Joanne Burt



(Continued on page 4)



▲ The MNO SYCP students during training at Fort William in Thunder Bay. (Left to right) **BACK ROW:** Karly Chapman, Melissa St. Amant, Jordi Playne, Melody Chislett-Morris, Katelyn LaCroix, Joanna Burt, Tressa Beaulieu, Alicia Blore, Lucy Fowler and Marie Chalykoff. **FRONT ROW:** Charna Recollet, Paige Mathieu, Jaimee Bigras, Willie Poll, Brooklyn Fay, Natasha Lafreniere and Nikki Doucette. **MISSING:** Gabriel Picard.

Ontario Métis have higher prevalence of asthma

Métis people living in Ontario have a higher prevalence of asthma and COPD than the rest of the Ontario population: MNO and ICES study

Submitted by: **Storm J. Russell, PhD**, MNO Senior Policy and Research Analyst



Prevalence of asthma and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) are 30 per cent and 70 per cent higher, respectively, in Métis people compared to the general Ontario population, according to a study by researchers at the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and the Institute For Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES).

The study, published April 23, 2014, in the journal PLOS ONE, is the first large-scale, population study to quantify asthma and COPD in the Ontario Métis population in terms of health services use. “In most cases, we found lower rates of primary and specialist ambulatory care visits for these diseases among the Métis, suggesting they are not able to access these services as well as other Ontarians. This could be contributing to the higher rates of emergency department visits and hospitalizations also observed for asthma

and COPD among Métis individuals,” said Dr. Andrea Gershon, the study’s lead author, ICES scientist and respirologist and scientist at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre. In the 2011 Canadian National Household Survey, 451,795 people self-identified as Métis, accounting for 32 per cent of the overall Aboriginal population in Canada. “The results of this study are disturbing and highlight some of the key health challenges facing the Métis people of Ontario,” said Gary Lipinski, President of the MNO. “They also provide important direction for much needed policy and programming interventions to reduce the unacceptably high rates of asthma and COPD among our Métis citizens.” The study linked the MNO Citizenship Registry to provincial health administrative databases to measure and compare burden of asthma and COPD between the Métis and non-Métis populations of Ontario between 2009 and 2012. The study found:

- Prevalence of asthma and COPD were 30 per cent and 70 per cent higher, respectively, in the Métis compared to the general Ontario population.
- General physician and specialist ambulatory care visits were significantly lower in Métis with asthma. Specialist visits for COPD were also lower.



- Emergency department visits and hospitalizations were generally higher for Métis compared to non-Métis with either disease.
 - All-cause mortality in Métis with COPD was 1.3 times higher compared to non-Métis with COPD.
- “A number of factors are likely contributing to the higher prevalence of asthma and COPD observed among the Ontario Métis. The prevalence of smoking, a known risk factor for COPD and a trigger for asthma, is 33 per cent for the Métis population nationally, nearly twice that of the Canadian general population. In addition, socio-economic conditions, such as poor housing with poor air quality and enhanced exposure to allergens and molds, may also be contributors in regions where many Métis reside,” adds Gershon. The study, “Asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) prevalence and health services use in Ontario Métis: a population-based cohort study” was published today in PLOS ONE. ∞

Authors: Andrea S. Gershon, Saba Khan, Julie Klein-Geltink, Drew Wilton, Teresa To, Eric J Crighton, Lisa Pigeau (MNO), Jo MacQuarrie (MNO), Yvon Allard (MNO), Storm J. Russell (MNO) and David A. Henry.

ICES is an independent, non-profit organization that uses population-based health information to produce knowledge on a broad range of health care issues. Its unbiased evidence provides measures of health system performance, a clearer understanding of the shifting health care needs of Ontarians, and a stimulus for discussion of practical solutions to optimize scarce resources. ICES knowledge is highly regarded in Canada and abroad, and is widely used by government, hospitals, planners, and practitioners to make decisions about care delivery and to develop policy.

(Continued from page 3)

The program aims to spread knowledge of Métis culture and dispel myths while providing an opportunity for these young Métis to build self-esteem, confidence and develop public speaking skills, all of which will help them succeed in the outside world. Willi Poll from Sault Ste. Marie is hoping to use the knowledge learned through this experience in her future career working in indigenous health. “I love working with traditional medicine,” she said while working on a project during the blacksmithing demonstration, “and hope to use the techniques and knowledge learned here to help youth overcome addictions in a culturally sensitive manner.” Workshops were held on everything from muskets and cannons to wild edibles and of course MNO programs and governance, Métis history and culture, finger weaving, beading, embroidery, fire making, cooking, tin-smithing, mukuk making, capote making, leather work, quillwork, song and dance, blacksmithing and the Métis Way of Life. “I was so glad to get this position,” said Thunder Bay first-time participant Gabriel Picard while beading a necklace, “because now I get to talk about my culture all day long!” Evenings served as social time where youth

gathered around the open fire chatting, singing and dancing to the tunes of Blore’s fiddle. One night in particular, the interpreters broke out into traditional Métis dance and jigs under the light of the full moon. Through MNO’s SYCP, youth become more knowledgeable about Métis history and culture as well as the MNO. This program helps secure MNO’s future by encouraging young Métis to become more involved culturally and politically. They are able to develop their personal attributes while shining a positive light on Métis through a celebration of culture. “I have known for a while that I’m Métis but was not very knowledgeable about Métis culture and I wanted to learn more,” said first-time participant from Toronto, Joanne Burt. “Through these past two weeks of training I have really found out what this culture is within myself – it is very unique. I can’t wait to spread this knowledge within my school.” ∞

More details about MNO’s SYCP activities and re-enactments will be posted on the MNO website throughout the summer at www.metisnation.org/education--training/summer-youth-cultural-program



▲ SYCP participants during the culture training at Fort William in Thunder Bay.

Closing the gaps in Métis education and employment

MNO and Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities continue working together

On April 28, 2014, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Gary Lipinski met with the Honourable Brad Duguid, Ontario Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities in Toronto, Ontario. During the meeting, President Lipinski reviewed MNO’s impressive record of providing results focused employment services to Métis in Ontario.

The meeting was an opportunity to discuss and highlight progress made on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that was signed between the MNO and the Ministry in 2010. Discussions focused on provisions in the agreement that promote closer collaboration on employment and training initiatives.

MNO and the Ministry have established a solid

working relationship through a three-year funded work plan, now in its second year. This work plan increased the MNO’s educational capacity including engagement and formalized partnerships with post-secondary institutions, as well as greater outreach on post-secondary opportunities with students and communities and the development and implementation of innovative programs such as the MNO Infinite Reach Student Solidarity Network.

MNO and the Ministry continue to share a desire to work together to encourage youth to aspire to their highest potential and close the gaps that exist in education and employment for Métis in Ontario. ∞



▲ Ontario Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, the Honourable Brad Duguid with MNO President Gary Lipinski during their meeting on April 28, 2014. Minister Duguid is holding the paddle the MNO presented to him when he was Minister of Aboriginal Affairs.

ACROSS THE HOMELAND



BRITISH COLUMBIA

Imagination Library 5th anniversary

Métis Nation of British Columbia (MNBC) is celebrating the fifth year of the Imagination Library!

The Imagination Library is a literacy program that focuses on creating higher literacy rates in Métis children five years of age and younger. The program is a partnership between MNBC and the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation. Métis children that are registered in the program receive free, age appropriate books each month.

Through the Imagination Library, the MNBC has been able to send free books directly to Métis children, who are in need, right across the province of British Columbia.

Source: Métis Nation of British Columbia



MANITOBA

New agreement benefiting Manitoba Métis students

As part of its commitment to improving opportunities and outcomes for Métis people in Manitoba, Red River College (RRC) has entered into a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) and the Louis Riel Institute.

Signed on May 23, the new MOU creates a joint working group with representation from all three organizations — one that focuses on education, business and growing industry partnerships to increase economic prospects for Manitoba’s Métis populations.

In addition, a new \$400,000 fund for bursaries for Métis students was announced — one made possible through matching \$200,000 investments by the MMF and RRC.

Source: Red River College



ALBERTA

Métis family reunion at Métis Crossing

The Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) citizens will be honouring their Scottish heritage at the Métis Family Reunion from July 5-6. Being held at Métis Crossing in Smoky Lake, Alberta, this weekend event will feature tours of the Métis Crossing and the Victoria Settlement, viewings of Métis and Scottish historical records and Métis soldier and genealogy displays.

Métis Crossing is the first major Métis cultural interpretive centre in Alberta. The development and operation of the facility mirrors the core values of the Métis community including self-sufficiency, respect of elders, participation of youth, and pride in our culture.

Métis crossing began as a major initiative of the MNA. Their mission is to be a premiere centre for Alberta Métis cultural interpretation, education, gatherings, and business development. The 512-acre site is designed to engage and excite visitors, and is comprised of river lot titles from the original Métis settlers to this region in the late 1800s.

Source: Métis Nation of Alberta



SASKATCHEWAN

Clarence Campeau Development Fund has another successful year

The Clarence Campeau Development Fund (CCDF) has experienced another successful year financing Métis owned businesses in Saskatchewan.

CCDF operating results were exceptional. The traditional funding programs delivered from offices in Saskatoon and Regina provided support to 43 business proposals. Approved equity funding by CCDF resulted in the creation of 103 direct jobs.

The CCDF was established by The Métis Society of Saskatchewan Inc. (now known as Métis Nation-Saskatchewan) in 1997 with the mission to improve the economic circumstances of Saskatchewan’s Métis by providing market intelligence; funding for business and community economic development as well as development of management skills and assistance to new and existing Métis business owners.

Source: Clarence Campeau Development Fund

THE MÉTIS NATION
OF ONTARIO

Métis Mining Strategy

The Métis Nation of Ontario is looking to partner with Mining Sector employers through the Métis Mining Strategy.

The Strategy has wage subsidies aimed at trained Métis, First Nations and Inuit people in mining occupations for Ontario mining companies and related companies. Help us meet your labour market needs!

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

Métis Mining Strategy Project Coordinator
1-888-466-6684 or lee-annev@metisnation.org

Métis Nation
of Ontario 

This project is funded in part
by the Government of Canada.

Canada 



Métis Nation
of Ontario 

choose
health

stay active 

live smoke free 

regular screening & health checks 

eat healthy traditional foods 

maintain a strong mind, body & spirit 

Submitted by: **Jennifer Lord**, MNO Manager of Mental Health and Victim Services

This province-wide, multi-year program is funded by the Ontario Women's Directorate and is being run in conjunction with the Ontario Native Women's Association (ONWA), Independent First Nations (IFN), the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIFC) and the Chiefs of Ontario (COO). Each organization has chosen a different Ontario community to do this work and the MNO is leading their project in Thunder Bay.

Once this understanding is achieved, the various parties can identify any institutional barriers and enhance these systems for the benefit of the client, the worker and the community at large. The MNO sees this initiative as one that promotes change from the community level upwards.

The project will use a combined approach of working with service providers, as well as speaking with and learning from Aboriginal women who've experienced sexual violence. The final phase of the project will engage youth in the city area so that they may learn from those that have experienced sexual violence and be provided with tools to not only inform but also strengthen and empower. ∞

For further information, please contact Jennifer Lord, MNO Manager of Mental Health and Victim Services at 613-798-1488.

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Neuroscience Nursing
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Bioscience

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Child and Youth Worker
Social Service Worker
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Investigation
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To apply, by **June 15, 2014**, please visit our website at **www.humber.ca/careers**, click on the position that interests you and submit your cover letter and resume.

We thank all applicants; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.



**WE ARE
HUMBER**

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

MNO councils are the cornerstone of a strong foundation for the MNO in its push toward its inherent right to self-government. MNO Councils are important communication hubs who play a significant role in fostering community empowerment and development for Métis citizens living within the geographic territory of that council.

Congratulations to the MNO Atikokan and Area, North Bay and Toronto and York Region Métis Councils on their recent elections.

Here is a list of the new and returning elected officials:

<i>President</i>	<i>Councillor</i>
Marlene Davidson	Edwin Gouliquer

<i>Senator</i>	<i>Councillor</i>
Brian Gouliquer	Blain Davidson

<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Councillor</i>
Sandra Gauthier Poelman	Bruce Foy

<i>Women's Representative</i>	<i>Councillor</i>
Lorraine Gauthier Stromberg	Don Foy

Youth Representative
Chantélé Goulquier

President
Marc Laurin

Secretary / Treasurer
Denis Tremblay

Chair
Yves Laurin

Senator
Marlene Greenwood

Secretary / Treasurer
Denis Tremblay

Women's Representative
Susan Van Der Rassel

<i>President</i>	<i>Women's Representative</i>
Tera Beaulieu	Brenda Stewart

<i>Chair</i> Katherine Stewart McNeil	<i>Youth Representative</i> Christine Skura
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<i>Senator</i> James Robert Bird	<i>Councillor</i> Todd Ross
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Secretary / Treasurer
Marilyn Hew

Councillor
Derek Johnstone

The MNO would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the newly elected council members and thank all council members for their time and dedication to the citizens of the MNO. ∞



UPCOMING ELECTIONS

MNO Mattawa Métis Council
– June 21, 2014

FAMILY



Remembering Jeannette Stewart

Submitted by: **Evaline Jones**

It is with great sadness that we must say good bye to one of our Métis sisters Jeannette Alida Marie Stewart (LePage). Jeannette passed away on November 17, 2013, after a short battle with cancer. Jeannette was born on April 16, 1936, in Penetanguishene to Melina Ella Mae (Careire) LePage and John LePage. She had seven sisters and five brothers including one of our late Senators on the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Georgian Bay Métis Council, Helen Bradley. Jeannette married Lloyd Stewart and had five wonderful children.

Jeannette will be missed by all those who knew and loved her. ∞

Saulnier-Richardson Wedding

Submitted by: **Tim Pile,**
MNO Secretary-Treasurer

May 3, 2014 was a day of great joy for Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Region 7 Councillor Pauline Saulnier as she married Jim Richardson in a ceremony in Midland.

The bride was resplendent and the groom was beaming with happiness as they exchanged vows in front of their friends and families that included a good number of MNO citizens.

Congratulations Pauline and Jim! ∞



New MNO Employees

THE MNO IS EXCITED TO WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW STAFF MEMBERS



DR. MARK KNELL

Mark joins the MNO Toronto office in the position of Environmental Assessment & Regulatory Advisor with the Lands, Resources and Consultations Branch.

Mark comes to MNO with a distinguished educational background in environmental science and environmental chemistry. He holds an Honours Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Sussex and a PhD in Environmental Chemistry from the University of Durham. He is currently completing the Project Management Professional (PMP) accreditation program.

Most recently, Mark was an Environmental Assessment Specialist for seven years with Golder Associates where his primary functions included environmental impact assessment and environmental studies, project management, project planning and development, stakeholder communications and consultations and scientific and policy research and analysis.

Mark will play a central role in providing expert advice and analysis with respect to the environmental assessment process and related regulatory processes and issues in support of the MNO.

Submitted by: **Aly N. Alibhai,**
Director of Lands, Resources & Consultations



JESSICA RICE

Jessica joins the MNO Owen Sound office in the position of Employment Developer for Region 7.

Jessica comes to the MNO from Parry Sound, Ontario where she worked as a Science, Native Studies and Special Education teacher for the past five years. Jessica's communication and networking skills will be beneficial to support Métis people throughout the region.

Jessica is actively involved in Métis culture as she sings, beads and plans on learning to jig and finger weave as part of her participation in cultural activities in the region.

Jessica holds a Bachelor of Science with Honours in Anthropology and a Bachelor of Education from Trent University.

Submitted by: **Jennifer St. Germain,**
Director of Education and Training



CINDY PAREIGIS

Cindy joins the MNO Thunder Bay office in the position of Employment Developer.

Cindy comes to the MNO from NorthWest Employment Works at Confederation College. She possesses 20+ years of experience in the social/human services sector, including 10 years in supervisory and management positions. Specifically, she has hands on experience working with various client groups in positions in the Ontario Works and Housing Services Divisions of the District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board.

Cindy is excited about the new challenges that the MNO will offer and to have the chance to make a difference in the lives of Métis people.

Submitted by: **Jennifer St. Germain,**
Director of Education and Training

Welcome to the MNO Team!

Staying safe while using social media



Submitted by: **Megan Muloin**, MNO Victim Services Coordinator

It may not have always been on Facebook or Twitter but we have always used social networking in our Métis communities. Coming together around meals, fires, during hunting and gathering, and so on provided our ancestors with opportunities to communicate and network about the day, our problems, and our joys; just like today when we update our statuses online.

However, with technological advances, there is now a sea of social media, which can make us much more vulnerable to unwanted attention and harassment or in some cases, even violence and abuse. There have been many cases where young people and adults have reported being stalked, harassed, bullied, and even approached in-person by online predators. However you can protect yourself and your family by taking some simple and basic precautions.

Did you know, for example, that the Global Positioning System (GPS) function on mobile devices such as cell phones and tablets (iPad etc.) can be used to determine the exact location of the device and where pictures on the device were taken? This information can be used by potential stalkers to help track down their intended victims. If your profile on Face-

book, Twitter, Instagram or other social media sites is public the potential exists that anyone with basic computer skills can click on a picture and determine where someone lives and works as well as where their children go to school or play. The good news is that the GPS function on mobile devices can be disabled. This can usually be done under device settings.

Social media and e-mail have unfortunately become new venues for bullying and other forms of harassment. As long as your profile on social media sites is public, strangers can approach you, so, if

...with technological advances, there is now a sea of social media, which can make us much more vulnerable to unwanted attention and harassment or in some cases, even violence and abuse... however you can protect yourself and your family by taking some simple and basic precautions.”

you are concerned about strangers, you can adjust the privacy settings on your social media profiles to make only certain information public or make the whole profile viewable by only people you have accepted into your network.

Bullying and harassment, however, often involves people you already know. If you are being targeted by someone you have accepted into your network you can remove them from your network and block them from sending you e-mail and instant messages. If you are unclear how to change privacy setting or block e-mails consult someone you trust who is more technology savvy than you and ask for their assistance.

As with any other form of harassment, always remember that if you feel uncomfortable, threatened, or in danger, contact the police as soon as possible. If this is happening at school, please contact the school principal. If you have received harassing or abusive messages keep electronic and print copies as if the situation becomes serious you may need evidence. Instant messaging and other types of communications that appear on your screen can be copied by using the 'Print Screen' function on your keyboard. It takes snapshots of whatever appears on the screen including instant messages and other programs that feature pop-up messages. You can then paste the 'Print Screen' image in a word processing document for safe keeping.

There are many issues surrounding social media and internet privacy. There are resources available to help anyone concerned including the website "Get Cyber Safe", which provides information on how to be safe when on using cell phones, computers, gaming systems and other technologies (www.getcybersafe.gc.ca).

Although technology and social networking may be far from what it once was, we can still work together today by supporting each other both online and offline, by getting back to our traditional roots and by being kind to each other. ∞

SOCIAL MEDIA SAFETY TIPS:

If you have concerns that your use of social media could put you or your family at risk, some precautions you can take include:

- Disable the GPS location settings on your posts and photos
- Learn how to adjust your privacy settings for any social media that you may use
- Do not respond to unsolicited messages or e-mails from strangers
- If you receive bullying, harassing or abusive messages or emails from someone save them just in case the police need to see them
- See www.getcybersafe.gc.ca for more social networking safety tips

Further assistance is available through the Métis Nation of Ontario Victim Services Program.

Megan Muloin
MNO Victim Services Coordinator (Northern region)
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Marsha Depotier
MNO Victim Services Coordinator (Southern region)
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POSTER CONTEST

SEVEN WINNERS!

Submitted by: **Jennifer Lord**, MNO Manager of Mental Health and Victim Services

Earlier this year the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) held a poster contest for all Métis youth ages 10-29. The theme of the contest was “What is Family, What is Safety?” and offered Dell 16 GB Android tablets as prizes. The contest received a good response and the following seven students will each receive one of the Android tablets. ∞

In the 10-14 years old category:



1ST PLACE
ABIGAIL MITCHELL



2ND PLACE
DAKOTA ROWLINSON



3RD PLACE
SIGIL RIGSBY



4TH PLACE
KATIYA GAREAU-JONES

In the 19 years and older category:



1ST PLACE
KIRSTIE HENDERSON



2ND PLACE
OLIVIA BOUCHA



3RD PLACE
DANIELLE SECORD



▲ MNO Canoe Expedition paddlers Geneviève Routhier (left) and Emily Ingram (right) with past participant Ginny Gonneau (middle) at the Ottawa launch event.



▲ MNO Senator Reta Gordon offers a prayer to send off the Expedition.



▲ MNO Canoe Expedition making their way through foggy weather near Belleville, Ontario.

They started out as friends, but will finish as *family*

2,000 km, 90 days, 1 adventure of a lifetime

MNO Canoe Expedition is underway!

On May 26, from the shores of the Rideau River in Ottawa 10 Métis youth embarked on a journey of a lifetime. The forecast called for rain, but the skies cleared and the sun was shining just in time for the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) 2014 Canoe Expedition launch. Throughout this 90 day trek, these young Métis will follow historic fur trade routes of their Voyageur ancestors covering over 2,000 kilometres by canoe and portage all the way to Thunder Bay (see route map for more details - page 12).

When arriving at Mooney's Bay beach in Ottawa for the official launch you could sense the excitement in the air. A crowd of supporters and media gathered to send off the youth. Even past participants came to wish the paddler's well and one in particular, Ginny Gonneau, provided words of advice and presented each paddler with a unique good luck charm.

MNO Senator Reta Gordon provided the opening prayer to wish the modern Voyageurs safe travels and share some words of wisdom. "You will start this journey as friends but will come back as family," she stated.

This was followed by traditional fiddling performed by Sault Ste. Marie expedition participant Emily Ingram. Ingram, who is currently studying to be an Environment Technician, is extremely excited to re-enact the lives of historic Métis Voyageurs.

Unfortunately due to scheduling conflicts, MNO President Gary Lipinski was unable to attend the launch but did send well wishes through MNO Chief Operating Officer Doug Wilson with a promise to meet the Voyageurs at several communities throughout the summer. President Lipinski's full remarks appear in the adjacent right column.

The expedition participants were then presented with a traditional Métis sash before embarking on this once-in-a-lifetime adventure. After putting on their sashes with pride, the youth headed to the canoe and officially began the first leg of the trek.

The crowd cheered as the paddles hit the water, and just like that, their voyage began. While departing, the paddlers lifted their paddles in almost military precision to give the traditional Voyageur salute to those ashore.

For the first leg of the journey their route will take them through the Rideau Canal to Kingston. They will then follow the Lake Ontario shoreline to Toronto. From there, they'll take the Humber River north, and after a series of portages and rivers they'll enter Georgian Bay at Wasaga beach, and follow the north shore of Lake Huron and Lake Superior all the way to Thunder Bay where they will make a grand arrival at the 2014 MNO Annual General Assembly.

Guiding the expedition is past MNO Canoe Expedition participant Jeremy Brown. Owner of Lake Escapes, an eco-adventure tour company, Brown has not only experienced this type of adventure first hand, he also has 15 years of experience on the open water.

"My experience on the 2005 expedition was life changing and actually inspired me to start my own eco-tourism company," explained Brown. "It is crazy that nine years later, I am now leading the trip. I can't wait to help provide this amazing experience for the crew."

My experience on the 2005 expedition was life changing and actually inspired me to start my own eco-tourism company... it is crazy that nine years later, I am now leading the trip. I can't wait to help provide this amazing experience for the crew."

— Jeremy Brown

Training and preparations

Before embarking on this epic journey, the MNO provided training to help prepare the youth for the expedition. This included three weeks of vigorous training in Thunder Bay and Midland consisting of outdoor survival, cultural ambassadorship, leadership and building employability skills workshops.

Upon arriving for culture training at Fort William in Thunder Bay, the youth immediately changed into traditional Métis garb which they will be sporting throughout their journey. These colourful outfits include corduroys for the men and strap dresses for the women.

During the training sessions, the youth began to discover their culture and spent several days learning traditional crafts such as beading, embroidering, quillwork, song and dance, leather work, mukuk making and more. Many participants took part in the crafts for the first time. Heather Bunn, from Fergus, Ontario, never considered herself a "crafty" person but during training she discovered she is a pretty skillful embroiderer. "I found my old lady hobby," she joked.

Bunn thoroughly enjoyed the cultural training as she is still discovering her Métis heritage.

"Finding out we are Métis totally changed our lives," explained Bunn. "We jumped on board and got as much involved as possible. It was like something was missing and we found out what it was and it just filled the gap. Being here with fellow Métis youth... I am just having a blast."

The youth spent this time really getting to know one another. Kyle Grenier from Midland, Ontario is most looking forward to



President Lipinski's remarks from the MNO Canoe Expedition launch

As you travel these waterways you will learn invaluable skills and gain incredible experience that will not only serve you well as you paddle but will be with you throughout your education and career pursuits.

Your involvement in the Canoe Expedition 2014 marks an important step forward. The MNO has embarked on yet another chapter with a sustained focus on youth, ensuring that all we do today is for the generations yet to come.

You will forever remember this journey as you leave your mark on the contemporary history of the Métis nation of Ontario. With that know that the Nation is with you and will be throughout. We will be sending you strength and support and will be there on the shores of Lake Superior in August to celebrate your final arrival.

Gary Lipinski
President, MNO



all the friendships that will be made. He explained how training was a great opportunity to really get to know each other's strengths and weaknesses before embarking on the journey.

"It is going to be a great challenge," said Grenier. "I want to be able to say that I have been here and there and ultimately be able to say 'I did that'."

(Continued on page 12)

01



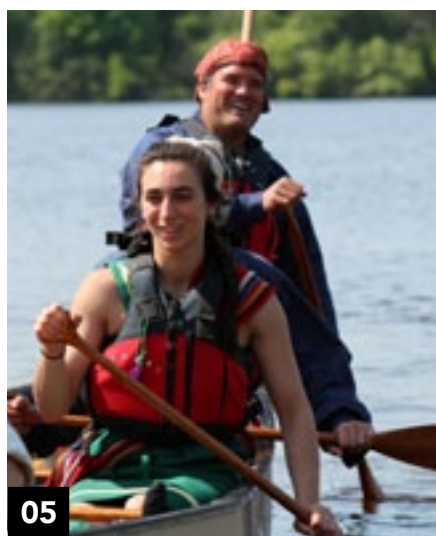
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03



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05



06

I would like to know as much of my past and history as possible and I hope to pass down those traditions,... as youth we are eventually going to be the voice of the MNO so having the knowledge and appreciation for what our forefathers did is very important and what better way to learn than through the MNO Canoe Expedition”
— Kyle Grenier

(Continued from page 11)

Gerald Lavalée from North Bay, Ontario is also looking forward to the building relationships with fellow paddlers and Métis communities.

“Most rewarding will be the connections we make with the communities and of course with our fellow paddlers – it’s going to be life long,” said Lavalée.

Following their time at Fort William, the young Voyageurs travelled to Midland to complete their training, this time on the open water. The youth were taught everything they need to know for a canoe expedition. Safety being the MNO’s number one priority, courses were provided on: wilderness camping safety;

expedition gear and equipment; canoe tripping skills; campsite selection and set up; bear wise safety; camp kitchen; paddle sport safety; lightening and storm safety; first aid; safe food handling; map and compass training; canoe self-rescue training; navigation skills as well as on water canoe training.

“In the last two weeks of training, I have learned more about historical Métis roots and Métis culture than I have in the past five years doing research on my own,” said Josh Szajewski from Kenora, Ontario. “It is a very exciting opportunity; I can’t wait to get out on the water.”

▲ 01. The Métis Voyageurs during training at Fort William in Thunder Bay. 02. Taking a break while heading along the Rideau River to Kingston. 03. Emily Ingram fiddling during the MNO Canoe Expedition launch on May 26 in Ottawa. 04. Senator Reta Gordon presenting the Voyageurs with traditional Métis sashes at the Ottawa launch event. 05. Amilia DiChiara and Jeremy Brown taking their first few strokes. 06. The MNO Canoe Expedition crew final hurrah before embarking on their journey.



Métis Nation of Ontario CANOE EXPEDITION 2014

▼ Elizabeth Clapin during the Ottawa launch on May 26.



The youth will be making camp every night and living outdoors in a manner reminiscent of their Voyageur ancestors. Grenier believes one of the most challenging aspects of the trip will be getting enough sleep. “We are going to be pushing ourselves to the limit both physically and mentally,” he explained, “sleep deprivation is definitely going to be a challenge for us.”

Not only will this be an epic adventure, these young MNO citizens will be attaining more than a great summer experience on the water. The MNO Canoe Expedition is an interdisciplinary model of experiential learning that challenges and rewards students as they gain important employment values and skills.

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

will also be stopping in 23 different communities where they will deliver presentations about Métis culture and heritage, be interviewed by the media and act as ambassadors of the MNO. Participants will share responsibilities for photography, videography and providing written descriptions of their experiences that will be shared through the MNO’s social media and web communications networks.

A graduate from the Eco Tourism program at Candore College, Lavalée believes this opportunity is a stepping stone for a career in the tourism sector.

“Being a young person who is involved in the tourism sector, this opportunity really gets my foot in the door and gives me hands on knowledge that I can’t get anywhere else,” explained Lavalée.

Szajewski is set to begin law school at Lake-

head University this fall. He joked that he will be paddling his way to law school as the journey is set to end in Thunder Bay which is where the university is located. Szajewski truly believes this journey will prepare him for the challenges ahead.

“I like to challenge myself a lot and the journey is going to be very stressful mentally and physically and I am looking forward to it,” said Szajewski. “Every journey prepares you in a different way. What doesn’t kill you makes you stronger and I am going to be making myself a stronger person and it will help me prepare for the challenges I will encounter in law school and beyond.”

An opportunity to travel the routes of their ancestors and uncover and bring to light the rich histories of Métis throughout the province, this journey is sure to bring great rewards but it also comes with significant responsibility as they will be the ambassadors for the MNO.

Amilia DiChiara from Thornhill, Ontario, is up for the challenge and is looking forward to the interactions and the interpretation aspect of the journey.

“I didn’t know much about my Métis culture before and this is a great opportunity not only to learn myself, but to teach others what it means to be Métis,” explained DiChiara. “It will also help me prepare for Teacher’s College.” Genivieve Routhier from Sault Ste. Marie is most excited to see parts of Ontario that she normally would have not been able to. She views this adventure as a journey of self-exploration.

“We are really going to gain an appreciation for what our ancestors did, how hard they worked, and the things we take for granted today,” explained Routhier.

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

Elizabeth Clapin from Manotick, Ontario and Réjean Belcourt from Lafontaine, Ontario will be supporting the Voyageurs by providing ground support. They will be driving to each landing site before the crew arrives, setting up camp, ensuring supplies are adequate as well as providing communications to the MNO throughout their travels. Both are extremely excited to share the stories from water and land with the MNO community.

The MNO Canoe Expedition is an opportunity for these young MNO citizens to gain skills, spread Métis culture and ultimately prepare for their future roles in the Métis Nation.

“I would like to know as much of my past and history as possible and I hope to pass down those traditions,” explained Grenier. “As youth we are eventually going to be the voice of the MNO so having the knowledge

and appreciation for what our forefathers did is very important and what better way to learn than through the MNO Canoe Expedition.”

An exciting journey for all, the MNO encourages its communities to take part in supporting and encouraging the youth throughout their travels as they have done so in past expeditions.

More information and the complete itinerary of the MNO Canoe Expedition is available online at: www.metisnation.org/canoeexpedition2014

The MNO Canoe Expedition can also be followed on Twitter @MetisNationON and pictures and video from the expedition will be posted regularly on the MNO website, Facebook page and on a new MNO mobile application (available in both IOS and Android) that will be available in July.

▼ 07. The MNO Canoe Expedition posing with MNO Citizens at the Wildlife dinner held by Peterborough & District Wapiti Métis Council. 08. MNO Canoe Expedition participants providing cultural programming in Kingston, ON. 09. The modern day Voyageurs during the expedition launch. 10. MNO Canoe Expedition participants with local Kingston Métis. 11. The MNO Canoe expedition departing from the shores of Mooney’s Bay.



In between Métis Voyageurs
keep on top of MNO news
by joining our
social media
community!



Stay up to date with:



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Connect with fellow MNO community members from near and far. The page features:

- Daily postings and updates on weekdays
- Photo galleries of pictures not seen elsewhere
- Fun and friendly comments from across the MNO community



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- Interactive map that provides pictures, videos and documents about Métis history, traditional knowledge and root families
- Keep up with the MNO Canoe Expedition



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COMMUNITY

Métis capote hits the runway

Submitted by: **Senator Carol Lévis**, MNO Grand River Métis Council

On April 2, 2014, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Grand River Métis Council Senator Carol Lévis had the honour of modeling her capote wrap-around coat at the Colourful Planet Fashion Show, a fundraising event for the Guelph and District Multicultural Festival.

The capote was created at a MNO Grand River Métis Council workshop held in 2013 and is constructed from a 100 per cent wool Hudson Bay Company (HBC) ‘point’ blanket. The ‘points’ are the thin black lines on the lapel that denote the original size of the blanket. It was mistakenly thought at one time that the points referred to the number of beaver pelts required to purchase the jacket.

The capote was introduced to North America by the European fur traders who wore them for their heat retention and water repelling capabilities. They were widely traded and highly valued by First

Nations, Métis and Europeans alike.

Each capote is unique. Senator Lévis’ capote has a rabbit fur trimmed hood, hood tassel, ties, shoulder cuffs, pockets, collar and detachable cape. She belted her capote with a traditional Métis sash, finished all hems with the blanket stitch trim and retained the original HBC blanket label as is the practice. Senator Lévis hopes to add decorative Métis beading in the future.

“Perhaps I need to spend more time with Mitchell Case to stay motivated,” she stated. Case has become well known for his beautiful beadwork.

Along with the capote, Senator Lévis modeled her deer-hide scout moccasins she made with beading on the toe plug as well as earrings and a necklace she made from beads, birch bark and porcupine quills. She complimented the whole outfit by toting snowshoes and a mink pelt. ∞



▲ Some of the Council members who helped out at the event.

Serving up pancakes and Métis culture

The 37th annual Maple Syrup Festival

Submitted by: **Ted McNally**, MNO Oshawa and Durham Métis Council Councillor

Pancakes, flapjacks, johnnycakes, grill cakes, they had them all. From March 29- 30, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Oshawa and Durham Métis Council volunteered at the Maple Syrup Festival at the beautiful Purple Woods Conservation Area just north of the City of Oshawa.

Most would agree that this winter had been long and cold, and was not giving any indication that it had any intention of going away. Fortunately, that weekend in March gave hope that maybe spring had not gotten lost after all.

Visitors were treated to a horse drawn wagon ride down the hill through the sugar bush to see how maple syrup and sugar is made. There were demonstrations of the modern methods, as well as the more traditional ways shown by re-enactors who set up shop over an open fire in front of a tipi. After that, they would either hike back along the scenic trails, or hitch a ride on the wagon, up the hill to the large wooden barnlike structure where their fresh spring air appetites were about to be satisfied.

The sound of Métis voyageur songs and fiddle music greeted them as they entered the door. MNO citizen Clair Kearns entertained the young ones and got them dancing along with her little wooden step dancers, as the adults joined the already long line up to pick up their stacks of pancakes drenched in nature's liquid gold.

The kitchen was a regular beehive of activity. People

wearing sashes were flipping cakes, stirring batter, measuring portions of fresh syrup, serving guests, preparing beverages and cleaning up. MNO Oshawa and Durham Region Métis Council Councillor Ted McNally was in charge of mixing up the batter and after the first couple batches someone pointed out that he looked like he was paddling a canoe, remembering how our voyageur ancestors used to sing to help pass the time and keep an even stroke at the paddles, he sang out “Alouette Gentille Alouette”. A dozen voices joined in and after that, every new batch would get a song. If McNally and his fellow Métis brothers and sisters were not exactly melodious, at least they were loud and even some of the guests found themselves joining in.

Saturday was busy and Sunday was even busier. People were lined up out the door and in spite of the long wait; they had no intention of leaving for home without full bellies. The Council ended up serving long after the regular closing time.

Song, laughter, and camaraderie was the order of the day, all weekend long, and as exhausted as they were, the Council couldn't help being very happy and proud of themselves. As they dragged their tired bodies out through the parking lot, all anyone could talk about was how next year it's going to be even better. ∞



▲ MNO Senator Carol Lévis modelling her capote at the Colourful Planet Fashion Show on April 2, 2014.



▲ Marsha Depotier, (far left) and Senator Brenda Powley (far right) present local Walking with Our Sisters exhibit organizers with a Métis healing blanket.

MNO citizens attend moccasin art exhibit in Sault Ste. Marie

Submitted by: Marsha Depotier, MNO Victim Services Coordinator

On Tuesday May 13, 2014, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) staff in Sault Ste. Marie organized a free bus service to permit MNO citizens to participate in a public tour of the Walking with Our Sisters exhibit at the Shingwauk Auditorium of Algoma University.

As reported in the last edition of the *Métis Voyageur*, MNO citizen and renowned artist Christi Belcourt has initiated Walking with Our Sisters, a travelling exhibition of beaded moccasin tops (or vamps), with each pair commemorating a missing or murdered Aboriginal woman.

Twenty-seven community members attended the MNO organized tour. The day began in “a good way” with Senator Brenda Powley offering the opening prayer. The group’s first stop was to the arbor and sacred fire, which was a time to give thanks and to acknowledge their Métis ancestors. The group then toured the Walking with Our Sisters exhibit and took time to reflect on the many missing and murdered Aboriginal women across Canada.

The newest installment of the exhibit includes baby moccasin tops, which represent the lost children of the residential school system. Within the exhibit, the children’s spirits were protected by the many women’s moccasins which were at the centre of the exhibit.

After the tour, a feast was provided and a spirit dish was offered to feast with the ancestors. The day ended with a sharing circle and a tea and talk time, facilitated by MNO Victim Services Coordinator Marsha Depotier, which gave the space and time needed for community members to share their stories.

The tour participants would like to thank Christi Belcourt for sharing her vision and also acknowledge the many volunteers and event organizers for their help in the Walking with our Sisters exhibit. Depotier and Senator Powley gifted the event organizers with a Métis healing blanket as a way of showing appreciation for hosting such a moving exhibit. ∞



▲ MNO citizens who visited the Walking with Our Sisters exhibit at Algoma University in Sault Ste. Marie.



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MNO council hosts Traditional Knowledge artistic workshops

Submitted by: **Cora Bunn**, MNO Grand River Métis Council President

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Grand River Métis Council recently hosted two Traditional Knowledge workshops on quillwork and beaded pendants as well as birch bark basket making.

The quillwork and beaded pendant workshop taught participants how to insert porcupine quills in a feature motif into birch bark. Participants then assembled a pendant with beading trim. They were then taught how to create traditional three bead picot edges to finish the pendant.

At the birch bark basket with quillwork embellishment workshop participants were taught how to respectfully and carefully use porcupine quills. They first worked the quills into the first layer of birch bark, assembled the basket and used sweet grass as a finish along the top of the basket, lashing it on with sinew.

Both workshops were facilitated by local Aboriginal artisan Naomi Smith. Participants of the workshops included members from the MNO Grand River and Credit River Métis Councils as well as other members of the local Aboriginal community.

The workshops were great successes and enjoyed by all who participated. ∞



▲ **TOP:** Participants of the birch bark basket workshop. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Birch bark basket with quillwork embellishment. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Quillwork and beaded pendants.

MNO Senator shares Métis culture in Chapleau schools

Submitted by: **Senator Micheline Boisvert**

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Chapleau Métis Council recently participated for the third time in the annual Chapleau Children's Pow Wow.

As part of the Children's Pow Wow, MNO Senator Micheline Boisvert visited schools throughout the area to educate students on Métis culture and traditions. She discussed who the Métis are, Métis life and Métis culture.

Senator Boisvert showcased her Seven Grand Father drum and held a drumming workshop for 20 students. Some of the children played the hand drum for the first

time. Senator Boisvert and students also sang along to Métis Voyageur songs.

At the end of the workshop, a Grade 4 student was chosen to carry the Métis flag for the closing ceremony. In return, the Council provided her with a Métis sash.

Senator Boisvert felt very honoured to be given the opportunity to educate the students on Métis way of life. To show her gratitude, she offered friendship bracelets to all the children and medicine bags for the teachers. ∞

▼ **MNO Senator Micheline Boisvert hosting a drumming workshop during the Chapleau Children's Pow Wow.**



Bancroft MNO Celebrates Mother's Day with Third Lemon Lime Gala

Submitted by: **Marsha Depotier**,
MNO Victim Services Coordinator



▲ **Mothers, daughters and nieces that took part in the Mother's Day event.**

On Wednesday May 7, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) staff in MNO's Bancroft office, in collaboration with the Bancroft Early Years Centre and Children's Mental Health, hosted the Third Annual Lemon Lime Gala. This event is organized to pay tribute, honour and thank the many mothers within the Bancroft community as part of Mother's Day. The evening was filled with laughter, love and sharing.

More than 50 mothers were in attendance and the evening started with a mock tail hour and time to get to know each other. MNO staff members Tracey Dale and Robin Simpson offered opening remarks and welcomed the mothers for an evening of fun and pampering.

Métis elder, Milley Simpson, offered the opening prayer for the event. MNO staff member Marsha Depotier shared a teaching about Indigenous motherhood and the responsibilities women have to the water, to each other and for all of Creation.

The women were treated to a wonderful meal which included salad, buns, chicken, pasta with white sauce, vegetables and ended with homemade lemon loaf and whipped cream.

Entertainment followed from Echo Featherstone who shared "How to bring sexy back to motherhood," and Mary Mask as "Helga the inspirational belly dancer."

The evening finished with having each woman pop a balloon that held an inspiration quote inside, which was read aloud as a group.

The event was a great opportunity to have mothers come together and be acknowledged and uplifted as the life givers, life carriers and life sustainers that they are. ∞



The MNO Credit River Métis Council holds its 2014 Annual General Meeting

Submitted by: **Richard Cuddy**, President, the MNO Credit River Métis Council

On the afternoon of Sunday, March 30, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Credit River Métis Council held its third Annual General Meeting (AGM). This is their second AGM held in their Brampton office.

Councillor David Neville acted as Chair and Senator Ray Bergie provided the opening prayer. In addition to these two Council members, Council President Richard Cuddy also introduced the other members of Council that included: Secretary/Treasurer Joyce Tolles; Women’s Representative Karen Derocher; Youth Representative Talitha Tolles, Councillors Darlene Lent, Jean-Marc Maheu, Murray Berger and Traditional Knowledge Resource Jim Tolles.

President Cuddy then read for the founding document of the MNO, the Statement of Prime Purpose saying: “We, the Métis who live within the Métis Homelands of Ontario, desiring to bind our people together to collectively promote our common cultural, social, political and economic well-being, have founded the Métis Nation of Ontario to be our representative body.”

In his report, President Cuddy reported that Council members had participated in collaborations, partnerships, consultations and meetings with:

- The Peel Children’s Aid Society;
- Mississauga Halton LHIN;
- Central West LHIN;
- Peel Children’s Aid Society;
- The Knight’s Table;
- St Leonard’s Place;
- The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH);
- Peel Diversity and Inclusion;
- The Peel Committee Against women Abuse;
- Conservation Halton;
- Credit Valley Conservation;
- COPA;
- The Halton District School Board;
- Sheridan College;
- Aramark Canada;
- The Peel Art Gallery Museum and Archives;
- The City of Brampton;
- The Region of Peel;
- The Peel District School Board;
- The Dufferin Peel District Catholic School Board;
- Heritage Mississauga;
- The Ontario Trillium Foundation.

Other significant achievements the President reported on included:

- The Métis Community Garden serving local Métis families and charities;
- Recognition from the Ontario Museum Association (OMA) for outstanding contributions to the Ontario museum community;
- Participation in community events and festivals such as Carrasauga, Mississauga Waterfront Festival and Credit Valley; Conservation Sweet Taste of Spring;
- Traditional knowledge snowshoe walks;
- Engaging the Peel and Halton District School Boards;
- Engaging the Region of Halton and the Region of Peel.

The Council intends to expand its interactions with these governments and organizations.

“Every year I have provided this report,” explained President Cuddy, “the list has grown and the Council will continue to expand the list. When Council started, Councillors were searching for contacts within these governments and organizations. Now, these organizations are contacting Council, and that is due to the hard work of your representatives. Your voice is important and you are being heard in Credit River.”

Following the reports, President Cuddy made a number of presentations to volunteers on behalf of the MNO Credit River Métis Council.

“Why do we volunteer?” asked President Cuddy, “there are almost as many different, individual reasons as there are volunteers but I personally admire the following quote,” he stated and then read the following passage by Steve Powley about the famous R. v Powley Supreme Court case:

“That’s the reason I done it; for my children and their children. I didn’t see the bigger picture for all Métis at the time. I won’t lie to you; but after the second court case I started to see the bigger picture and this last one, it is just crazy how many people it is actually going to help and I’m glad to do it.”

President Cuddy then added: “Every volunteer and every time we volunteer, no matter what the size or duration of the task, you are not just moving Credit River forward, you move the Nation forward.”

The first presentation was to Mr. Bill Morrison. President Cuddy stated, “The Métis Nation of Ontario Anniversary Commemorative Coin marked the 20th Anniversary of the Métis Nation of Ontario and the 10th Anniversary of the Powley decision.



▲ **TOP:** MNO Credit River Métis Council Richard Cuddy presents the MNO 20th Anniversary commemorative coin to former MNO Credit River Métis Council Vice-President and Chair, Bill Morrison. **BOTTOM:** MNO Credit River Métis Council President Richard Cuddy presents a framed certificate of appreciation to MNO Vice-chair Sharon McBride.



A citizen is part of a crew of a ship without which the ship would not be able to sail on its own. The captain and officers steer the ship in the direction that the crew wants to go. Citizens are the most important part of the Community Council and the Council exists in order to meet the needs of its citizens.”

— Richard Cuddy

All of the Community Council Presidents received a coin at the AGA 2013. I then received a package of coins from MNO President Gary Lipinski, to distribute to the Councillors in appreciation of all of their hard work and dedication. Council was unanimous, based on his contributions to Council and Community, in deciding that our former Vice President and Chair, Bill Morrison, was deserving of a coin as well. On behalf of Council, I am honoured to present this Métis Nation of Ontario Anniversary Commemorative Coin to Mr. Bill Morrison.”

The second presentation was to Ms. Sharon McBride. President Cuddy stated, “The Council would like to recognize the assistance and contributions to a special Credit River Métis citizen. This person has attended, volunteered, collaborated or donated on every recent event or project. Many of our current successes can be attributed to her ongoing support in some way. Like many of the Councillors, she works full time, has a family and is a volunteer. Her

enthusiasm and passion fuels and revitalizes ours. On behalf of the Council, I am honoured to present a framed Certificate of Appreciation to the Métis Nation of Ontario Vice-chair, Sharon McBride.”

The Certificate states “In recognition of the volunteer time, donations and ongoing support of the Métis Nation of Ontario Credit River Métis Council, community and citizens. Your significant contributions benefit not only the Credit River Area but the Métis Nation of Ontario.”

The meeting was closed with a prayer by Senator Bergie and following adjournment, citizens were invited to remain for informal conversation, drinks and snacks arranged by Councillors Tolles, Lent and Neville.

The MNO Credit River Métis Council was pleased to receive valuable input from the citizens during and after the meeting. It looks forward to opportunities that offer increased interaction with the residents of Credit River and other MNO citizens

“A citizen is part of a crew of a ship without which the ship would not be able to sail on its own. The captain and officers steer the ship in the direction that the crew wants to go. Citizens are the most important part of the Community Council and the Council exists in order to meet the needs of its citizens. Citizens are responsible for electing their local leadership, attending meetings and providing the general direction as well as volunteering for committees and activities. Citizens support the Council and other citizens and work towards the spirit of the Métis Nation of Ontario’s *Statement of Prime Purpose*.” ∞

— Richard Cuddy

MNO Credit River Métis Council builds relationship with the Region of Halton

Submitted by: **Richard Cuddy**, *President of the MNO Credit River Métis Council*

In June of 2013, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Credit River Métis Councillor David Neville initiated contact with the Region of Halton staff. As a resident of Halton, Councillor Neville was curious to see how he and the MNO Credit River Métis Council could work with the region to develop a relationship that could foster better understanding of the MNO citizens in the Credit River area.

In July 2013, a delegation representing the MNO Credit River Métis Council consisting of Region 8 Provisional Council of the MNO (PCMNO) Councillor Anita Tucker; Senator Ray Bergie; Councillor David Neville and President Richard Cuddy had their first meeting with Region of Halton staff. The delegation met with Deputy Clerk/Supervisor of Council and Committee Services Region of Halton Ms. Kathy Kielt and Regional Clerk Halton Region Ms. Karyn Bennett with the goal of educating Halton Region's staff and politicians about the Métis citizens residing in their Region.

The original agenda for the meeting was to discuss certain Region of Halton protocols but under the recommendation of the delegation the focus of the meeting shifted to learning about the Métis.

The delegation had the floor for the entire meeting. Ms. Kielt and Ms. Bennett were completely engaged as the delegation provided information about the MNO, the MNO Credit River Métis Council and MNO citizens. Not surprisingly, their engagement led to several questions, some without sufficient time to answer. Before the meeting adjourned the delegation and the Halton staff agreed to a follow-up meeting to continue discussions and work toward building a stronger relationship.

The Region of Halton staff contacted the MNO Credit River Métis Council to arrange the follow-up meeting where a delegation had 10 minutes to present to the Region of Halton's Administration and Finance Committee. At their AGM on March 30, 2014, the Council approved a motion to send a new delegation consisting of Senator Bergie, Councillor Neville and President Cuddy to continue to engage with the Region. MNO Com-



▲ MNO Credit River Métis Council President Richard Cuddy (left) presents a sash to the Region of Halton Administration and Finance Committee Chair Jeff Knoll (right).

munity Relations staff provided a "Métis 101" power point for the delegation's presentation.

On April 9, 2014, the delegation's presentation, that was originally given 10 minutes of allotted time on the agenda, ended 45 minutes later with an additional 35 minutes of questions from the Region of Halton Administration and Finance Committee. The delegation benefited from the receptive and welcoming attitude of the committee.

A motion was made by City of Burlington Councillor Blair Lancaster stating that "the staff be directed to consult further with the MNO Credit River Métis Council on potential collaborative ventures with circulation to area Municipalities and Chambers of Commerce". The motion was seconded by Mayor of Milton Gord Krantz and passed unanimously.

The meeting ended with the del-

egation presenting the Region of Halton Administration and Finance Committee Chair and Councillor for the Town of Oakville, Jeff Knoll with a sash demonstrating the commitment to building a relationship.

After the meeting, the delegation spent close to an hour socializing and answering more questions with members of the Region of Halton Administration and Finance Committee, staff and members of the audience.

The MNO Credit River Métis Council feels they have taken an important step forward with the Region of Halton which over time will create a better understanding of the MNO, the MNO Credit River Métis Council and MNO citizens. Education and positive relationships are crucial to strengthening the Métis Nation. ∞

A rare find

Submitted by: **Denis Tremblay**,
MNO North Bay Métis Council member

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Denis Tremblay recently came in possession of a rare item, a trade ax dating circa 1650.

The ax is clearly marked with the three fleur-de-lis stamps. It was found in the district of Huronia. It is an ax that Métis in the fur trade era would have traded and used. This style of ax is known as the "Biscay style" from France. They axes were sent to New France to trade with Aboriginal people in Canada. Pierre-Esprit Radisson advised the Hudson Bay Company to stock this style of ax for trade. In 1821 this type of ax would have cost two beaver pelts.



A similar French trade ax was found in Black Creek, on the North Shore of Lake Erie where Dollier de Casson and Gallinee spent the winter of 1669 -70. The ax has the same marks on both sides as the one found by Tremblay. It was previously on display at the McCord Museum in Montreal.

This is a great addition to Tremblay's collection that consists of Métis, First Nation and fur trade era items. His collection has been displayed at numerous events in the past including MNO Annual General Assemblies. ∞



▲ Denis Tremblay with the rare trade ax he found in Huronia.

MNO Sunset Country Métis Council Governance & Finance training

Submitted by: **Glen Lipinski**,
MNO Community Relations Coordinator

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

The MNO has been able to develop and deliver a Governance and Finance course that helps community councils perform their important work. Recently, the MNO Sunset Country Métis Council participated in this two-day seminar from May 3-4.

The training was facilitated

by MNO Community Relations Coordinator Glen Lipinski. The training explains the role of community councils as the MNO's local governments, whose structure and purpose is coordinated through each council's charter agreement with the MNO. The course covers everything from how to run effective meetings and engage citizens in council activities to budgeting and the various financial practices, regulations and legislation that community councils follow. ∞



▲ MNO Sunset Country Métis Council members who attended the training. (Left to right) **BACK ROW:** Roger Gerhard, Wade Nelson and John George. **FRONT ROW:** Valorie Pelepetz, Yvonne Langlais, Vaughn Murray and Eric Fagerdahl.

ACHIEVEMENTS

MNO citizen appointed to OMC Advisory Council



▲ MNO Veterans' Council Senator Dr. Alis Kennedy, C.D., O.M.C., after receiving her O.M.C. in December 2011.

Submitted by: **Greg Garratt,**
MNO Veterans' Council Sgt-At-Arms

The Premier of Ontario has appointed Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans' Council Senator Dr. Alis Kennedy, C.D., O.M.C., a Member of the Province of Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship (OMC) Advisory Council.

Senator Kennedy's appointment to the OMC Advisory Council reflects her ongoing commitment to the betterment of Ontario and the Métis Nation through her many years of volunteer work. A Métis veteran and MNO citizen, this rare and distinguished appointment is an honour to all Métis. Senator Kennedy is the embodiment of "attaining our highest potential" and is a fine example to Métis youth who she actively mentors.

Senator Kennedy was approached to apply for the Council by the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration - Ontario Honours and Awards Secretariat in December 2011 when she received her O.M.C. designation. The Ministry wanted a recipient of the medal to be on the council and being Métis and francophone made Senator Kennedy a strong candidate.

The MNO is very proud of Senator Kennedy's appointment. ∞

Congratulations Leah Reid

Submitted by: **The Le Saux / Reid Family**

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Leah Reid has successfully obtained her Bachelor of Education through York University and is now qualified to teach in Ontario, which was her longtime dream. She also plans on pursuing a master's degree in education.

Reid credits the MNO for some of her success because the MNO provided her with financial assistance and moral support in attaining her first post-secondary certification which was a diploma in massage therapy. The money she subsequently earned as a Registered Massage Therapist helped her pay for further education where she obtained a Bachelor of Health Sciences and most recently, her Bachelor of Education.

The Reid family thanks the MNO for providing Métis youth with the chance and opportunity to achieve their dreams and succeed. They encourage every Métis youth to look into the programs offered by the MNO to help in their educational journeys. ∞



▲ Leah Reid

Tera Beaulieu is an example of a true Métis leader

Submitted by: **Christine Skura**



◀ MNO Veterans' Council President Joseph Paquette with Tera Beaulieu at the Minaake Awards. Tera is holding the award.

On April 10, 2014, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Infinite Reach Facilitator Tera Beaulieu was recognized for her leadership by the Native Women's Resource Centre of Toronto who presented her with the Leadership Award at the Minaake Awards Ceremony.

The word Minaake means "people who are on the good path" in Ojibwe and the Minaake Awards are Toronto's Aboriginal Women and Youth Community Achievement Awards, given out by the Native Women's Resource Centre of Toronto. The Minaake Leadership Award recognizes a female Aboriginal community member who expresses leadership in the workplace and/or community and who brings about positive change for others.

Beaulieu is currently completing her Doctor of Philosophy in the Counselling Psychology Program at the OISE-University of Toronto and is a recipient of the Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship. The Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship is one of the most prestigious awards a doctoral student may hold in Canada and is awarded based on demonstrated leadership and academic merit. Tera's program

of research examines the supports and challenges of Métis traditional knowledge in addressing the life transition needs (mental health, education and employment) of urban Métis homeless peoples.

Beaulieu has also worked at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health for the past six years. She is currently the Supervisor of Aboriginal Engagement and Outreach with the Provincial System Support Program, and previously worked as a Counsellor with the Youth Outreach Service where she was the lead clinician for a community-based partnership with an Aboriginal agency in Toronto focused on providing clinical services to Aboriginal youth. In addition to her studies and professional work, Tera is also dedicated to providing cultural events in Toronto and has acted as the facilitator for the MNO Infinite Reach: Métis Student Solidarity Network at University of Toronto for the past three years.

Beaulieu previously held the position of Woman's Representative with the MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council and was elected President on June 8, 2014.

Tera Beaulieu was nominated by Christine Skura. When submitting this article Christine wrote the following personal statements about Tera:

I first met Tera at an Infinite Reach event with the MNO. Tera's passion and strong interest in forming a stronger Métis/Aboriginal community was unforgettable. She is a powerful, well-spoken and an intelligent Métis woman. Tera embodies the qualities of a leader in every aspect. Her commitment to building a supportive and close community among the urban Aboriginal population is evident. Her initiative to plan and implement events in the city for Aboriginal peoples is an example of her dedication to building a supportive and close community. Tera is dedicated to continuing to strengthen the Métis/Aboriginal community within the city of Toronto, and I greatly look forward to continuing to work with her over the next several years in community-based work for Métis. ∞

“Wise beyond his years”

MNO citizen Mitch Case honoured with the Ontario Medal for Young Volunteers Award

Submitted by: **Guylaine Morin-Cléroux**, MNO Education and Training Branch Operations Coordinator

Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Youth Representative Mitch Case was honoured by the Government of Ontario with the Ontario Medal for Young Volunteers Award on May 14.

Established in 1998, the Ontario Medal for Young Volunteers honours youth between the ages of 15 and 24 who have given a large amount of time to a charity, a not-for-profit organization or a person; and who have inspired other young people to volunteer. The medals are presented by the Honourable David C. Onley, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario.

An extremely worthy candidate, Case was nominated for this award by Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Education and Training staff as well as Provisional Council of the MNO (PCMNO) Senators Reta Gordon, Rene Gravelle, Verna Brunelle and Joseph Poitras.

“I am so honoured and humbled by this experience. I do a lot of work for the Métis Nation and for our government the MNO. I do this work because it needs to get done. It is such an honour to be recognized for this work, even while it is not why I do it,” wrote Case in a thank you letter. As a citizen of the MNO, Case has volunteered with the organization for 10 years. He began volunteering with the MNO Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council at the age of 14 and two years later, took on the role of youth representative, working as a liaison between his community and local school boards.

Case’s leadership skills and dedication to his community were recognized by the MNO early in his career as a youth leader. He served on the MNO Youth Council and is currently the Youth Representative on the PCMNO. In all of these roles, Mitch has worked tirelessly to guide and mentor other Métis youth, encouraging them to better understand, promote and participate in their Métis culture. He believes that education of Aboriginal peoples includes education about Aboriginal peoples.

“Although Mitchell may be young, he is wise beyond his years and it is not uncommon for others to come to him for guidance or support. He is an asset to the Infinite Reach Network, the Métis community and all of the other many areas he applies himself to,” said one of Case’s nominators.

Now as a student at Algoma University, Case volunteers with the Aboriginal Student Association. He dedicates his time to supporting Aboriginal students in order to ensure a bright and successful future for themselves and their community.

“Although Mitchell may be young, he is wise beyond his years and it is not uncommon for others to come to him for guidance or support. He is an asset to the Infinite Reach Network, the Métis community and all of the other many areas he applies himself to.”

Case was also recently appointed to the Premier’s Council for Youth Opportunities where he serves as an advisor to the Ontario Government on youth-related issues.

“Mr. Case has demonstrated and promoted Métis cultural values diligently over the past ten years and has done so with heart. At community gatherings he ensures that elders are taken care of appropriately, that youth are meaningfully engaged in political conversations, and that spiritual practices and customs are maintained and respected,” wrote one of Case’s nominators.

It is no doubt that Case is a worthy candidate for this award. Case is a visionary who leads Ontario’s Métis and Aboriginal youth by his council and by his example.

“...I want to dedicate this award to our ancestors who lead the way for our people and to the youth of the Métis Nation who are my inspiration for doing this work. I look ahead to the young people I work with and the small children who are coming forward and I know our future is bright. This award goes out to all of you,” wrote Case.

Congratulations on this great achievement. The MNO is very proud of all you have accomplished. ∞



▲ 01. Mitch Case with his Ontario Medal for Young Volunteers Award in Toronto. 02. Mitch Case and the Honourable David C. Onley, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. ◀ 03. A group photo of Mitch Case with family, friends and some nominators. (Left to right) Jessica MacLean, Sabrina Spencer, Benny Michaud, Senator Reta Gordon, Senator Joseph Poitras, Mitch Case and his mother Shari Smale.



Remarks by Mitch Case on the occasion of receiving the Ontario Medal for Young Volunteers

Waynaboozhoo nindiniwaymaaganidok. Your Honour, Mrs. Onley, members of the Advisory Council, family members, friends, Ministry staff, fellow recipients.

I have been asked to share a few words on this very special occasion.

I am so very honoured to have been chosen as a recipient of this award. I can speak on my behalf and on behalf of the other recipients and say that we do not do the work we do because we seek recognition, but because we care about each of the causes we are involved with.

We do this work because we have been inspired to help make a difference in whatever way we can.

While we do not do this work to be recognized,

it is so encouraging to be recognized by the Province for the work we each do in our communities.

This award will not only serve as an encouragement to us as individual recipients, but it will serve as an encouragement to the other youth we work with.

It will serve as a reminder that the work we do matters and that the province values our time and our commitment.

I want to thank all those involved in the process of this recognition we are receiving today. Thank you to the ministry staff for their hard work in bringing everything together.

Most specifically I want to thank our friends and families who are here and at home who support us in the work we do.

(Continued on page 22)

Another new venture for a true Métis entrepreneur

Submitted by: Margaret Fleury

Leon Fleury is a Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen and a true Métis entrepreneur. He loves a new challenge as can be seen by his diverse careers as an industrial painting contractor, a steeplejack painter, a thoroughbred racehorse breeder, an owner and manager of two restaurants and a flea market, and a farmer raising horses, cattle, rabbits and goats. Fleury has also owned and operated a used car business for over 45 years and built two homes for himself and his wife, Margaret.

Fleury’s latest venture is Aboriginal drum-making, crafts and herbal healing. His love for Aboriginal arts started with the discovery of his Métis ancestry in 2002. Since then, he has applied his entrepreneurial skills to this area of his life just as he has done in all other areas.

When Fleury was given a medicine bag, it unlocked his curiosity for Aboriginal art and he began making his own medicine bags. He also studied drums at a local Pow Wow and decided to try his hand at drum-making and other crafts. With no training or guidance, he gradually developed his own crafting techniques.

Fleury makes all sizes of hand drums and Pow Wow drums out of moose, buffalo, deer, elk, cow and goat hides. He sells them ready-made but prefers customers to visit his home where he guides them in making their own drums. He also makes small crosses out of horse shoe nails and lock washers. Friends contribute to his hobby

by bringing him a variety of bird feathers, which he uses to make smudging feathers.

Fleury enjoys presenting drum-making and medicine bag workshops at Pow Wows and other public events. In February 2014, he was at the Sportsmen’s Show in Toronto and most recently at the Aboriginal Heritage Festival in Fergus. Recently, Garth Pottruff, of the Grand River Rafting Company, in Paris (Ontario), invited Fleury to make drum presentations to school groups.

Fleury also loves to share his Métis knowledge with others and sits on the MNO Clear Waters Métis Council as the Traditional Knowledge Keeper. Through extensive reading, he has developed a broad understanding of wild plants and their uses in traditional Aboriginal healing.

Over the years, Leon has mastered his many skills through observation and experimentation. He is a risk-taker. A true entrepreneur! ∞



▲ Leon Fleury.

(Continued from page 21)

We could not do our work without your love, support and guidance. For all of that we thank you.

While there is so much work that goes into this ceremony today, I want to especially thank the people in our lives who took the time to write letters for the nomination process.

It is such a humbling and yet uplifting experience to know that the people who we look up to so much are appreciative of the work we do. It is a reminder for us to always be thankful for the people in our lives, as we never know the true extent of their love for us.

To my fellow recipients... I want to personally thank you all for the work you do in your communities. You give so much of yourselves and our province, our country are that much better for it.

As much as we give of ourselves I want to remind each of you take this moment to recharge, look back at your achievements and be proud of what you have accomplished.

There is a teaching in my culture, the Métis culture that tells us that we should always leave good moccasin tracks for others to follow and we should always look back to encourage Who are following us.

That happened for me. My family left good tracks, and others looked back to encourage me. I know that each of you are also leaving good, beautiful tracks.

I want to think of this moment as a reminder for each of us to reach back, go home to our communities and encourage other young people to be the best they can be.

Miigwetch, mardi,
Niikaaniiganaa!

Waterloo’s “warrior athlete”

MNO CITIZEN WINS GOLD AND BREAKS RECORDS

Submitted by: Robin Pilon

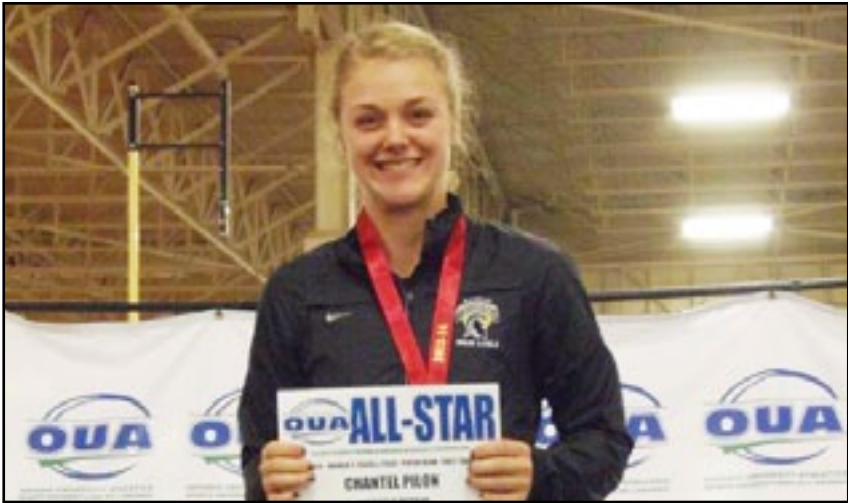
Competing in her final Ontario University Athletics Championship, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Chantel Pilon went out in style, winning the gold medal in the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) women’s pentathlon event at Toronto’s York University in February, 2014. The OUA gold was Waterloo’s first in track and field since 2003.

Pilon also represented the University of Waterloo Warriors at the Canadian Interuniversity Sport Track and Field Championships at the University of Alberta in Edmonton where she broke her own varsity record scoring 3,494 points. She ran a personal best of 2:18:00 finishing first in the 800m race to place her fifth overall in the women’s pentathlon. Pilon then lead the 4 x 400m women’s relay team to a new University of Waterloo varsity record and sixth place Canadian Interuniversity Sport finish with a time of 3:50:90 battering the

old record by nearly one second set back in 2002. Her efforts earned her a Waterloo Warrior of the Weekend Award and for three consecutive weeks, the Warrior’s Athlete of the Week honours.

Pilon was named Captain of the University of Waterloo Warrior Track and Field Team in 2012, a position she held for three consecutive years. She is a three-time University of Waterloo Warrior Most Valuable Player (MVP) Track and Field recipient, a two-time University of Waterloo President’s Athlete Academic Honour Roll Recipient, a two-time Academic All-Canadian and an OUA First Team All-Star.

Pilon graduates from the University of Waterloo this spring with an Honours Co-op Degree in Recreation and Business. She will start her master’s degree at the University of Waterloo in September 2014 where she will compete and help coach the Warriors track and field team. ∞



▲ TOP: Chantel Pilon during a past high jump competition. BOTTOM: Chantel Pilon holding her OUA All Star Award.

MNO citizen recognized for volunteer work

Submitted by: **Cora Bunn**, President of the MNO Grand River Métis Council

At a powwow held at Conestoga College on February 22, Bridget Brown, the Women's Representative on the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Grand River Métis Council was recognized for her volunteer work with the college's Aboriginal Services office. Bridget is a student at the college, enrolled in the Community and Criminal Justice program.

The Aboriginal Services office has experienced an increase in students using their services, and Bridget has been involved in preparing a proposal to the college for a larger office space.

Bridget was also a recipient of an Aboriginal and Post-Secondary Edu-

cation and Training bursary, which was presented to her by Myeengun Henry, the Aboriginal Services Office Manager.

"Enrolment of Aboriginal students has been increasing at the college, and is expected to continue to increase in the future," explained Bridget, "Conestoga College offers degree programs as well as diploma programs and has campuses in Brantford, Doon and Waterloo, and we need to get ready for this next generation of Aboriginal youth, which includes those of Métis, Inuit and First Nations ancestry." ∞

Bridget Brown ▶



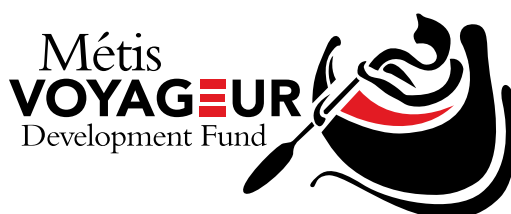
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THE 21ST MNO ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY • AUGUST 23-25, 2014 • THUNDER BAY, ONTARIO

Every year, the citizens of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) hold their Annual General Assembly (AGA) where we gather together with our friends, family and colleagues to conduct the business of the Nation, showcase our rich culture, pass on our traditions to younger generations and celebrate our stories.

The 2014 MNO AGA will be hosted by the Region Two MNO Chartered Community Councils in Thunder Bay. The President and PCMNO’s welcome to the AGA will be held the evening of Friday, August 22 with the arrival of the voyageur canoes. The formal AGA will begin on Saturday, August 23, continue all day Sunday before wrapping up around noon on Monday, August 25. Exciting activities taking place on the Sunday afternoon will be the Métis Voyageur Games, Métis crafts and traditional knowledge workshops, MNO program activities and a concert from Champion Elvis impersonator Daylin James. Also during the AGA, the Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award will be presented. Nomination forms for the award are posted on the MNO website and there is more information on page 2 of this Voyageur.

“We are very excited to bring the AGA back to Thunder Bay,” stated Region Two Provisional Council of the MNO (PCMNO) Councillor Cam Burgess. “We have had many great AGAs here in the past and we are confident we will be continuing that tradition this year!”

“We are very pleased that the three Region Two MNO chartered community councils are coming together to host this year’s AGA,” MNO President Gary Lipinski stated. “The Greenstone, Superior North Shore and Thunder Bay Métis Councils will each bring something special to their role as host and this kind of regional cooperation is great to see.”

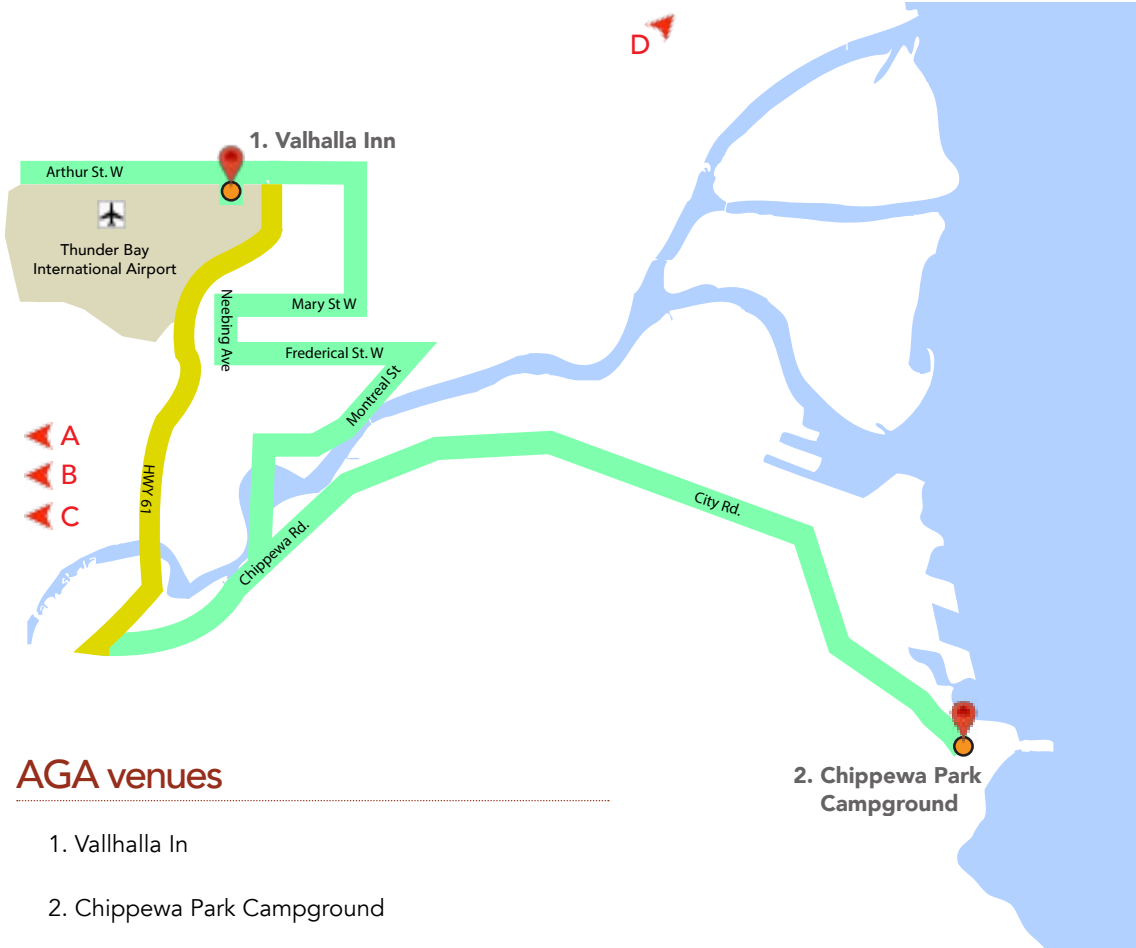
Thunder Bay is an excellent location for an AGA as the area has been important to Métis for centuries; go-

ing back to its earliest history when it played a pivotal role in the fur trade to more recent times such as in 2004, when the MNO and the Ontario government signed the Interim Harvesting Agreement at the AGA that year. Today, Métis are important players in culture and economy of Thunder Bay through Memorandums of Understanding between the MNO and resource companies such as Osisko, Detour Gold and Union Gas as well as with similar agreements with educational institutions such as Lakehead University and the Northern Ontario School of Medicine. It is through agreements like these that the MNO contributes to building a stronger future for Métis people in Ontario.

The business sessions of the AGA will take place at the Valhalla Inn in Thunder Bay with the canoe landing and Métis Games and Culture events taking place at nearby Chippewa Park.

During their stay in Thunder Bay, MNO citizens can explore spectacular natural wonders like Eagle Canyon and Kakabeka Falls, sail on the waters of Lake Superior, and golf at the luxurious Whitewater Golf Club. They may also unwind from outdoor pursuits by visiting art galleries and museums or taking in musical and stage shows. And don’t forget to travel back in time at Fort William Historical Park - the world’s largest reconstructed fur trade post! ∞

More information about the MNO AGA will be posted soon on the MNO website at www.metisnation.org.



AGA venues

- 1. Vallhalla In
- 2. Chippewa Park Campground

Local attractions

- A. Fort William Historical Park
- B. Whitewater Golf Club
- C. Eagle Canyon
- D. Kakabeka Falls

AGA 2014
AGENDA

Thursday and Friday:
Workshops / training for invited delegates /staff.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22

- 1 - 4 pm **AGA Registration**
Location: **Valhalla Inn**
- 7 - 10 pm **Welcome to the AGA**
Location: **Chippewa Park Campground**

Bring your music and jigging shoes and join in the excitement with President Lipinski and the PCMNO!

MNO AGA DAY 1
SATURDAY, AUGUST 23

- 8 am - 5 pm **MNO AGA Business Meeting**
Valhalla Inn
- The MNO AGA Trade Show**
Saturday, August 23 to Monday, August 25
Visit our vendors as well as cultural and heritage displays
Valhalla Inn
- 7 - 11 pm **MNO AGA Dinner Event**
Details to be announced

MNO AGA DAY 2
SUNDAY, AUGUST 24

- 9 am - Noon **MNO AGA Business Meeting**
Valhalla Inn
- 1 - 4 pm **Métis Games, Culture and Community Event**
 - Métis Voyageur Games
 - Métis crafts and traditional knowledge workshops
 - MNO program activities
 - Concert with Champion Elvis impersonator Daylin James**Chippewa Park Campground**

MNO AGA DAY 3
MONDAY, AUGUST 25

- 9 am - Noon **MNO AGA Business Meeting**
Valhalla Inn
- Noon - 1 pm **MNO Development Corporation Annual General Assembly**
- MNO Cultural Comission Annual General Assemnly**
Valhalla Inn