



MÉTIS VOYAGEUR



Photo by Heather Bell

Another Awesome MNO March Break Camp

Putting Métis youth in touch with their culture

See more on pages 8-9

**MNO signs
historic accord
with Canada**

Page 3



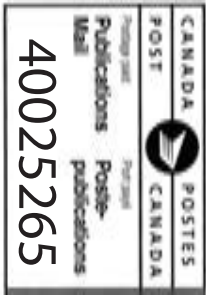
**#beadworkrevolution
Join the
Revolution**

Page 7



**Region 9 tours
Wind facility**

Page 9



THE
**MÉTIS
VOYAGEUR**
MAY 2017

**Produced by the
Métis Nation of Ontario
Communications Branch:**

Julie Cruikshank
Mike Fedyk
Jacob May
Marc St. Germain

Contributors:

Aly N. Alibhai
Tracy Bald
Gilles Boucher
Jade Bourbinniere
Kelly Campagnola
Mitch Case
Rubecka Davidson
Larry J. Ferris
Margaret Froh
David Hamilton
Joel Hanley
Greg Garratt
Elise St. Germain
Jennifer St. Germain
Steve Gjos
Donna Grayer
Janet Hipfner
Anne Huguenin
Kristina Jewell
Christa Lemelin
Carol Lévis
Glen Lipinski
Jennifer Meek
Joanne Meyer
Jennifer Parkinson
Kristin Randall
Paul Robitaille
Todd Ross
Susan Schank
Amanda Pont-Shanks
Gabriele Simmons
Theresa Stenlund
Anne Trudel
Jim Turner
Cecile Wagar
Jeff Warnoch
Tammy Webb
Ralph Wolf Thistle
Mardelle Woods

Submissions:

Communications Branch
Métis Nation Of Ontario
500 Old St. Patrick Street, Unit D
Ottawa ON K1N 9G4
MikeF@Métisnation.org

Publication #: PM40025265

**2017 Submission
deadlines:**

May 19, 2017
September 8, 2017
November 3, 2017

**Recently moved
or moving soon?**

Don't forget to change your
address with the Registry so
that you will continue to receive
your Voyageur and updated
information from the MNO.

**Call 1-855-798-1006 ext. 2
or send an email to
registry@Métisnation.org**

Submission Policy:

The 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, organization, 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.

A Message from the Métis Nation of Ontario President

The last few
months since
the last Métis
Voyageur have
been a busy and
exciting time
for the great Métis Nation
of Ontario (MNO) and our
citizens.

Canada-Métis Nation Accord

Only a few weeks ago Métis
Nation leaders from across the homeland
participated in the first Crown-Métis Nation
Summit. At this Summit, I was one of
the signatories with Prime Minister Justin
Trudeau of the historic *Canada-Métis Nation
Accord* which, among other things, put in
place a permanent bilateral mechanism
between Métis Nation leaders, the Prime
Minister and members of his cabinet. This
Accord will help advance reconciliation
between Canada and the Métis Nation and
is a tremendous step forward. (See story on
page 3).

Métis Self-Government

Since the last edition of the *Métis Voya-
geur*, I have had the opportunity to par-
ticipate in many community engagement
sessions with my fellow Commissioners on
the MNO Commission of Métis Rights and
Self-Government. Hundreds of citizens have
taken an active role in Métis governance by
attending these sessions and sharing their
hopes and aspirations for the future of Métis
in Ontario. (See story on page 5). Our work
will continue on this front as we look for-
ward to attending the remaining sessions.

Métis Youth

Métis youth are front and centre at the
engagement sessions and their leadership
is strongly demonstrated in this *Voyageur*
as well. Our cover story focuses on the 25
Métis high school students who gathered at
the Canadian Ecological Centre in Mattawa
for the 2017 MNO Infinite Reach March
Break Camp. It is fantastic to see these
young people connecting with their Métis
heritage while at the same time learning
about how to succeed at the postsecondary
level (see story on pages 8-9).

While the March Break Camp provides
the opportunity to introduce new young
leaders to the MNO, our current crop of
young leaders are also very active. In this
issue we learn about the MNO Youth Coun-
cil's #beadworkrevolution challenge. This is
an initiative that encourages all Métis youth
to pick up their needles and embrace their
Métis culture and, by doing so, strengthen
our identity. I am so proud of our youth
leaders for launching this amazing initiative
(see story on page 28).



▲ **President Froh with Métis Nation British Columbia Vice President Lissa
Smith at the a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy
Ridge in Ottawa.**

Vimy Memorial

I was very proud this April when Métis
youth joined with Métis veterans to partici-
pate in the MNO Veterans' Council Vimy
Commemoration Project. The veterans and
youth honoured the sacrifices made by
Métis and all veterans at the Battle of Vimy
Ridge one hundred years ago in April 1917.
(See story on pages 14-15).

Senators

At the same time as we are very happy
with the leadership of our younger people,
I also want to recognize the efforts of our
senior citizens and I want to especially
thank PCMNO Executive Senator Joseph
Poitras for initiating the Senators' Spotlight
feature that is premiering in this issue. Sena-
tor Poitras has asked MNO Senators to pro-
vide stories about their lives so that we can
all learn from their experience and wisdom.
This issue features a remarkable story from
Senator Jim Turner of the MNO Windsor-
Essex Métis Council (see story on page 10).

Advancing Métis Rights

As usual this *Voyageur* is a testament
to the strong leadership in place across
the great Métis Nation of Ontario. A small
sampling of innovation and commitment
includes: the largest 4very Collaborative
Forum held between MNO and industry
leaders (see page 4); the signing of a new
agreement with Vale (see page 14); and
the work of the University Ottawa Work-
ing Group in the area of Métis research (see
page 4).

Community

Most importantly the paper is packed
with stories from our Métis communities
and with Métis success stories. Nothing is
more encouraging than reading about how
our citizens are getting out and increasing
awareness about the Métis; getting together
with fellow citizens to promote and cel-
ebrate our heritage and culture; and work-
ing with industry, education and health care
to build a stronger future for Métis and all
Canadians (see stories on page 11 – 20).

Achievements

Most importantly, the paper is packed
with stories from our Métis communities
and with Métis success stories. Nothing is
more encouraging than: reading about how
our citizens are getting out in their commu-
nities and increasing awareness about the
Métis; getting together with fellow citizens
to promote and celebrate our heritage and
culture; and working with industry, educa-
tion and health care to build a stronger future
for Métis and for all Canadians (see stories on
pages 20-23).

It is equally heart-warming to learn about
Métis who are achieving success in school
and in their careers. Whether it is excelling
academically or in a sport or by meeting
their own challenges and then finding ways
to help others, the individuals highlighted in
our Métis success stories are a true inspira-
tion (see stories on page 21 – 23)!

Coming Soon

This issue also shows that there are
many exciting projects on the horizon. Most
notably the first MNO Household Survey
(see page 7) that is starting in May and
the upcoming 2017 MNO Annual General
Assembly (see page 4) in Kenora this August.

Wishing all MNO citizens and friends of
the MNO a lovely spring and summer!

Marsee,

**Margaret Froh
President,
Métis Nation of Ontario**

NATION



1) MNO President Margaret Froh attending the Crown-Métis Nation Summit on April 14. (Left to right) Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Carolyn Bennett, President Froh, Treasury Board President Scott Brison, Vice-President of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Gerald Morin and Minister of Justice and Attorney General Jody Wilson-Raybould. 2) Prime Minister Trudeau enjoys a light moment with President Froh and Manitoba Metis Federation President David Chartrand during the signing of the Canada-Métis Nation Accord. 3) Minister Hajdu and President Froh. 4) Prime Minister Trudeau with MNO Chair France Picotte.



Métis Nation signs historic accord with Canada

During the morning of Thursday, April 13, 2017, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Margaret Froh attended the inaugural meeting of the Crown - Métis Nation Summit -- a permanent bilateral process between Métis Nation leaders, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and members of his cabinet. During the meeting, President Froh and the leaders of Métis Nation governments signed the *Canada-Métis Nation Accord*.

"I was honoured, on behalf of the Métis Nation of Ontario, to participate today in the first ever Crown-Métis Nation Summit and sign the *Canada-Métis Nation Accord* on behalf of Ontario Métis," stated President Froh. "This Accord sets up a permanent bilateral process that marks the beginning of a new relationship between the Crown and the Métis Nation based on recognition, rights and respect. We look forward, under the Prime Minister's leadership, for the doors of the federal government to finally open so we can begin to move forward in

the spirit of cooperation and partnership. We will work with the federal government to realize our shared vision of a renewed relationship with the Métis Peoples of Canada, for the benefit of all Canadians."

The permanent bilateral process established in the *Canada-Métis Nation Accord* includes annual meetings with the Prime Minister, semi-annual meetings with the Minister of Indigenous Affairs and key Cabinet Ministers, and quarterly meetings with various Assistant Deputy Ministers and other senior officials on joint issues of concern to the Métis Nation.

"This kind of accountability and access will significantly advance reconciliation between Canada and the Métis Nation," predicted President Froh. "The MNO will use these new mechanisms and our exploratory discussions process with the federal government to strengthen our role in improving the lives of Métis people in Ontario. We will continue to work to support Métis community health and well-being; creating opportunity for our Métis children and youth to

"This Accord sets up a permanent bilateral process that marks the beginning of a new relationship between the Crown and the Métis Nation based on recognition, rights and respect."

Margaret Froh, MNO President

be the best they can be; protecting and promoting the Métis Way of Life and the environment; advancing the self-sufficiency and sustainability of our nation; and stimulating economic development for our citizens. At the heart of everything that we do are our MNO citizens, families and communities,"

said President Froh.

The Ministers who participated in the Crown-Métis Nation Summit were each selected based on the roles their Ministries play in advancing the immediate priorities of reconciliation through a nation-to-nation, government-to-government relationship with the Métis Nation.

Canada was represented by:

- * Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, *Prime Minister*
- * Honourable Carolyn Bennett, *Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs*
- * Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould, *Minister of Justice and Attorney-General of Canada*
- * Honourable Scott Brison, *President of the Treasury Board*
- * Honourable Jane Philpott, *Minister of Health*
- * Honourable Patricia Hajdu, *Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour*
- * Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, *Minister of Families, Children and Social Development*

Excitement is building for the 2017 AGA!

Métis from across Ontario to gather in beautiful Kenora

by
MNO Staff

More excitement is building every day for the 24th Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Annual General Assembly that will be taking place August 19-21, 2017 in beautiful Kenora Ontario!

Kenora sits on the world renowned Lake of the Woods, which is best known for its pristine and rugged landscape that stretches across a number of shorelines to a vast undisturbed wilderness area. Kenora and the Lake of the Woods are rich in Métis history and culture, which will be on display during the AGA.

The primary venue for AGA 2017 will be the Kenora Recreation Centre located near Lake of the Woods and the hotels where most AGA delegates will be staying. The primary AGA hotel will be the **Clarion Inn Lakeside**, which is directly across the street from the **Kenora Recreation Centre** where it affords its guests with amazing views of Lake of the Woods. Other hotels where AGA delegates will be staying include the **Comfort Inn**, **Days Inn**, **Travelodge**, **Waterview Inn**, **Super 8**, **Perch Bay**, **Natures Inn**, **Lake Vu Hotel**, **Selah Motel**, **Brewers Inn** and **Totem Resort/ Yellow Bird Lodge**.

As in the past, the MNO will be coordinating accommodations and travel for MNO citizens designated to attend by MNO Community Councils, which will include Presidents, Senators, Youth and Women's Representatives as well as the members of the MNO Youth and Veterans' Councils and the Women's Secretariat. Council designated citizens will be contacted by the MNO directly in the coming weeks for registration purposes.

The MNO AGA is open to all citizens and non-delegates will be able to register via the MNO website in coming weeks. The MNO



encourages citizens who may be travelling to Kenora to book accommodations (hotel or camping) as soon as possible, as facilities are limited and it is at the height of tourist season.

If you are considering camping there are excellent camping grounds and RV facilities at **Anicinabe Park**, which is only five minutes from the Clarion Inn Lakeside Hotel. You can learn about the park at www.anicinabepark.ca and book spots or make inquiries at **1-877-318-2267** or scott@green-adventures.ca. Additional camping is available at **Rushing River Provincial Park**, which is about 20

minutes from Kenora. To reserve space at this park call the Ontario Provincial Parks call centre at **1-888-668-7275**.

As is tradition, on the Friday, August 18, prior to the start of the formal AGA the next day, AGA delegates will gather at Anicinabe Park to cheer on the arrival of the Voyageur canoes that will be paddled by the MNO leadership, special guests and other dignitaries. This year's arrival will be all the more exciting as the MNO Canoe Expedition members will conclude their 2400 kilometre trek across Ontario at the AGA. After this epic entrance everyone will be in the mood to celebrate

under a tent with a number of talented Métis entertainers.

For the first time, prior to the opening of business each day of the formal AGA from August 19-21, the MNO will be offering Canoeing demonstrations and instructions from a professional paddler. It will be an exhilarating way to get a start every morning!

AGA business sessions will run all day Saturday, August 19, the mornings of Sunday, August 20 and Monday, August 21. Saturday evening will feature a delicious fish fry and entertainment at Anicinabe Park, while Sunday afternoon at Anicinabe Park will include a wide

assortment of Métis cultural activities and games including jigging, trapping demonstration, fishing, canoeing and fiddling.

Throughout the AGA there will be a trade show and starting on Thursday, August 17 and until the end of the AGA on Monday, August 21, Cultural Care, which are adult supervised children's activities will be available for the children of delegates.

More details on these activities and announcements about even more activities will be in the next *Voyageur* newspaper and posted on the MNO website as it becomes available. ∞

MNO Collaborative Forum is another big success

by
MNO Staff

On February 16, 2017, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) held a Collaborative Forum with industry at the Sheraton Centre Hotel in Toronto. The Forum included over 100 attendees and was described by many participants as the best Collaborative Forum ever. These attendees included MNO's Regional Consultation Committee members, government officials, Métis business people and representatives from the mining, energy and forestry sectors. The Forum was an excellent opportunity for all attendees to get together, strengthen working

relationships and network.

The Forum provided opportunities for a collaborative dialogue on a range of consultation related matters of interest to all participants. The event included greetings from MNO President Margaret Froh, MNO Chair France Picotte, Ontario Prospectors Association Executive Director Garry Clark and Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers Ontario Advisor David Sword. In addition, presentations were made by such speakers as Métis Infinity Investments LP CEO Scott Paties Richardson, New Gold Business Development Manager Chris Reeves, Economic Development Indigenous Affairs of Union Gas Manager John Bonin, Aboriginal and Government Affairs of Detour Gold Vice President Derek

Teevan and Bruce Power Manager of Communications and Media Relations John Peevers.

Another highlight was a presentation by Thomas Isaac, a nationally recognized authority in the area of Aboriginal law, who advises business and government clients across Canada on Aboriginal legal matters and related environmental assessments, negotiations, regulatory and constitutional issues. In June 2016, Isaac delivered a report entitled *A Matter of National and Constitutional Import: Report of the Minister's Special Representative on Reconciliation with Métis: Section 35 Métis Rights and the Manitoba Métis Federation Decision* to the Honourable Dr. Carolyn Bennett, the federal Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs. ∞



▲ (Left-right) MNO Chair France Picotte, Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers Ontario Advisor David Sword and MNO President Margaret Froh.



MÉTIS NATION of ONTARIO COMMISSION on Métis Rights & Self-Government



1) President Froh speaking during an engagement session.
2) (Left to right) Commissioners Vic Brunelle, Nelson Montreuil and Kim Powley listen intently during an engagement session.

On the road

The voices of Ontario Métis are being heard

Province-wide consultations of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Commission on Métis Rights and Self-Government began on February 28 and by the end of April, 19 of 32 had been completed. The remainder will be completed by the end of June.

The MNO Commission is made up of seven well respected citizens of the MNO, supported by a team of three additional citizens, with representation from the north and south, youth and seniors, men and women, harvesters and veterans, including French and Michif speakers. The Commissioners are joined by MNO President, Margaret Froh, and MNO Chair, France Picotte in leading conversations with all MNO citizens across the province on key issues such as MNO governance, how we can continue to build Métis identity, culture community, harvesting (including co-management, enforcement of MNO laws and mobility of rights), and what the MNO should be focusing on as it advances Métis rights, including

self-government, in Ontario.

The Commission is travelling throughout the province and engaging with citizens in all 29 Chartered Community Council areas across Ontario, and will join the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Regional Councilor and Regional Captain of the Hunt (COTH) in listening to citizens' concerns, suggestions, hopes and aspirations for the nation on these critical and timely topics.

"We have been delighted with the reception that MNO Commission on Métis Rights and Self-Government has been receiving at the sessions so far," stated President Froh. She added, "The turnout of our MNO citizens was outstanding at all sessions. Our citizens are so engaged and truly care about the future of our communities and the broader MNO. A fundamental component of good governance is ensuring that all of our citizens feel they have a voice and an opportunity to be heard. And that is exactly what we are doing through this Commission, our regional telephone town halls which we recently



A fundamental component of good governance is ensuring that all of our citizens feel they have a voice and an opportunity to be heard. And that is exactly what we are doing through this Commission."

Margaret Froh, MNO President

launched, and the first ever MNO Household Survey that we will soon be launching."

Each engagement sessions has started with President Froh and the Commissioners leading citizens in a rousing chorus of the MNO song "We Aspire." Based on the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose and written by MNO citizen and awarding winning singer/songwriter Amanda Rheame, "We Aspire" is always the perfect way to put citizens in the mood to talk about the exciting future of Métis in Ontario.

President Froh also provides an overview at the start of each session that puts the entire context of Métis history and its relationship to our current opportunities and challenges in perspective. "A lot of the work we are doing right now is telling our story," explained President Froh. "Telling the story of who the Métis are, telling the story of our historic Métis communities here in Ontario. It is important that we start with that history – we start with those foundations of who we

continued on page 6

continued from page 5

are where we come from – that is in fact the foundation of all the recognition that we have right now. The recognition of us as a rights-bearing people; it all flows from our history.”

President Froh also discusses the significance of many current developments to the ongoing story of the Métis in Ontario. “The stars truly are aligning for the Métis Nation,” as she is fond of say. “Only one month ago, the MNO signed a *Memorandum of Understanding with Canada on Advancing Reconciliation*. The timing of the launch of the MNO Commission could not have worked out more perfectly. Through the Commission process we are hearing directly from our citizens on the key issues that are important to them as we continue our way forward on the road of self-determination and it will help inform everything that we’re doing, including in the exploratory discussions process with government and the negotiations that will follow.”

President Froh also explains how the MNO’s MOU with Canada builds on several recent advancements for the Métis Nation, including the Supreme Court decision in *Daniels v. Canada* (April 2016) and the report from Tom Isaac, *A Matter of National and Constitutional Import: Report of the Minister’s Special Ministerial Representative on Reconciliation with the Métis-Section 35 Métis Rights and the Manitoba Métis Federation Decision* (July 2016).

“This is an important and extraordinary time for the Métis Nation. Working together, with all of our citizens and communities, we will build on these opportunities to create an even stronger, healthier future for our Métis families, communities and our entire nation,” stated President Froh.

“Through the Commission process we had citizens come out and be a part of the discussion, ranging in age from 9 years old, to the 104 year old World War II Métis veteran, Corporal Alex Boucher, who attended the session with Moon River Métis Council,” stated President Froh. “This Commission, along with other initiatives we are leading to increase communication across the nation, is Métis good governance in action.”

At the conclusion of the province-wide consultations, the findings of the Commission will be presented to MNO citizens in a What We Heard Report that will contribute substantially to the MNO’s ongoing efforts to extend and build upon the remarkable achievements of the past 20 years in advancing Métis rights and self-government. ∞



4) One hundred and four year-old MNO veteran Alex Boucher with President Froh at the Moon River engagement session. 5) MNO North Channel Métis Council President Yvonne Jensen (right) and MNO Chair France Picotte (left) speaking at the engagement session in Blind River. 6) President Froh and Chair Picotte speaking at the engagement session in Owen Sound. 7) PCMNO Region 4 Councilor Ernie Gatien (right) and Chair Picotte speaking at the engagement session in Sault Ste. Marie. 8) President Froh speaking at the engagement session in Midland.



First-ever MNO Household Survey starts in May!

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is excited to announce the launch of its highly anticipated MNO Household Survey. The Household Survey is set to begin in May and will continue over the summer of 2017. The Survey will provide each and every MNO citizen with a unique opportunity to voice their service needs and concerns in the areas of health, housing, education, employment, social justice and other areas. Survey results will be used to advocate on your behalf with federal and provincial governments and other MNO partners, and to address service gaps for Métis families and communities across Ontario.

HOW DO I PARTICPATE?

The MNO Household Survey is primarily an online survey. To make sure everyone has the fullest opportunity to participate, MNO citizens who do not have a current email address on file with MNO will soon receive a letter from President Froh inviting them to go online and register for the survey at a special web address provided for that purpose. Once registered, citizens will be emailed a link to the full online survey which will be rolling out over July and August.

Don't miss out! If you have not provided your email address to MNO, make sure you go online and register to participate in this very important MNO event! For all MNO Citizens who have already provided their email address to MNO, you will be emailed the survey link directly. We will make best effort to ensure all citizens have an opportunity to participate!

If you have any questions about the survey, please contact Jane Brennan, MNO Registrar at janeb@metisnation.org, or 613-798-1488 (Toll Free: 800-263-4889).

PRIZE DRAW

All Citizens who complete both the registration form and the survey (i.e. Parts 1 and 2) will be eligible to be entered into a PRIZE DRAW with a chance to win one of 50 prizes of \$100 Amazon Gift Cards. Prizes will be drawn in December 2017 and the 50 lucky winners will be notified by MNO staff.

MÉTIS STUDENT EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The MNO Household Survey is providing an opportunity for Métis university students to be directly involved in the research process through paid employment with the University of Waterloo Survey Research Centre (SRC), who have been contracted by MNO to assist with data collection. Please visit <https://uwaterloo.ca/survey-research-centre/employment> for more information on applying. All applications or questions can be directed to Mariam Mobasher mmobashe@uwaterloo.ca.



MNO signs Relationship Agreement with Vale Canada

by
MNO Staff

On Monday, March 6, 2017, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) signed a Relationship Agreement with Vale Canada Limited pertaining to Vale's current Sudbury operations.

Vale's Sudbury operations include six mines, a mill, a smelter, a refinery and nearly 4,000 employees, which make it one of the largest integrated mining complexes in the world. Vale's products include nickel, cobalt, platinum group metals, gold and silver.

Vale has demonstrated a strong commitment to environmental sustainability and is internationally recognized for progressive environmental reclamation and emissions reduction initiatives. Vale's Clean Atmospheric Emissions Reduction (AER) Project for example is the largest single environmental project in the history of Sudbury. This one billion dollar investment will reduce sulphur dioxide by 85% from current levels as well as reduce metals and particulate emissions by 35 to 40%.

Vale has been working with the MNO Mattawa/Lake Nipissing Traditional Territory Consultation Committee for the last five years and the Committee's members were present for the signing of the historic agreement. In her remarks during the signing ceremony, MNO President Margaret Froh stated: "This agreement is important because it clearly demonstrates and underscores Vale's commitment to working in collaboration with the MNO in protecting the Mattawa/Lake Nipissing traditional rights-bearing territory of the Métis people. I congratulate the MNO Mattawa/Lake Nipissing



▲ MNO and Vale representatives at the Relationship Agreement signing ceremony on March 6, 2017 in Toronto. (Left to right – front) Erin Satterthwaite, Vale Corporate Affairs; MNO President Margaret Froh, Vale Vice-President for Ontario Operations Stuart Harshaw; and Angie Robson, Vale Corporate and Aboriginal Affairs for Ontario. (Left to right – back) Jason Letto, Vale Exploration; James Wagar, MNO Manager of Natural Resources and Consultation; Dan Boulard, PCMNO Region 5 Councilor; Steven Sarrazin, MNO Mineral Sector Advisor; President Marc Laurin of the MNO North Bay Métis Council; President Richard Sarrazin of the MNO Sudbury Métis Council; President Nelson Montreuil of the MNO Mattawa Métis Council; and Denis Lefebvre, Regional Consultation Committee Alternate with the Sudbury Métis Council.

Traditional Territory Consultation Committee for their dedication and efforts in building this collaborative and constructive relationship with Vale. As volunteers, the Committee truly exemplifies the commitment of all our MNO elected leaders to the protection and promotion of our heritage, culture, way-of-life and collective rights."

In the Relationship Agreement, Vale makes clear commitments to discuss employment and procurement opportunities for the regional rights-based Métis community as well as hold annual Métis culture related activities. Vale also

agreed to further negotiations with the MNO should it bring on any new projects in the future.

President Froh concluded her remarks by saying: "The MNO views this agreement as an affirmation from Vale that by working together and by respecting each other, both parties can prosper and attain their highest potential. While there is still much work to do, I am very confident that this agreement will contribute in a real and meaningful way to building a brighter and more promising future for not just the Métis, but for all Canadians." ∞

MNO and University of Ottawa Working Group moves forward

by MNO Staff

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and the University of Ottawa recently established a formal working group to facilitate greater collaboration and encourage ongoing communication between the MNO and the Chair of Métis Research. Representatives from the MNO and University of Ottawa have now met twice to discuss existing and emerging Ontario Métis research, the renewal of a Memorandum of Understanding and to establish a work plan with jointly agreed upon priorities.

In 2007, Ontario, through the Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities (now the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development) made a commitment to establish a Research Chair in Métis Studies. The MNO, having pressed for the position, was involved in all aspects of a recruitment of a host University and in the selection of a Chair.

Since arriving in January 2010 Brenda Macdougall has been in the position of Chair of Métis Studies, which was later retitled to Chair of Métis Research. Dr. Macdougall has worked on a number of projects and activities. Specifically through the research lab she has created at the University of Ottawa, she has trained a number of students in the methods and practices of genealogical based archival research and social networking analysis. As well she has consulted with Know History, the historical research firm contracted by the MNO to undertake additional research, regarding these methods. Students trained by Dr. Macdougall have gone on to work for Know History and contributed to building their capacity in the area of Ontario Métis history. Based on her quest for archival sources, she,



▲ Dr. Brenda Macdougall, Chair of Métis Research at the University of Ottawa, speaking at a Louis Riel Day event in 2012.

along with other Métis scholars, have built a website of transcribed genealogical sources called the Digital Archive Database Project (dadp.ok.ubc.ca), which is available to the public. The DADproject contains over 100,000 transcribed archival records, including the sacramental records from Michilimackinac, the first Catholic mission in the Great Lakes and, by summer 2017, it will contain hundreds of genealogical records from various other regions in Ontario. She also worked with the Ontario College of Teachers by writing the Métis module for the additional qualification course, Framework for Teaching Teachers, which Ontario teachers can take as a part of their ongoing professional development.

For the coming year, the MNO and University of Ottawa will be working on a renewed partnership, collaborating on the development of community-based resources over the summer, planning a Métis speakers series for the coming school year and working toward holding a Métis Academic Conference in the Spring of 2018 with a focus on the history, way-of-life and contemporary experiences of Ontario Métis. ∞



Participants in the 2017 MNO Infinite Reach March Break Camp: (Front rows left to right): Michael Smith, Wanda Botsford, Emily (CEC Staff), Senator Verna Porter-Brunelle, Heather Bell, Melody Chislett-Morris, Reagan Sicard, Rebekah Trudel, Riley Richmond, Sarah McCaveney, Nicole Beck, Jainna Haitse, and Gloree Hersom. (Standing left to right): Senator Robert Lloyd, Vic Brunelle, Steve Gautreau, Senator Alis Kennedy, Kiel Cress, Shelby (CEC Staff), Karen Cox-Gurdon (CEC Staff), Maverick McBride, Sheandra Kitchen, Sebastien Trembly, Sophie Laroque, Kaitlyn Gouliquer, Samantha Rose, Jacxsen Cress, Travis (CEC Staff), Savannah Whalen, Janna Rose, Paige Chartrand, Ivan Grisdale, Taylor Clark, Donelle Tynes, Robert McBride, Senator Ray Bergie. Missing from photo: Hunter and Madison Mageau, Anne Trudel, Alicia Blore, Allyssa Lewis and Scott Carpenter.

Another awesome MNO March Break Camp

It brings us together as a community

by
MNO Staff

The week of March 12-16, 2017, was an exciting one for 24 Métis youth who gathered from all over Ontario to participate in the annual MNO Infinite Reach March Break Camp. Every year more high school students come to this remarkable event to learn about postsecondary opportunities and discover more about their Métis heritage. As has been the case for the last several years, the March Break Camp took place at the Canadian Ecology Centre (CEC) near Mattawa.

“It’s really an awesome way to connect with other Métis youth,” said participant Reagan Sicard, “and to learn about the history and our culture and even opportunities for postsecondary. It brings us together as a community.”

Students were kept hopping from the time they arrived on Sunday night until they left on Thursday. Activities included workshops on the value of postsecondary education, the MNO Infinite Reach program and Writing Resumes and Cover Letters. They also learned about MNO programs and services including Urban Aboriginal Strategy Research and Healing Moccasins.

Senator Ray Bergie who was one of the

elders in attendance enjoyed being with the youth who made him feel young again. “It [the camp] brings youth together and let’s them know they are part of a larger family [which is important because] they are our strength and our future.”

The students spent a lot of time learning about their Métis culture and way-of-life. This included sessions learning how to jig to fiddle music, finger weave sashes and create Métis dot art. Métis harvesters Nelson Montreuil and Roger Labelle taught the students about trapping, furs and how to skin a beaver and stretch a beaver pelt. Senator Robert Lloyd provided instructions on making Sumac sap spiles and the students also made, cooked and ate bannock. The location of the CEC near the Ottawa River made connecting with Métis history particularly easy as Vic Brunelle, a Commissioner on the MNO Commission on Métis Rights and Self-Government explained: “You are in a location where your ancestors and the Voyageurs passed - right there in front of you [referring to the river] – that is what is very unique about this place.”

The highlight for many of students was all the time they spent outside getting in touch with nature and the land. This included campfires, snowshoe hikes where they were introduced to their voyageur heritage and winter ecology and on their

continued on next page



▲ (Above) Métis youth Sarah McCaveney and Taylor Clark. (Below) Participants creating some fine beadwork. ▼





last night the Creatures of the Night Wolf Howl led by the CEC staff. Participant Hunter Mageau commented: "It's been a lot of fun and I am enjoying being outdoors and learning about my heritage and everything that my ancestors did and how they lived. It's important to know about your history."

Throughout the Camp, the students benefited from the teachings and guidance from Senators Verna Porter-Brunelle, Dr. Alis Kennedy, Ray Bergie and Commissioner Vic Brunelle, Infinite Reach Facilitator Heather Bell, as well as the support from a team of MNO staff members including Alicia Blore, Anne Trudel, Wanda Botsford, Melody Chislett-Morris, Alyssa Lewis, Michael Smith, Scott Carpenter, Marsha Depotier

and Steve Gautreau.

Senator Porter-Brunelle spoke about the value of the Camp saying: "A lot of students don't get the opportunity to live the Métis way-of-life so this is a way of becoming a big family and learning about the Métis way-of-life and maybe bringing it back to their communities. The Métis Nation of Ontario is going strong – We aspire."

All the excitement of the March Break Camp was captured by a videographer and has been produced into a short video that has been posted on the MNO website and social media pages. Pictures from the camp have also been posted as an album on the MNO Facebook page. ∞

▲ 1) Participants enjoying some traditional Métis voyageur games. 2) Participants listen closely to a presentation by Métis Knowledge Holder Nelson Montreuil. 3) Métis Knowledge Holder Nelson Montreuil. 4) Beadwork was a favourite activity for many of the participants. 5) Gathering around a campfire was a great way to cap off an amazing day. 6) Métis youth Rebekah Trudel and PCMNO Senator Ray Bergie. 7) MNO Commissioner on Métis Rights and Self-Government Vic Brunelle and PCMNO Senator Verna Porter-Brunelle lead a nature walk. 8) Jigging is always an essential part of every March Break Camp.

SENATORS SPOTLIGHT

Everyone's life is a book

Senator Jim Turner shares his story

submitted by

Jim Turner

MNO Windsor-Essex Métis Council Senator

Everyone's life is a book. We live it sentence and paragraph, page and chapter. PCMNO Executive Senator Joe Poitras suggested that the past and present Senators should write about their lives, their attributes and their hopes and dreams. We hope that everyone will enjoy it and can draw from our stories. We hope it will be entertaining and a good read. Senator Poitras is hoping that by writing about the things we've seen and done in our book of life, maybe people can draw some parallels from it and know that we are all in this together.

Let me start out by quoting the beginning of a book called *Quiet Revolution West: The Re-birth of Métis Nationalism* by John Weinstein. On page one of this book, Weinstein quotes Howard Adams from *Prison of grass: Canada from the Native Point of View*:

In my childhood, I often stayed with my grandparents on the old scrip farm of Maxime Lepine at Batoche. I did not realize at the time that I was tramping in the footsteps of a noble guerrilla warrior. Maxime's spirit was not there, not felt at all. Of the many games we half-breed kids invented, not one was related to the struggle of 1885. This history was hidden from us because our grandparents were defeated generations. We were a new generation, starting our lives of defeat, without hope, ashamed of ourselves as half-breeds. Although our forefathers, Regnier, Boucher, Fiddler, McDougal, Parenteau, Ouellette, Short, and Adams—had fought gloriously against the Ottawa regime, we were still the wretched of the earth.

Our ancestors relegated their accomplishments, hopes and dreams to the trash bin. They had their memories but kept them hidden; even from their own families.

Because of this, it made it very hard for a lot of us to gather information to become citizens of the MNO. Documents were lost, or destroyed. Cultural identities, pride, and our customs were not admitted to. In simple terms, our roots were hidden from us. My family was so secretive that I once asked my grandmother who was visiting from Manitoba, why she had native features. She gave me a look that could kill and she never spoke to me again for the rest of her life.

My ancestors are from Manitoba; The Red River Settlement, Pilot Mound, Morden, Brandon, Rosssburn, Rock Lake, and other places. Those days were no picnic for my family. If the white people found out you were a Métis, [then it was assumed] you must be a sympathizer for Louis Riel. You were beaten in the streets or worse. My mother went to a one-room schoolhouse in Rosssburn. The students were Métis, white and a few First Nation kids. She told me once that the First Nation children didn't want anything to do with her and the White kids would have nothing to do with her so she kept to herself and talked to the few Métis children who didn't know they were Métis. She said at recess she would go and lay in the flowers out in the field and watch the

clouds go by and imagine shapes and forms and wished she could ride one to a better place. She eventually did. She met my dad during the Depression. He rode the rails out west from his home near Ridgetown; which was a long way to travel to look for work. They corresponded for a long while and eventually married and moved back to the Windsor area, where he got a job at the Ford Motor Company. He later drove a semi-truck in Michigan for the rest of his life. They built a house in Amherstburg in 1941. They would drive to Manitoba to visit the relatives but I think she couldn't wait to get back to her home in Ontario.

She had always told me to never ask about our "Indian" side. That was dirty, so it stayed hidden until her passing. After that, there was nothing stopping me from finding out who I was. I rooted through all her old papers, found my cousins' names. I found all the documents to link her to her relations and finally had enough information to send to St. Boniface Historical Society so they could research my genealogy and see what they could come up with. Well, they made me a book and sent it to me. Everything was there; enough to satisfy the MNO Registry. A year later, I finally received my citizenship card.



▲ Senator Turner in his full regalia.

Remember, be proud of who you are. It's our turn to show the world who we are and not be ashamed any longer. We are here to stay. Our identity and spirit thrives and we won't hide any longer.

- Senator Jim Turner

I want to tell you who some of my ancestors are. My fourth great-grandfather was Sir George Simpson, Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company. All of our lives we had always heard about good old Sir George. My mother was so proud of him, he was famous, white and accomplished. She never talked about the Métis and First Nation side of the family. It was always Sir George this and Sir George that. Well, it is a fact that he is my grandfather and had children with Margaret Taylor, a "half-breed" from York Factory. Her mother was a Swampy Cree. Her father was George Taylor, a schooner captain that took the hides and pelts over to England on his ship. She talked a lot about him to. They had children, a son; John Mackenzie Simpson who married Emille Fidler. They had a boy Charles, who married Adeline Denig. They had children, and one, a girl, Alice Simpson was my grandmother.

On the other side of the family; Dr. George Denig married Alisa MacClintock. Their son Edwin Thomson Denig took an Assiniboiné wife, Haikeskaweya, which means "Dear Little Woman." Her dad was the chief of the Rock Band of Assiniboiné's who years before had separated from the Dakota Sioux. He had two sons; The Light and He who flies. They

were tutored and educated by the whites and later they went to Washington to get into politics. Edwin wrote a manuscript called, *The Five Tribes of the upper Missouri*, which was lost for years. Albert Cuthbertson took credit for the manuscript after Edwin died but they found out that it was not in his handwriting, but in Denig's. Because of all the important information and customs of the five tribes, it was apparent it had to be made into a book and put into print. Edwin was a trader in the fur business and lived with the Assiniboiné for 25 years. Later he brought his wife Haikeskaweya up to Manitoba, where they spent the remainder of their lives.

My great-great grandparents and an uncle had scrip lots on the Assiniboiné River near the Forks. I have all that information, photocopies and all the documents. St. Boniface did a very thorough job of researching everything.

There is also a book written by a cousin of mine; *Fed by their wings*. It is the complete story about our history and ancestry from the beginning to the present. There is also another book about Sir George entitled *The Little Emperor*, which tells of all his adventures. He actually was quite a man, but he didn't really like Native people; even though he was married to one.

There were many other Native people in our family as I was about to find out but they are too numerous to mention here.

One of my relations escaped from the house where the Frog Lake massacre happened. They dressed him up as a woman and apparently walked out with the females to safety. The Indian agent, Mr. Scott was killed along with others.

Before I close, I want to quote another paragraph from *Quiet Revolution West*. Here Weinstein quotes Rick Hardy, the former President of the Métis Association of the Northwest Territories:

I don't think that anyone, without having gone through the fire, can understand the feeling of being Métis. Belonging to both, but in reality to neither. Growing up in Fort Norman in the 50's, I went through the fire! White and Indian accepting you on the surface, but rejecting you from the heart and soul. Imagine the feeling of a person being called a Goddamned half-breed. So for a while we did what we thought was a smart thing. When we were with the whites, we were white. When the Indians came, we became Indians! But, this could only go on for so long without splitting ourselves apart trying to be two people...

Remember, be proud of who you are, It's our turn to show the world who we are and not be ashamed any longer. We are here to stay. Our identity and spirit thrives and we won't hide any longer. A huge thank you to the leadership we have had in the past and the people who lead us now; you can rest assured that there will be no turning back now. All across the homeland we are asserting ourselves, proud of our culture, our heritage and our beliefs. We are all brothers and sisters. We are Métis. ∞

COMMUNITY



MNO Region 9 visits CS Wind Canada

submitted by
Jennifer Parkinson
MNO Grand River Métis Council President

On October 14, 2016, MNO Grand River, Windsor-Essex and Niagara Region Métis Council members had the opportunity to tour the CS Wind Canada plant in Windsor. This plant fabricates the tower structures that support wind turbine generators and blades. The plant starts with steel plates that are over one inch thick and it cuts, bends, bevels and welds them into the towers. These plates are then blasted with heat in preparation for painting, prior to mounting the internal components before shipping.

Project Managers SK Yoon and Paola Piunno hosted the tour and presented the members with mugs and baseballs upon leaving the facility. ∞

▲ (Front row left to right) MNO Region 9 PCMNO Councilor Peter Rivers, CS Wind Project Manager SK Yoon and MNO Clear Waters Métis Council President Jerry Clarke. (Back row: left to right) MNO Grand River Métis Council (GRMC) Senator Carol Lévis, MNO GRMC President Donna Grayer, MNO Niagara Region Métis Council (NRMCM) President Derrick Pont, MNO NRMCM Treasurer Leslie Muma, MNO GRMC Women's Representative Gisele Legiehn and MNO NRMCM Councilor Gary Lovell.

Métis Family Wellbeing Program launched in Thorold

submitted by
Amanda Pont-Shanks,
MNO Métis Family Wellbeing Coordinator

On Thursday February 2, 2017, the staff at the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Thorold office had their official grand opening and launched the MNO Métis Family Wellbeing Program in their community. The event was hosted by MNO Métis Family Wellbeing Coordinator Amanda Pont-Shanks with the help of her fellow MNO staff members, Glen Lipinski, Tammy Wintle, Rebecca Vander Sanden, and Terry-Lynn Longpre. The MNO Niagara Region Métis Council (NRMCM) also provided support for the launch.

The event began with the official grand opening of the new MNO Thorold office. The opening was emceed by Glen Lipinski who welcomed the excited crowd. MNO NRMCM Senator Gary Laframboise

provided a prayer and a blessing to the new building. Welcoming remarks were provided by St. Catharines Member of the Provincial Parliament (MPP) Jim Bradley, MNO NRMCM Thorold Councilor Henry D'Angela, MNO NRMCM Welland Councillor Paul Grenier and Mayor of the City of Thorold Ted Luciani. Member of Parliament (MP) for Niagara centre, Vance Badawey was unable to attend that night, however he visited the new office and welcomed the new MNO Métis Family Wellbeing Coordinator and MNO staff to their new building the next morning.

MNO NRMCM President Derrick Pont provided opening remarks and expressed how excited he was to see how much the Métis Nation has grown in the Niagara region in the past 10 years. President Pont then presented Mayor Luciani with a sash and welcomed him to the Métis family. Mayor Luciani as well as MNO staff participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony to officially



▲ MNO Thorold staff celebrating the official opening of the new MNO office in Thorold and the launch of the MNO Métis Family Wellbeing Program. (Left-right) MNO Healthy Babies Healthy Children Rebecca Vander Sanden, MNO Family Wellbeing Coordinator Amanda Pont-Shanks, Mayor City of Thorold Ted Luciani, President Niagara Region Métis Council Derrick Pont, MNO Community Relations Coordinator Glen Lipinski, MNO Community Wellness Co-ordinator Terry-Lynn Longpre and MNO Community Support Service Coordinator Tammy Wintle.

open the new building.

After the ribbon cutting ceremony, Amanda Pont-Shanks greeted the crowd and provided a brief information session on her program and services. From there, the official MNO Métis Family Wellbeing launch party began.

The participants enjoyed traditional fiddle music by the Old Time Fiddlers Quartet, moose stew and bannock made by Senator Laframboise, appetizers made by local chef Craig Shanks and homemade

sugar cookies created by Amanda Pont-Shanks.

The evening also had a healing bath salt make and take where participants made their own soothing bath salts with essential oils. Children were able to explore their creativity and create their own paper canoe. Event attendees also had the opportunity to win door prizes.

Overall the event was a huge success with over 70 people in attendance. There were a lot of positive reviews from citizens,

service providers, members of local government, MNO staff, and members of the MNO NRMCM. ∞

If you have any questions about the MNO Métis Family Wellbeing Program in the Niagara Region, please contact:
Amanda Pont-Shanks
905-682-3487 ex. 302
amandap@Metisnation.org

Storying Together

submitted by
Gabriele Simmons
MNO TYRMC placement student

For the first time ever, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Toronto and York Region Métis Council (TYRMC) has accepted placement students from a nearby university. This pairing is meant to ensure that the students gain new, employable skills and a better understanding of the Métis Nation as well as support the Council in its work. Self-identified Métis Elise St. Germain and settler-Canadian Gabriele Simmons, are University of Toronto (UT) students taking part in the Equity Department's full-year Community-Engaged Learning course. They have worked alongside the MNO TYRMC since September of 2016. Both parties are learning from one another and the students have helped with some very large-scale projects. One such project was completed in January of this year; a storytelling event

entitled Storying Together. St. Germain and Simmons were given the opportunity to organize an interactive on-campus event that centred on the work of the MNO TYRMC. Reflecting on their own personal journeys, they hoped to explore more closely the ways in which we take part in, write and are affected by stories, as well as to invite more people into the work of the MNO TYRMC. As such, they conceived of Storying Together. Storying Together was made possible thanks to the generous partnering of Hart House, New College's Community-Engaged Learning course, First Nations House and as well as the Centre for Community Partnerships and the Faculty of Kinesiology and Physical Education's Equity Ideas Fund. Storying Together happened as part of the UT's Indigenous Education Week and endeavored to capture the power of storytelling; also, the part it plays in forming, finding and reconciling identities. 'Story' was presented in a variety of forms at this event:

as a short documentary on the MNO TYRMC's Youth Committee's Weaving the Sash project; which explores how urban Métis youth connect to identity and community through culture and tradition; as digital stories created and produced by Métis community members; and as an in-person sharing circle facilitated by St. Germain and Simmons. They held two circles concurrently because so many people turned out! After the closing of the circles, they asked that folks who were interested to record short sound bites on their thoughts around 'story' on a digital recorder. St. Germain and Simmons felt that the stories shared in the circles were so insightful that they could be turned into a larger mobile art installation to be presented at the year-end community-engaged learning symposium. St. Germain and Simmons were moved by how honestly and openly people shared at the event. There was a palpable sense of urgency felt by all in attendance to collectively work towards reconciliation



▲ (Left-right) MNO TYRMC placement students Elise St. Germain and Gabriele Simmons with Trish Starling, MNO TYRMC President Tera Beaulieu and Sheila Laroque.

with Indigenous peoples at a personal and community level. Many people turned out for this event; it was remarkable to see how Storying Together's central themes spoke to such an array of people and how they all came together for such a successful evening. As the night came to a close, many individuals expressed an interest in volunteering with and learning more about the MNO TYRMC. St. Germain and Simmons felt so privileged to have helped to facilitate these new partnerships and to have deepened our existing ones. Trish Starling of Hart House generously supported the students in organizing the event while Sheila Laroque, a self-identified Métis and UT alumni, helped to facilitate it. Virginia Barter, Métis storyteller, generously permitted that her digital story be shared. Had St. Germain and Simmons not been placed with the MNO TYRMC, this event never would have been conceived! ∞

MNO Council to be part of All Nations Health Care System project

submitted by
Theresa Stenlund
PCMNO Region 1 Councillor

On February 16 2017, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Kenora Métis Council (KMC) Chair Elizabeth Boucha was among the Indigenous and non-Indigenous leaders in the Kenora area, attending the signing ceremony for the development of an All Nations Health Care System. Part of the system will include the construction of an All Nations Hospital to improve health outcomes for all people of the region. The signing ceremony celebrated the collaboration of leadership within the area and among local health care agencies. The ceremony opened with Elders Clifford Skead and Ida Skead, along with welcoming remarks from Chief Chris Skead. In addition to Chair Boucha, the signing ceremony also included speakers from: the Grand Council Treaty # 3 Ogiichidaa Francis Kavanaugh, Mayor of the City of Kenora Dave Canfield, Mayor of the Township of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls Jerry O'Leary, Kenora Chiefs Advisory President Chief Lorraine Cobiness and Member of Parliament Robert Nault. The hospital is needed because whether it is diabetes, cardiac or respiratory conditions, statistics for the Kenora area point to problems. The Métis and First Nations people experience many health problems related to obesity, alcohol and drug



▲ (Left-right) Chair of the Kenora Métis Council Elizabeth Boucha, Chair of the Kenora Chiefs Advisory Chief Lorraine Cobiness, Mayor for Sioux Narrows and Nestor Falls Jerry O'Leary, Mayor for the City of Kenora David Canfield and Grand Chief of Grand Council Treaty #3 Francis Kavanaugh.

use, mental health and poor general well-being. Absence of economic opportunity, inadequate housing and social circumstance also hold back Métis and First Nations people from being full participants in the provincial economy. MNO KMC President Joel Henley is excited the MNO is part of the project. He said: "Affordable, readily available health care is the cornerstone of a healthy and productive life, for our young, our aged, and everyone in between. Creating a health care system that improves the health outcomes of all who live in our region, and one where our Métis traditions and culture is respectfully practiced throughout the healing process is a priority." The Métis Nation, First Nation, municipalities and unincorporated townships will lead in the development of a health care system for

the Kenora area. The journey to build a new All Nations Hospital will take up to ten years. In the interim, much must be done to address physician recruitment, access to specialist care and improve the current health care system as well as make improvements to the Lake of the Woods District Hospital. In addition to the political leadership, the project includes the area's health care agencies including: Lake of the Woods District Hospital, Kenora Chiefs Advisory, Waasegiizhig Naanaandawe'yewigamig Health Access Centre, Sunset Family Health Team, Kenora District Services Board, Northwestern Health Unit, Kenora Health HUB and the Kenora and District Home for the Aged. ∞

Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) & Métis Awards Committee (MAC)

The Metis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is seeking Métis community members who are interested in volunteering their time as members of Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) or Métis Awards Committee (MAC). These roles offer an opportunity to make a valuable contribution to the Métis community across Ontario. RAC and MAC members assist in the review of employment and training services in keeping with program Principles, Policies and Procedures.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- RAC members review and recommend training proposals through an anonymous review process with the assistance of the Regional Employment and Training Coordinator (RETC). Reviews are ongoing however time commitment is limited in nature.
- MAC members are required to review bursary applications once or twice a year.
- All RAC and MAC business is to be completed by fax, e-mail and/or teleconference wherever possible. MNO will provide the tools necessary to assist us with making informed decisions
- RAC/MAC work is strictly voluntary

If you are interested in this position or would like to know more please contact:
Jade Bourbonnière
jadeb@metisnation.org
1-800-263-4889

A WONDERFUL WAY TO
PROVIDE VALUABLE
FEEDBACK TO OUR
COMMUNITIES



▲ (Left-right) Members of the MNO TYRMC: Councilor Justin Kogler, Senator Constance Simmonds, President Tera Beaulieu, Secretary-Treasurer Marilyn Hew and Chair Todd Ross.

MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council plan Rendezvous for Canada 150

submitted by
Elise St. Germain
Gabriele Simmons
Placement Students for MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council (TYRMC)

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Toronto and York Region Métis Council (TYRMC) has been awarded a grant to hold Toronto and York region's first Métis Rendezvous! With a generous grant from the Toronto Foundation's 150th Fund, the Council, along with community volunteers, will be hard at work over the next several months planning for this exciting event.

The Rendezvous will be a large-scale celebration of the extensive contributions that the Métis Nation has made to Canada's past, present, and future. The celebration of Métis culture and history will include a showcase of Métis fiddling, jigging, food and crafts as well as a goods and vendor market. By hosting this celebration the MNO TYRMC will be honouring one of Canada's longest standing cultural traditions, the

Rendezvous, by (re)introducing it to all peoples of the Toronto and York Region. Too often the contributions and sacrifices that Métis people have made for Canada's founding are downplayed or absent from the narrative of this country's formation. Celebrating Toronto and York region's first ever Métis Rendezvous during Canada's 150th will illuminate the essential role that the Métis Nation has played in Canada.

The MNO TYRMC anticipates a large turnout for the Rendezvous so they need the help of committed, passionate, and dependable volunteers! Those hoping to get involved in a 2017 Rendezvous Planning Committee are asked to submit a short statement outlining your interest and any experience you have with similar initiatives.

It is anticipated that the celebration will take place in the fall of 2017. Please join the email list (council@tyrmc.org) or check out the Facebook (Toronto & York Region Métis Council) and Twitter (@TOY-orkMétis) page to stay updated on the developments of the Rendezvous! ∞



▲ (Front: left-right) MNO GBMC Chairperson Larry J. Ferris, Susan Fraser, Robyn Fraser, MNO GBMC Senator Ken Fraser, Makayla Beauchamp, (middle: left-right) Owen Riddy, Grace Riddy, Brandon Howe, Jacob Martin, Devin Latondress, Evan Logue, (back: left-right) Carl Ferris and Jocelyn Howe.

Métis youth experience adventure at Discovery Harbour

submitted by
Larry J. Ferris,
MNO GBMC Chairperson

On March 1 and 2, 2017, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Georgian Bay Métis Council (GBMC) youth and chaperones took part in an adventure at Discovery Harbour in Penetanguishene. They had a unique opportunity to live as their ancestors did and see the daily challenges they faced in this area in the 1800s. Discovery Harbour showcases its roots that go back to 1793, when Sir John Graves Simcoe scouted Penetanguishene Bay as a strategic site for a naval base. The participants were able to see their family names in some of the historic displays and

also walked the same ground as their ancestors.

During the 1800s there was a Métis community on Drummond Island and Métis from this island supported the British during the War of 1812. One of the most notable contributions of the Drummond Island Métis to the British war effort was their role in capturing Fort Mackinac on Michilimackinac Island. Following the War, negotiations led to Drummond Island being shifted to the American side in the border and as a result many Métis immigrated from the Island to Penetanguishene to what was called the "Establishment."

Once settled in the "Establishment," the Métis carried on their traditions and culture; many continued to work at the

"Establishment" and made a significant contribution to the Métis culture.

The MNO GBMC would like to thank Senator Fraser and his wife Susan for joining in and supporting the program. Ontario Power Generation also contributed funds for the event and the MNO was very thankful for their support.

Chair Ferris indicated how impressed he was with "how well the youth conducted themselves." He also indicated that the young people "received compliments from all the Discovery Harbour staff [on how] polite, respectful and well behaved they were. They are great ambassadors of the MNO GBMC and the MNO is proud of them," he concluded. ∞

Defense Aboriginal Advisory Group receives Eagle Feather from MNO GBMC Senator

submitted by
Greg Garrett,
MNO Veterans' Council Secretary

On February 28, 2017, at Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Borden near Barrie, Senator Ken Fraser of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Georgian Bay Métis Council (GBMC) presented Jimmy Tailbot with the Defense Aboriginal Advisory Group (DAAG) with an Eagle Feather. Senator Fraser presented the Eagle Feather to the DAAG on behalf of the Georgian

Bay Métis community and it will be added to DAAG's Eagle Staff. Senator Fraser was assisted during the ceremony by MNO Veterans' Council Secretary Greg Garrett.

The mission of the Defence Aboriginal Advisory Group is to advise Commanders on significant issues affecting the lives of Aboriginal people working at the Department of National Defence (DND) and serving in the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF). The members of the Group support the chain of command in their mandate to foster awareness of Aboriginal issues,

recruiting and retention issues and also provide a forum for Aboriginal peoples to gather and support one another as they exercise their unique cultural, spiritual and traditional identities within DND and the CAF.

The presentation was meaningful as the feather that Senator Fraser presented was the only Eagle Feather that he possessed. Senator Fraser also presented Tailbot with a small Métis sash and a medicine bag. Another gift that Senator Fraser provided to Tailbot was a book so that each keeper of the Eagle Staff can record its history, including where

each element of the staff originated.

Following the presentation, a ceremonial group formed and proceeded to the forest near CFB Borden. There the group harvested cedar to be added to the Eagle Staff. All of those in attendance assisted in the harvest and prayers were offered.

The Eagle Staff is expected to be completed by May 25, 2017, and will be used during the Grand Entry parade as part of the CFB Borden's Aboriginal Veterans Day. ∞



▲ MNO GBMC Senator Ken Fraser (left) presents Jimmy Tailbot (right) of the Defense Aboriginal Advisory Group with an Eagle Feather.



MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO



1) Métis fiddler Sierra Noble. 2) MNO Veterans' Council Chair Guy Mandeville (left) speaks at the memorial event. 3) MNO veteran Jaime Lefebvre receives her Louis Riel medal from President Froh (left to right) President Froh, Jaime Lefebvre and President Paquette. 4) The MNO Veterans' Council recognizes the MNO Ottawa Region Métis Council (ORMC) for its support of the Vimy Commemoration Project (left to right) MNO Veterans Council Chair Guy Mandeville. MNO ORMC Senator Parmallia Burgie, MNO ORMC President Benny Michaud, MNO Veterans' Council President Joseph Paquette. 5) MNO veteran Douglas Woods receives his Louis Riel Certificate from President Froh (left to right) Chair Mandeville, President Froh, Douglas Woods, President Paquette.



MNO and MNBC contingents at the National War Memorial following the National ceremony to remember the Battle of Vimy Ridge. From left to right: MNBC Vice President and MNBC Veteran Minister, Jessica Curry, veteran Todd Ross, veteran R. Smith, MNO Veterans' Council Women's Representative, Eleni Pappas, veteran Sharlene Lance, veteran Dave Smith, veteran Tanya Davoren, veteran Eleanor Creighton, MNO Veterans' Council Chair Guy Mandeville C.D., MNO ORMC President Benny Michaud, MNO Veterans' Council President Joseph Paquette, Michael Strank, MNO President Margaret Froh, veteran Doug Woods, MNO Veterans' Council Senator

VIMY 1917

Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans

by
MNO Staff

April 9, 2017, marked the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. One of the most consequential battles of the First World War and one in which Canadian troops played a pivotal role. The Battle of Vimy Ridge was commemorated in Vimy, France, in Ottawa and all over Canada. For over two years, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans' Council worked hard on their Vimy Commemoration Project. They planned and fundraised to bring Métis veterans together with Métis youth for Vimy commemoration events in Ottawa the

weekend of April 9.

Starting the evening of Friday, April 7, ten MNO veterans were joined in the national capital by seven Métis youth from Ontario as well as six Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) veterans and one Métis youth from British Columbia. The following Saturday, the group toured the Canadian War Museum and the Canadian Museum of History during the day and attended a special banquet in the evening.

At the banquet, the veterans and youth heard from MNO President Margaret Froh who presented a number of Louis Riel medals to MNO veterans while MNO Veterans' Council President Joseph Paquette presented Louis Riel certificates to the same individuals. During the evening, the MNO Veterans' Council also presented certificates of appreciation to the MNO and



IO VETERANS REMEMBER



Remember the Battle of Vimy Ridge. (Front: left-right) Brittney Bertrand, veteran Eldon Clairmont, Lissa Robert Desjardins, PCMNO Post-Secondary Representative Katelyn LaCroix, veteran Shelly Claus Armitt C.D., veteran Barb Hulme C.D., PCMNO Youth Representative Mitch Case. (Middle: left-right) Senator Ralph Thistle, Matthew Bombardier (Back: left-right) Jane Brennan C.D., Dalton Latondress, Dr. Alis Kennedy O.Ont., C.D., O.M.C., MNO Veterans' Council Sgt-At-Arms Brian Black.

VIMY 2017

ns and youth honour the fallen

MNO President Froh for their support of the Vimy Commemoration Project. The MNO Veterans' Council also presented President Froh with the original artwork used to create a Métis memorial erected in Penetanguishene MNO Ottawa Region Métis Council President Benny Michaud and Senator Parmilia Bergie were also presented with certificates of appreciation for their Council's support of the Vimy Commemoration Project.

Another highlight of the evening was a presentation from police veteran and MNO Great Lakes Métis Council Senator Ralph Wolf Thistle, who on spoke about his experience with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

On Sunday morning the veterans and youth attended the national ceremony to remember the Battle of Vimy Ridge at the

National War Memorial. Two MNO citizens had direct roles in the ceremony. During the ceremony "The Act of Remembrance," is traditionally read by veterans in in English, French and Michif. MNO Veterans' Council Chair Guy Mandeville read the Act in Michif. The "Commitment to Remember" that follows was also read in English, French and Michif and PCMNO Post-Secondary Representative Katelyn LaCroix read the Commitment in Michif.

The MNO Veterans' Council plans on providing an extensive article about all the events that were part of their Vimy Commemoration Project, which will be posted on the MNO and MNO Veterans' Council websites and published in an upcoming edition of the *Métis Voyageur* newspaper.



7) MNO President Margaret Froh in front of the National War Memorial. 8) MNO Veterans' Council Chair Guy Mandeville and PCMNO Youth Representative Katelyn LaCroix. 9) MNO veteran Robert Desjardin receives his Louis Riel Certificate from President Froh (left to right) Chair Mandeville, President Froh, Robert Desjardin, President Paquette. 10) President Froh accepts artwork from the MNO Veterans' Council in appreciation for her support of the Vimy Commemoration Project. (Left to right) Senator Alis Kennedy, Chair Guy Mandeville, Women's Representative Shelly Claus, President Froh, Secretary-Treasurer Greg Garratt, President Joe Paquette and Sgt-At-Arms Brian Black.



▲ **Scenes from the Thunder Bay Spring Festival:** (above) Commissioner on the MNO Commission on Métis Rights and Self-Government Paul Robitaille and MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council President Jean Camirand. (right) Spring Festival organizer Madeline Dennhardt.

Métis youth host Thunder Bay’s inaugural Spring Festival

submitted by
Paul Robitaille, *Commissioner, MNO Commission on Métis Rights and Self-Government*

On March 18, 2017, over 40 Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizens participated in the first-ever Thunder Bay Spring Festival. The Festival was organized by Métis youth from the community with the generous support of the MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council. For many who came, the Festival was their first time participating in a MNO event. Highlights of the Festival included free food, music, traditional games and a Beaded Infinity Button Work-

shop led by local Facilitators from the MNO Infinite Reach Student Solidarity Network. The workshop, which was part of the MNO Youth Council’s #bead-workrevolution was held to help flood the Thunder Bay community with positive expressions of Métis identity and culture. The Métis youth of Thunder Bay would like to extend a warm thank you to all who made the Spring Festival a stunning success including the MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council, MNO citizen David Harel for his wonderful photography and to Métis youth Madeline Dennhardt for her leadership in organizing the event as well as to all of the hardworking members of the MNO public service. ∞



▲ (Left-right) Stacey Redhead, MNO PDWMC Councillor Luke Thompson, MNO PDWMC Councillor Barbara Card, Women’s Representative Taryn Blackstock, MNO PDWMC President Andy Dufrane, Tony Belcourt, MNO PDWMC Chair Christa Lemelin, MNO PDWMC Senator Terry Bloom and Alyssa Sgro.

An evening with Tony Belcourt at Trent University

submitted by
Christa Lemelin, *MNO PDWMC Chair*

On February 28, 2017, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council (PDWMC) was invited to attend a Traditional

Teaching Workshop offered at Trent University, with Métis Rights Activist and Former MNO President Tony Belcourt as a guest speaker. MNO PDWMC Council had the opportunity to listen and chat with Belcourt regarding matters related to reconciliation with the Métis Nation. Belcourt also provided details of the history of

the Métis Nation across Canada, as well as the history of the MNO. MNO PDWMC Council presented Belcourt with a gift to recognize his traditional teaching workshops at the university and his presence in the Métis Nation community. ∞



▲ (Left-right) MNO HSSMC Women’s Representative Shirley Loubert and MNO HSSMC Senator Brenda Powley hold up the wolf quilt.

MNO Council holds quilt fundraiser

submitted by
Anne Trudel, *MNO Citizen*

On February 14, 2017, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council (HSSMC) completed the wolf quilt, which they had started on January 6, 2015. Betty Sims, wife and mother of a local Métis family, volunteered her time to purchase and sew the quilt together. MNO HSSMC Women’s Representative Shirley Loubert completed the project. The quilt features a picture of wolves in grey, brown and black tones. The wolf quilt represents that Métis people are still present and thriving in today’s world.

The MNO HSSMC used the quilt for a fundraiser in support for the local Métis community. Tickets were sold for the quilt and the proceeds went to the MNO HSSMC Métis Crafting Corner and the Métis Dance Club. Shirley

takes an active role in the Métis Crafting Corner. This past fall she has volunteered her time and material to interested community participants wanting to learn how to do a “Crooked Rail Fence” pillow quilt. On National Aboriginal Day on June 21, 2016, the quilt was displayed at the Parks Canada Sault Ste. Marie Canal National Historic Site. The quilt was also showcased at the Historic Sault Ste. Marie Annual General Meeting (AGM) on December 4, 2016. At the AGM, MNO North Channel Métis Council (NCMC) Councillor June Smart had the winning ticket and brought the wolf quilt home! The local Métis community sends out appreciation to Shirley and Betty for their dedication and expertise. These clubs are open to all community members to enhance opportunities to gather socially. People are encouraged to share their skills and learn from others within the community. ∞



▲ (Left-right) MNO Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council members Phil Printess, Brenda Powley, Meagan Gjos, Steve Gjos and Ken Figures.

Annual Pow Wow Gathering at the Rapids

submitted by
Steve Gjos, *MNO Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council Secretary*

On March 4-5, 2017, The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council, in partnership with Algoma University, participated in the 12th Annual Gathering at the Rapids Powwow. The Powwow was held at Algoma University and was a very exciting, cultural and meaningful event. The event included drumming, dance and old style jingle dress competitions. ∞



▲ MNO PDWMC President Andy Dufrane (centre) with Mary Lynch-Taylor (left), Trustee; and Jack Nigro (right), Superintendent; both with the Kawartha Pine District School Board.

Celebrating historic ties between Métis and First Nations peoples

submitted by
Christa Lemelin,
MNO Peterborough & District Wapiti Métis Council Chair

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council (PDWMC) hosted a Friendship Feast at the Holiday Inn in Peterborough on Friday, March 24, 2017. The Friendship Feast was an evening to celebrate the historic friendship between Métis and First Nations peoples and was an opportunity to dialogue about potential collaboration on common interests and goals as well as learn about, and from, one another.

Highlights included a fantastic meal of traditional foods including bannock and jams that was enjoyed by all. Almost as popular was a presentation about the activities and services of the MNO by the dynamic James Wagar, the MNO Manager of Natural Resources and Consultation. To recognize the current and continuing friendships between the MNO PDWMC and the First Nations leaders who attended the Friendship Feast, MNO PDWMC

President Andy Dufrane presented sashes to Mary Lynch-Taylor, Trustee of the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board (KPRDSB) for the Alderville First Nation, Curve Lake First Nation and Hiawatha First Nation and to Jack Nigro, Superintendent of Education for Student Achievement for First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education at KPRDSB. The MNO PDWMC looks forward to continuing to build important relationships with First Nations people and collaborating on common interests between Métis and First Nations peoples of the community. ∞



▲ MNO GRMC members with Lieutenant Governor Dowdeswell and First Nation Elder MacDonald (left-right): Senator Carol Lévis, Elder Lois MacDonald, the Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, President Jennifer Parkinson and Treasurer Leslie Muma

MNO Council members meets Ontario's Lieutenant Governor

submitted by
Rubecka Davidson
MNO Métis Family Wellbeing Coordinator

Members of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Grand River Métis Council (GRMC) had the honour to be invited to a City of Cambridge reception for Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth Dowdeswell. The reception was part of an

official visit to the City of Cambridge by Her Honour. After receiving flowers from two lovely young girls, Mayor Doug Craig introduced the Lieutenant Governor to members of the MNO GRMC and First Nations Elder Lois MacDonald. MNO GRMC President Jennifer Parkinson presented a blue Métis pin to Her Honour on behalf of the MNO GRMC. Her Honour spoke highly of the MNO and proudly wore the Métis pin for the rest of the reception.



▲ A participant works on a turtle rattle at the workshop in Midland.

Making Turtle Rattles in Midland

submitted by
Tracy Bald, *MNO Community Wellness Coordinator*

On February 21, 2017, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Community Wellness Coordinators Tracy Bald and Tera Lynn Moreau Vivian, alongside with MNO Family Wellbeing Coordinator Kayla Duquette, hosted a Turtle-Rattle-Making workshop. The event took place at the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council (GBMC) and the workshop brought in over 20 attendees. The three hour workshop filled up fast where participants enjoyed a lesson about the turtle, shared in a delicious meal and created their own turtle rattles. ∞



▲ Some of the fun at the Stop and Say "hi" (Left to right) adults Barbara Muscat, Katrina MacDonald, Rob, Eugene and Janice Boucher, along with the children Paetyn Boucher, Mya MacDonald and you can't see her but in her little baby seat is Faith Macdonald.

Lots of smiles at Gravenhurst gathering

submitted by
Rubecka Davidson
MNO Métis Family Wellbeing Coordinator

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Métis Family Wellbeing program based in the new MNO office in Gravenhurst had its first Stop by and Say "Hi" gathering on March 15, 2017. As Gravenhurst is one of the new MNO offices that opened up recently there was sure delight in having folks come

out to visit! Hot chili was ready for any March breakers trying to beat the cold weather and the children enjoyed doing crafts at the "Creation Station." Métis music played in the background while MNO citizens shared conversation and "it's a small world" talk. ∞



▲ 1) Participants in the MNO Great Lakes Métis Council Governance and Finance Training Workshop (Front: left-right) Carla Macdonald, Susan Schank, Robert LeClair, Helen Marietta (Back: left-right) Jamie Coture, Patrick VanWyck, Murray Hillyer, Pete Coture and Senator Ralph Wolf Thistle. 2) Participants in the MNO Grand River Métis Council Governance and Finance Training Workshop (Front row: left-right) Alicia Hamilton, Diane Kilby (Back row: left-right) Carol Levis, Leslie-Anne Muma, Colleen Brunelle, Dave Skene. 3) Participants in the MNO Niagara Region Métis Council Governance and Finance Training Workshop: (Front row: left-right) Brian Kon, Niki Ann Brideau, Laura Burey, Giselle Legiehn (Back row: left-right) Reg Bernier, Garry Laframboise, Derrick Pont, Pierre Carre. 4) Participants in the MNO North Channel Métis Council Governance and Finance Training Workshop: (Front row: left-right) Jennifer Jensen, Yvonne Jensen, June Smart, Jason Rydall. (Back row: left-right) PCMNO Region 4 Councilor Ernie Gatien, Gary Foster, Guy (Milke) Laderoute, Reg Bennett.

Governance and finance a priority for MNO Councils

submitted by
Glen Lipinski, MNO Community
Relations Coordinator

January and March 2017 were big months for the MNO Community Relations team as they offered Governance and Finance Training to four MNO chartered Community Councils. The Community Relations team consists of Manager Hank Rowlinson and Community Relations Coordinators

Glen Lipinski and Beth Boros, with different team members offering the course at different times. The Councils that participated in the training were the MNO North Channel on January 27-28; the MNO Great Lakes on March 4-5; the MNO Niagara Region on March 18-19; and the MNO Grand River on March 25-26. Governance and Finance Training is one of the ways the MNO supports its hundreds of Council volunteers. The MNO benefits

immensely from these dedicated volunteers who spend hundreds of hours building and strengthening their Métis communities. Through funding provided by Ontario's New Relationship Fund, the MNO has been able to develop and deliver a Governance and Finance Course that helps community councils perform their important work. The course is a two-day seminar held locally that 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. In addition to the four most recent training workshops, since the MNO has offered this training, the following community councils

have participated: the MNO Moon River, Sunset Country, Kenora, Northwest, Windsor-Essex, Clear Waters, High Land Waters, North Bay, Temiskaming, Northern Lights, Thunder Bay, Atikokan and Area, Peterborough and District Wapiti, Credit River, Toronto and York Region, Sudbury, Ottawa Region and Georgian Bay Métis Councils. The MNO will be updating these training programs in the coming months based on feedback from Community Councils. ∞

The financier of Choice for

Métis

Entrepreneurs in Ontario

Financing up to \$1,000,000 for resources and related sector businesses

Rates & security customized to promote Métis business success

Contributions for business plans and ongoing support

Métis VOYAGEUR Development Fund



▲ MNO Historic Sault Ste. Marie Dance Club students performing at the Bon Soo Festival.

Métis Dance Club performs at Sault Ste. Marie cultural festival

submitted by
Anne Trudel, MNO Citizen

On February 20, 2017, The Métis Dance Club of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council (HSSMC) performed to a packed audience at The Machine Shop in Sault Ste. Marie. The performance was part of the Bon Soo festival, which coincides with Passport to Unity 2017. Passport to Unity is a yearly cultural event held in Sault Ste. Marie celebrating all ethnic groups calling Sault Ste. Marie their home. In 2016, Bon Soo the Sault Ste. Marie

Winter Carnival added Passport to Unity to their schedule events.

The Bon Soo festival typically features food booths and displays along with cultural entertainment. Since its early days, the Sault Ste. Marie Métis community has participated in the Bon Soo. The MNO HSSMC involvement started with Councillor Carla Labee serving bannock with strawberry jam, while the Métis Dance Club performed on stage. More recently, the dance performance has expanded to include songs that encourage audience participation.

This year, some of the youth performed the Heel Toe Polka and the Seven Step

while the youngest in attendance played the spoons. They were joined by adult members singing Voyageur inspired songs. The two songs selected were Vive La Compagnie and Alouette. Like the name of the winter carnival Bon Soo, Bon being the French word for “good” and Soo being the local colloquial term for Sault Ste. Marie; these songs reflect the mixed heritage of the Métis. The lively tune and unchanging refrain in both familiar songs made it easy for audiences to participate. It also gave the attendees an appreciation for the long days put in by Métis voyageurs and how they used songs to speed them towards their destinations. ∞



Investment in Affordable Housing (2014 Extension)

ONTARIO RENOVATES

— NORTHERN REMOTE COMMUNITIES —

Eligibility Criteria:

- You must reside in a northern remote community with a population of 2,500 or less
- Your total household income must be at or below the 60th percentile in your area
- The value of your home must be at or below the average market selling price in your area
- The house must be your sole and principal residence
- The house must require major repairs and/or modifications for persons with disabilities

To apply contact:
Infinity Property Services
An agency of the Métis Nation of Ontario
P.O. Box 10009,
Innisfil, ON L9S 4Y7
Tel: 705-436-3143 • Toll-Free: 1-800-891-5882 • Fax: 705-436-3621
housing@metisnation.org • www.infinitypropertieservices.ca




Motherisk Commission

Was your hair tested for drugs and/or alcohol which was used by the Children's Aid Society in court?

For individuals who have been affected by a Motherisk hair test, the Commission offers:

- Information**
- Counselling**
- Legal referral**
- Mediation Services**

CONTACT US AT: info@motheriskcommission.ca
1-844-303-5476 (toll free)

**400 University Avenue,
Suite 1800A
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2R9**

www.motheriskcommission.ca
www.facebook.com/motheriskcommission/
Twitter: @motheriskcomm

MNO Windsor-Essex Métis Council and local museum educate public about Métis

submitted by
Donna Grayer
MNO Windsor-Essex Métis Council
President
.....

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Windsor-Essex Métis Council (WEMC) worked with the Chumzук Museum in Windsor to develop a small Métis display as part of two displays being exhibited at the Museum. The display is called There's Indian in the Family and Métis/Half Breed People, and the text and maps used were taken from the MNO Education and Training Métis Education Kit and included Métis contributions during the War of 1812; which

was an important event in the Windsor area. The MNO WEMC was part of a planning committee that the Museum formed to encourage groups within the Windsor area to share their stories through artifacts and personal collections. MNO WEMC Senator Jim Turner often provided a smudging prayer at the planning committee meetings and by March 1, 2017, the Métis display was ready. The MNO WEMC was very pleased with the final result. The main purpose for the display was to promote the MNO WEMC and encourage local MNO citizens to be proud of their Métis history. The second display is still

under construction. It will be larger and will focus on the Métis historical timeline. It will also feature some updates about the most recent Métis rights cases and Margaret Froh, the first woman to become MNO President. The second display will also look at the contributions of Métis to Canada and Ontario within the context of Canada 150. This will include the achievements of Ontario Métis, the Red River and Northwest Resistances and Manitoba's entry into Confederation. The MNO WEMC respects that there is varied views on Canada 150, so the second display will show Métis progress within Ontario and also respect the contributions of Métis veterans. ∞



▲ Members of the MNO WEMC who worked with the Chumzук Museum (left-right) MNO Veterans' Council Women's Representative Shelly Claus, Senator Jim Turner, Women's Representative Sharlene Lance, President Donna Grayer and Morgan Baillergeon.



FIMUR 2014/20

ASSISTED HOME OWNERSHIP & HOME REPAIR



Do you dream of owning your own home?
Do you qualify for a mortgage, but you just can't
seem to save up the down payment?

Do you already own a home, but it's in need of repair?



Do you identify yourself as a First Nation, Métis or Inuit person?

Apply today by calling or emailing us at cconnor@oahssc.ca or kbenford@oahssc.ca

We will send you an application and explain how the program works.

You do not need to provide proof of your ancestry or have a Status, Métis or Inuit Card to apply and qualify.

ASSISTED HOME OWNERSHIP PROGRAM

A forgivable loan opportunity providing up to \$30,000 to assist individuals and families in the purchase of an **Off-Reserve home** in Ontario (outside of the GTA). Applicants should be low to moderate income, qualify for a mortgage and may not own real estate at the present time. You do not have to be a first time home owner. Priority applicants include people escaping situations of violence and living in Social Housing.

HOME REPAIR PROGRAM

A forgivable loan opportunity providing up to \$25,000 to assist low to moderate income homeowners to repair their **Off-Reserve homes**. Applicants are reviewed in order of receipt. Priority will be given to homes with emergency repair such as health and safety concerns, accessibility repairs, energy efficiency upgrades and those below the poverty level.

Details: www.OntarioAboriginalHousing.ca or call 1.866.391.1061 and ask for FIMUR program

ACHIEVEMENTS



MNO Senator finds spiritual healing from PTSD Warriors Helping Warriors

This is the story of how Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Great Lakes Métis Council (GLMC) Senator Ralph Wolf Thistle took on post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and addiction. PTSD is an anxiety disorder that can develop after experiencing or witnessing a traumatic event, or learning that a traumatic event has happened to a loved one.

submitted by
Susan Schank
MNO Great Lakes Métis Council
Office Coordinator

Senator Ralph Wolf Thistle is a retired 30-year veteran of the Toronto Police Service and has worked in homicide and missing people squad, criminal investigation bureau, youth bureau (child sexual assault investigator)

and was also a training officer for recruits.

After numerous traumatic events Thistle was diagnosed with PTSD, alcoholism and depression.

Thistle started his journey of recovery six years ago by embracing his Métis culture. The MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council (TYRMC) and the MNO Credit River Métis Council (CRMC) have loved and nurtured him back to spiritual health. He is repaying his

debt of kindness by being an active citizen in the MNO.

Senator Thistle was invited to Malibu California by a United States (US) veterans group called The Sparta Project (Spiritual Process and Resiliency Training Association). Senator Thistle took part in this innovative program, which combines holistic and alternative methods to provide help in working through suicide and self-destructive behaviour. The Badge of Life Canada, which is a peer-led national non-profit volunteer organization committed to supporting police and corrections personnel who are dealing with psychological injuries suffered in the line of duty, assisted Thistle in fulfilling his dream of attending this event.

The Sparta Project is a common sense experience that allows the

warrior to participate again in life. The program is designed to help returning warriors find personal meaning from their own experiences and translates them into a new sense of purpose.

Senator Thistle spent five days

and the American veterans gathered in the Mojave Desert, where he received therapy, which he found spiritually fulfilling. Also there was the healing power of meditation, assisted counselling and an adventure program.

The Sparta Project is a common sense experience that allows the warrior to participate again in life.

with US Marines, Army, Air Force and Navy veterans. It was a hero's journey of warriors helping warriors to stand down, come home and rejoin their communities, families and loved ones. Senator Thistle

Armed with this knowledge and teaching, Senator Thistle hopes to help other Métis first responders and veterans deal with their PTSD, addiction and mental illness. ∞



2



3



4

▲ 1) Senator Ralph Wolf Thistle with other Sparta Project alumni following the completion of the course. 2) Senator Thistle with a friend in the Mojave Desert. 3) Sparta alumni in the Knights' Labyrinth (a reproduction of the Kights Templar Labyrinth in France). 4) Senator Thistle presenting Navaho Sparta instructor Philip Folsom with a gift of Métis

Métis youth to sing in new production of Louis Riel opera

Based on press release from the
Canadian Opera Company

Métis youth Joanna Burt will be making her debut with the Canadian Opera Company (COC) in the role of Louis Riel's sister Sara in the upcoming COC production of Louis Riel. Hailing from Lindsay, Ontario, Joanna has been part of Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Summer Youth Cultural Program and is well-known throughout the MNO for her cultural performances. She is currently completing the Artist Diploma program of The Glenn Gould School of Music at The Royal Conservatory of Music.

Joanna is part of an all-Canadian cast that features 39 named characters portrayed by 30 artists led by renowned opera singer Russell Braun in the title role of Louis Riel. This new production of Louis Riel is co-produced with the National Arts Centre in anticipation of Canada's sesquicentennial and runs for seven performances by the COC on April 20, 23, 26, 29, May 2, 5, 13, 2017 at Toronto's Four



▲ Joanna Burt

Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts. This production will have its premiere in Ottawa by the NAC on June 15 and 17, 2017.

Composed by Harry Somers for Canada's centennial in 1967, Louis Riel is a uniquely Canadian contribution to the opera world. Louis Riel was the first opera written by a Canadian to be presented by the COC and the COC is the only professional opera company to date to have ever performed it. Louis Riel is sung in English, French, Michif and Cree with English, French, Michif

and Cree SURTITLES™.

"Perhaps the most considerable challenge in staging this opera is the Eurocentric tradition of opera as a form and its collision with the voice, culture and representation of indigeneity in this history," says Louis Riel director Peter Hinton. "It is a delicate balance of renewing the original spirit of the opera with contemporary perspectives in order to revise the opera's colonial biases and bring forward its inherent strengths and powers."

A group of Indigenous men and women have been cast as a physical chorus known as the Land Assembly. On stage throughout the opera, the Land Assembly is a silent chorus in protest, and stands for the people for whom the opera has not provided a voice. The Land Assembly shift and transform in response to the actions on stage and are a constant, physical representation of the Indigenous men and women who are directly affected by the outcomes, victories and losses of Riel. Among the individuals joining the Land Assembly for the Toronto presentation is acclaimed theatre creator and artistic leader Cole Alvis of Métis heritage from

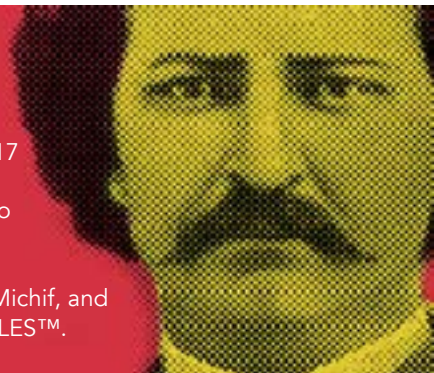
the Turtle Mountains in Manitoba.

Thirty-five members of the COC Chorus will take on the role of the Parliamentary Chorus and represent a group of settler and immigrant men and women. The Parliamentary Chorus sings and is seen but does not participate in the physical action of the narrative, only commenting and debating on what should take place. They serve as a modern-day Greek Chorus while also representing the functions of Members of Parliament who legislate and validate the struggles of all Canadians in Ottawa. An additional five members of the COC Chorus will be Métis.

∞

“Perhaps the most considerable challenge in staging this opera is the Eurocentric tradition of opera as a form and its collision with the voice, culture and representation of indigeneity in this history.”

Peter Hinto
Director, Louis Riel



LOUIS RIEL
APRIL 20 TO MAY 13, 2017
The Four Seasons Centre
145 Queen St. W., Toronto
TICKETS: www.coc.ca

Sung in English, French, Michif, and Cree with English SURTITLES™.



▲ The trophies made on a 3D printer for the Sudbury Game Design Challenge.

MNO citizen wins Sudbury Game Design Challenge

submitted by
Gilles Boucher, MNO Citizen
with files from cbc.ca

On February 3, 2017, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Joel Boucher and his team, the Platypus Paradox, won the Sudbury Game Design Challenge. Joel's team and their competitors are all currently enrolled in the Bachelor of Computer Science Program at Laurentian University. Joel specializes in video game design and received funding to support his education through the MNO Education and Training Branch.

The challenge required that each team develop a Northern Ontario theme video game. Joel's team created a game that is a top-down 2D

puzzle game where players control two characters at the same time using the thumb sticks on a controller. One character can launch a projectile to activate switches and interact with the environment and the other character can create a shield to block incoming projectiles. "It is a tough concept to get used to at a first glance but it's extremely fun to play. Trying to train your mind to do two things at once, or at least think of ways to solve puzzles while using both characters at the same time is the ultimate challenge during this game," Joel said.

Also as part of the program, Joel is required to take game design courses. The students learn about all the different aspects of game creation as well as topics such as immersion, controversy and violence in games. They are also required

to create a basic game for the class project. This gives them a hands-on approach using what they have learned in class.

The game design competition relates to what the students learned in school because it puts them in a scenario where they need to build a product in only 48 hours. They need to take a given theme and think of the most important key aspects that will make a product relate to the theme. The knowledge and hands on experience gained from these game design classes provide an understanding of how these games are created. It is very important to understand how to structure a game in competitions.

"If you don't understand how the mechanics or systems interact with each other, then it will ultimately fail," Joel said. ∞

Métis Youth wins gold

submitted by
Tammy Webb
MNO Labour Market Manager

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Labour Market Manager Tammy Webb is very proud of her niece Chasity King. On February 26, 2017, Chasity competed at the provincial level in the Youth Bowl Canada (YBC) competition in Sault Ste. Marie. Chasity won the Gold medal bowling with an average of 181. She will be heading to Guelph in April 2017 to compete

at the national level.

As previously reported on the MNO website, Chasity achieved gold medal standing for the Provincial Youth Bowling Canada (YBC) Championship in February 2016, won a team combo silver medal in 2014 and as a junior bowler she won a bronze single medal in 2015.

Chasity has been bowling since she was eight years old and has attended the National YBC competition in 2014, 2015 and 2016.

The MNO is proud of Chasity and wishes her the best at the national competition. ∞



▲ Métis youth Chasity King holds up the 2017 Sault St. Marie Junior Girls Youth Bowl Provincial Champions Banner.

MNO citizen Rebekah Trudel continues her success in high school wrestling

submitted by
Anne Trudel
MNO Citizen

MNO citizen Rebekah Trudel of Sault Ste. Marie is enjoying great success as a high school Steelhawk athlete, in particular as a wrestler. Most recently, on March 3, 2017, in Brampton, Rebekah won a gold medal at the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations (OFSAA) wrestling championships. OFSAA is the pinnacle of high school wrestling. Athletes must win their city and regional competitions to gain entry into the OFSAA meet.

In the three - day event, over 30 high school women wrestlers com-

peted in the 83 kilogram (KG) class. Competition was stiff. Seasoned wrestlers at the meet included wrestlers who had titles from previous OFSAA competitions. Rebekah was one of the top six seated wrestlers, because she won a silver medal for the 72 KG class in 2016.

Rebekah is an honour roll student at Superior Heights Collegiate and Vocational School. Rebekah's wrestling head coach Brent Fryia, assistant coaches Sarah Fewchuk, Ted Fryia and Kevin Shepley are very proud and happy for her success. Rebekah accredits her success to her coaches, Steelhawk teammates and her faith.

Rebekah Trudel is considered a multi-sport athlete playing basketball, wrestling, and track and field.

Outside of regular school activities she belongs to the Algoma University Wrestling Club and volunteers with Steel City Slam basketball camps for elementary age students. Rebekah has received the Referee's Award in 2015 for senior women's basketball ability and sportsmanship. In 2015 and 2016, she received the City Wrestling Award at Sault Ste. Marie women's Athletic Awards Banquet.

Rebekah has been offered the opportunity to play for Simon Fraser University's wrestling team in Vancouver, British Columbia. The MNO wishes Rebekah the best of luck on her future competitions as well as on her decision on whether to accept Simon Fraser's offer. ∞



READ MORE AND SEE REBEKAH IN ACTION:

Rebekah Trudel practicing at Superior Heights Collegiate and Vocational School
(CTV video):
<http://northernontario.ctvnews.ca/video?clipId=1074902&binId=1.1142344&playlistPageNum=1>

Steelhawks Trudel strikes gold
by Peter Ruicci, *Sault Star*:
www.saultstar.com/2017/03/03/steelhawks-trudel-strikes-gold

Rebekah Trudel OFSAA 2017 SHCVS Youtube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dv82VAhcebE>



▲ All-Canadian Ben Meek (left) and Sam Meek (right) hoisting the Silver Cup after winning the 78th Canadian Junior Boys Championship on August 4, 2016 at the Clovelly Golf Club in St. John's Newfoundland.

Meek brothers excel in sports and academics

submitted by
Jennifer Meek

Benjamin (Ben) and Samuel (Sam) Meek, the sons of Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Blaine Meek have both been very successful in sports and academics.

Ben is studying Bachelor of Business Administration at Acadia University in Wolfville, Nova Scotia where he majors in Accounting and aspires to become a Professional Chartered Accountant. Ben was awarded Academic All-Canadian for the 2015-16 Academic year. The Conference of Independent Schools (CIS) introduced Academic All-Canadians to honour student-athletes who achieve an academic standing of

80% or better while playing on one of their university's varsity teams. Ben achieved this impressive designation by harmoniously integrating academic excellence and varsity sports through discipline and tenacity both on the field and in the classroom.

Sam is currently attending University of Southern Illinois on a golf scholarship and is studying for a Bachelor of Business Administration. He is a member of the National Honours Society where he has achieved 3.6 grade point average in his first semester.

Sam has played golf internationally as a member of the Team Ontario and received a scholarship from the Peterborough Sports Hall of Fame. He was also crowned the 2016 Canadian Junior Boys Golf Champion. ∞

Métis youth receives award from Conestoga College

submitted by
Jennifer Parkinson,
MNO Grand River Métis Council President

On February 18, 2017, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Kate Piereder, was presented the 2016/2017 Aboriginal Award for achievement at the Seventh Annual Pow Wow at Conestoga College. Kate is a very hard working student studying for her Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Conestoga College. This is a collaborative program with McMaster University held at the College. In her first semester in Nursing, Kate maintained a 10.8 out of

12 GPA. The Award required Kate to demonstrate academic excellence and she also was required to write two essays; one on financial need and the other on her educational and career goals. Conestoga College Aboriginal Services Manager Myeengun Henry, presented Kate her award at the Pow Wow.

Each year the Pow Wow features drumming, singing and dancing; artisans and craft vendors; traditional food; and sacred fire.

The MNO Grand River Métis Council (GRMC) is very proud of Kate's achievements and were honoured to be at the Pow Wow to cheer Kate on!

Kate is also the niece of MNO Women's Secretariat Representative, Cora Bunn. ∞



▲ MNO citizen Kate Piereder (left) presented with 2016/17 Aboriginal Award by Conestoga College Aboriginal Services Manager Myeengun Henry (right).

FAMILY & MILESTONES



The Muskie King

Métis guide **Clarence Woods** harvested on Georgian Bay for 65 years

submitted by
Mardelle Woods,
MNO Citizen

Clarence Woods was born January 1, 1918 to Peter Woods and Cleofus Bonneville. He was raised by his grandmother, Agatha Bonneville, after his mother was taken by the Spanish influenza only days after she gave birth to him.

From a young age, Clarence was taught to hunt, trap, fish and shoot; only stopping to eat, sleep and attend the first grade. He was an avid reader and eager student and was devastated when at eleven years old, his father came to the small white schoolhouse in Port Severn and announced to Mrs. Bourrie his teacher, that he was being taken out of school. The year was 1929 and the Great Depression had set in and there was simply no time for children to be children. Clarence grew up fast, learning to tend to the farm chores that included loading 50 pound bales of hay to wagons taking care of the animals and the helping his Grandfather with farming the land. Survival was not easy

as he would have only three to four slices of bread at night and few cups of tea before going straight to bed to avoid feeling the awful pain of hunger. Clarence worked hard and long days supporting his half-siblings after his stepmother passed away, but he never saw them as a burden.

The only relief Clarence had from months of achy muscles, hunger pains and many tears was nature. He spent hours with his Dad and many uncles on their famous canoe stern called "Hope." It was a large wooden guide boat where Clarence learned many valuable life lessons the most important being, patience. He was taught how to trap beavers, muskrat and foxes but also to respect the animals and waste nothing.

A decade later, he and his brothers left to find work in Toronto. World War II had started and the "Big Smoke" offered opportunity, wealth and even love. At a ballroom in Casa Loma, he met his future wife, Faye Conkright. Clarence and Faye, however, decided the big city wasn't for them and they had just enough money saved to either buy a new washing machine or a new guide boat. They chose the boat and spent the next 50 years raising their family in Port Severn and building

Fishing started in April as soon as the ice went out and continued to late November. There was Muskie and pickerel fishing as well as duck, deer and moose hunting.

up their small business.

Fishing started in April as soon as the ice went out and continued to late November. There was Muskie and pickerel fishing as well as duck, deer and moose hunting.

Clarence caught as many as ten muskies in one day, earning him the

name of "Muskie King." He often would say: "Not all were keepers but a great day in all in all." One of Clarence's biggest fans was John Power, the great outdoorsman writer for the Toronto Star. John loved to write articles about Clarence often focusing on his knowledge and natural instincts. He was impressed with Clarence's knowledge of muskies, his understanding of the animals and respect for the land and his overall entrepreneurial spirit.

Generations of families came to love Clarence and his guiding year after year! When Clarence took you out, you were always guaranteed to have a very skilled and always cheerful guide. From all around the world, people came to see the Thirty Thousand Islands from a small guide boat led by their favourite Muskie King. Clarence cooked on an open fire with a little Coleman stove. He made tea and you could smell the fresh fish and sliced home fried potatoes with onions cooking a mile off shore. Clarence was a hardworking man who lived a good life doing what he loved and provided for his family against all odds. He was an entrepreneur, was kind hearted, had a strong belief in the Lord God, loved his family, nature,

mankind and was full of wisdom and laughter.

During the last few years of his life, he truly embraced who he was: a humble and proud Métis man. Ten days before he passed, he requested one last boat ride with his daughters aboard the Miss Midland. He was up at the front, in his wheelchair, looking out over the bow and in complete silence he said thank you and goodbye to the water, the islands, the fish and the creator, for all they had given him. It was a perfect send off for the Muskie King.

Clarence's Life philosophy was be kind to others, live a good life, work hard and let the Lord look after you. He believed you should always leave a person, place or thing in better condition than when you found it! He respect the land, water and the animals for without them we would be finished! ∞

If you would like more information about this topic, please contact
Ms. Mardelle Woods at
613-894-3607
or email at
mardelle.woods@gmail.com.

MNO citizen Albertine Roussin 100 years young

submitted by
Janet Hipfner, MNO Community Support Services Coordinator

On March 4, 2017, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Albertine Roussin celebrated a true milestone. Her family organized a special celebration at the Dryden Regional Training and Cultural Centre to commemorate that she turned one hundred years old on March 2, 2017.

Albertine was born in 1917 in Ste. Amelle, Manitoba. She was the daughter of Joseph and Maria Marion and had thirteen siblings. During the celebration, Albertine shared stories with the community such as when her family moved to Ontario in 1938 in a wagon. The trip to Ontario took about three months. While travelling to Ontario her husband Wilfred took on odd jobs and Albertine said “I took on

other working men’s laundry to earn extra.” Albertine raised nine children and opened her home to eight foster children. Among her children was the late Alvina Cimon, a former President of the MNO Northwest Métis Council. To this day, Albertine still enjoys knitting and canning jam.

Albertine was pleased to see many members of her community come out to wish her a happy birthday. She said: “Well look at all these people. You think I was a good girl.”

The MNO was pleased to be a participant in the celebration. In honour of Albertine’s centennial, she was presented with a certificate from MNO President Margaret Froh as well as a beautiful bouquet of flowers, which included a sash. ∞



▲ MNO staff member Janet Hipfner presents centenarian and MNO citizen Albertine Roussin with gifts from the MNO at her 100th birthday celebration.

EDITORIALS: The opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily represent the views of the Métis Nation of Ontario

MNO citizen newest Volunteer Ambassador for Rick Hansen Foundation

submitted by
Mardelle Woods,
MNO Citizen

Since 1988, the Rick Hansen Foundation team has been actively improving the lives of people with disabilities by creating awareness, changing attitudes, and breaking down barriers. Our goal is to create an inclusive world where people with disabilities can reach their full potential.



It is with great pleasure, enthusiasm and joy that I announce that I, Mardelle Woods, as a proud Métis woman, have recently become a Volunteer Ambassador for the Rick Hansen Foundation in Ottawa. In this new role, I will help spread Rick Hansen’s message to schools and professional events in Ottawa and throughout the province of Ontario. It is my hope to speak to Métis and Six Nation school groups as well as healing and wellness organizations, on the vital message of access and inclusion for all in our society who have physical, sight and hearing disabilities.

Thirty years ago, I sustained a spinal cord injury while crossing the street and in the same incident I suffered the devastating loss of my husband, Stephen Telfer. I feel that by sharing my story I can highlight the importance of overcoming all obstacles, which is the very message that Rick Hansen has delivered for 30 years.

Thirty years ago, Rick Hansen was traveling across Canada in his wheelchair on his “Man in Motion Tour.” As part of the tour he spoke at Lyndhurst Hospital in Toronto. Lyndhurst specializes in the treatment and rehabilitation of spinal cord injuries and I was a patient there receiving rehabilitation treat-

ment. I was inspired by Rick all those years ago and believed that Rick was a gift of bright light that came into her life during one of the darkest and most painful times one could imagine.

The struggles living my life with a disability have ignited a fire within me geared towards continuing the rebuilding of my life and helping others.

I eventually re-married, but in 1997, I divorced my second husband. I then started looking for a good family therapist to assist me and my three children with the much needed healing that is necessary after the break-up of a marriage. I heard that the Ennahtig Healing Lodge and Learning Centre in Vasey had a good program but when I approached the Lodge, I was informed that it did not accept Métis clients because we were not considered Aboriginal.

I decided that I would self-nominate myself for Board of Directors of Ennahtig at their upcoming Annual General Meeting. Prior to the meeting, I spoke with MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council Senator, the late Helen Bradley at the MNO Midland office. I shared my experience and my concerns with her and she handed me a Métis sash and said “wear this and good luck!”

At the Annual Meeting I was

provided the opportunity to speak along with the other candidates for positions on the Board and spoke about the importance of inclusion and healing for all. I was elected as the first Métis to join the Ennahtig Board as a Community Member-at-Large and served a four-year term. I felt so honoured to have the opportunity to make a difference. I recall feeling like I could have been knocked over with feather. When I shared the great news the next day with Helen, I went to hand her sash back to her but she smiled and said: “It’s yours Mardelle, congratulations you have earned it and thank you!” The experience and the richness in my own healing and the amazing team at Ennahtig, gave me strength and endurance and my great need to help others grew.

I feel honoured and privileged to work with the Rick Hansen Foundation; paying it forward, helping to spread Rick’s message and inspiring and bringing awareness to others regarding the great need for inclusion and access for all in our society. ∞

If you are interested and would like more information, contact Mardelle: mardelle.woods@gmail.com



The Beadwork Revolution

Increasing concentration and style

submitted by
Katelyn LaCroix, PCMNO Post-Secondary Representative

You may have noticed a growing trend at MNO conferences and meetings. Beadwork is becoming more commonplace, especially among the youth of the Métis Nation. Some might view beadwork as a distraction from important discussions, but for many people, doodling, fidgeting, or knitting helps to increase their concentration. In fact, researchers have found that participants who doodled while listening to a speech recording “performed better on the

monitoring task and recalled 29% more information on a surprise memory test” (Andrade 2010). Not only is beadwork helpful for increasing attention span, but it is also great way for youth to connect to their cultural traditions and express their Métis pride. So next time you see someone beading during a meeting, don’t think they’re ignoring the speaker! You might even want to ask them to teach you during the break. I’m sure they’d be more than happy to! ∞

Reference: APPLIED COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY, *Appl. Cognit. Psychol.* 24: 100-106 (2010), Published online 27 February 2009 in Wiley InterScience, (www.interscience.wiley.com) DOI: 10.1002/acp.1561

Building the MNO Team

The MNO is pleased to welcome a new staff member and announce two current staff members moving into exciting new positions

BONNIE BARLETT

Energy Policy Analyst • Toronto

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is pleased to announce that Bonnie Bartlett, formerly a Consultation Assessment Coordinator in the Lands, Resources and Consultations (LRC) Branch of the MNO, was the successful candidate in the competition for the position of Energy Policy Analyst in the LRC Branch. Bonnie will be working in the MNO's Toronto office.

Bonnie has five years of professional experience in planning, including most recently as a Transportation and Urban Planner with Arup, a large engineering and planning firm. In this position, Bonnie worked on environmental assessments and hearing processes for large scale infrastructure projects. In 2012, Bonnie graduated from the University of Toronto with a Master's of Science in Planning. Prior to 2010, Bonnie worked for an environmental non-profit organization as a Strategic Planning Program Manager.

Bonnie is excited about her new role with the MNO's LRC Branch and looks forward to working on energy related files on behalf of the MNO.

We wish Bonnie all the very best in her new role with the MNO and look forward to continuing to work with Bonnie as the Energy Policy Analyst. Submitted by Aly N. Alibhai, Director, Lands, Resources and Consultations Branch



JACQUELINE BARRY

Consultation Assessment Coordinator • Thunder Bay

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is pleased to welcome Jacqueline Barry to the position of Consultation Assessment Coordinator in the Lands, Resources and Consultations (LRC) Branch. Jacqueline will be working out of the MNO Thunder Bay office.

Jacqueline is from Thunder Bay and has an Honours Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology with a minor in French and a Master of Environmental Studies in Northern Environments and Culture from Lakehead University. She was the recipient of the Dean's Scholar Award for Science and Environmental Studies, which is awarded to the student with the highest standing in the Department of Anthropology at the undergraduate level. She was also the recipient of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship for her Masters Degree, which is awarded on the basis of academic excellence, research potential, personal characteristics and interpersonal skills.

We are very pleased to welcome Jacqueline to the MNO and the LRC Branch where she will be working primarily to support the Region 2 Consultation Committee. Submitted by Aly N. Alibhai, Director, Lands, Resources and Consultations Branch



JADE BOURBONNIÈRE

Supervisor of Projects • Ottawa

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is pleased to announce that Jade Bourbonnière, who held the position of Operations Coordinator in the Education and Training Branch, was the successful applicant for the position of Supervisor of Projects with the Education and Training Branch. Jade will continue to work out of the MNO office in Ottawa.

Jade has been with the MNO now for over two years in the position of Operations Coordinator with the Education and Training Branch. Jade brings her leadership, dedication, and organizational skills to this new position, as well as her past experience as last year's Interim Supervisor of the Summer Youth Cultural Program (SYCP).

Jade is eager and excited to start this new journey with the MNO.

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



Council Corner

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 that play a significant role in fostering community empowerment and development for MNO citizens living within the geographic territory of that council.

Since February, the following MNO community councils have had elections. Thanks and congratulations go to all the candidates who participated in these elections and to the new council members listed below:

MNO Credit River Métis Council

President
Karen Derocher

Chair
Dale Buisson

Senator
Wayne Copeland

Secretary
David Neville

Treasurer
Darlene Lent

Councilors
Derek Deluca
Jean-Marc Maheu

MNO High Land Waters Métis Council

President
Scott Lloyd

Chair
Marlon Lloyd

Senator
Robert Lloyd

Secretary-Treasurer
Candice Lloyd

Councilor
James Grand
Trudy Connors
Alfred Veley

MNO Northern Lights Métis Council

President
Doug Hull

Chair
Urgel Courville

Senator
Eugene Contant

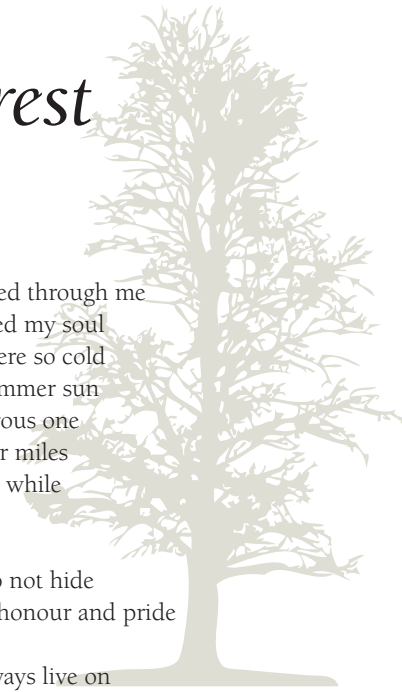
Secretary-Treasurer
Denis Beaulne

Councilors
Jamie Mageau
Aurel Courville
Christopher Lalonde

Amid a Forest

submitted by
Anne Huguenin

Once I was strong, tall and free
I challenged the winds that rushed through me
I drank up the rain that nourished my soul
And accepted the winters that were so cold
Welcomed the warmth of hot summer sun
Adorned with cones, this coniferous one
Mighty roots stretched over tuber miles
So please allow me to weep for a while
From a seedling I was born
Now it's time for me to mourn
There is still a great purpose I do not hide
To cradle the spiritual staff with honour and pride
Ingrained in me, I am not gone
for my Spirit is alive and will always live on



Motherhood

submitted by
Anne Huguenin

A mother you can talk each and every day
She can even hear the words you do not say
A mother gives all she has and a little more
Her children are her everything she loves them to the core
A mother is a person who loves to have you around
She'll make you laugh till you're rolling on the ground
A mother makes you special in the way that you should feel
She will set aside everything and cook your favourite meal
A mother gladly invites your friends to join you at the table
And happily prepares a feast any time that she is able
There is no place for judgement in a true mother's eyes
For she believes that special bond builds special ties
A mother is always proud of you no matter what you do
She is there to love, support and forever encourage you
A mother calls you up for no reason but to say hello
And there is no length a caring mother would not go
A mother loves you unconditionally and till the very end
For there is no stronger bond then a mother and her children.
And when the day is said and done it's true
I always want to be this Mom to you.



Correction notice:

On page 35 of the March 2017 edition of the *Métis Voyageur* the poem "Brittle" by Anne Huguenin was published with an error that was the fault of *Métis Voyageur* staff. The last line was missed and an earlier line was reproduced in its place. We apologize for this error. Below is the poem in its entirety published without that mistake.

Brittle

submitted by
Anne Huguenin

I'll make you feel uneasy to the groove,
You'll watch each step, your every move
Unbalanced, slow pace you must proceed
Unsteady task for you to heed
I am clear but sometime black
Wise to purchase a salt sack
I sometimes come without warning
A skating rink type of morning
Get up early to sand those walks
On my window something knocks
wakey wakey I am here
Like headlights to a deer
I will make you feel a little rocky
Underfoot like blades and hockey
Diamond covered branches wear a frown
I weigh the limbs till they bend down
Brace yourself, a fall brings pain
Wakey wakey I'm freezing rain.



* For Mitchell and Jade

EDITORIALS: The opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily represent the views of the Métis Nation of Ontario

Métis Bush Skills 101

RABBIT SNARING

submitted by
David Hamilton, *President of the MNO
Chapleau Métis Council*

In a romantic version of history, our Métis ancestors in Ontario subsisted primarily on a diet of moose, caribou and deer. In actual fact, big game was scarce and was not as important to our people as many believe. Moose, for example, were not present in the Chapleau area until the 1920s and although woodland caribou were present, they could not be found in great numbers. It is for this reason that small game and fish were the primary sources of protein for our ancestors. The rabbit and whitefish were as important to the Métis of the east as the bison were to the Métis of the west.

While the term “rabbit” is the popular term, the animal I am referring to as rabbits are technically snowshoe or varying hares, which are not rabbits at all but members of the hare family; in French it is the *lapin*, in Michif *aen lyayv*, and in Cree *wabus* or *wapus*. The difference between rabbits and hares is that newborn hares, called leverets, are fully developed at birth; furred with open eyes. Newborn rabbits, called kits, however, are born undeveloped with closed eyes and no fur. Since “rabbit” in the popular term though, I will use it in this article.

Breeding season for these animals starts in March and may continue into the summer. Litters of about four young are born to each doe (female) about 35-40 days after mating. A doe may breed several times during the year; some having as many as four litters. This fecundity is a major factor in the large population changes that occur over the years. Métis trappers know that when rabbit populations are high, it will be a good year for trapping fur bearing animals like the lynx that prey upon them.

The harvesting of rabbits by snaring is a very easy skill that anyone can acquire. I encourage everyone to teach their children and youth this very basic of Métis bush skill. Start by preparing your snares ahead of time to save on time and cold hands. With pliers, cut a 16”-18” piece of 22-24 gauge wire, either brass or steel. I use steel wire that you buy at the Dollar Store for \$1.50 a roll. Form a small loop in one end. A perfect loop can be made by twisting a two inch common nail

until tight and then remove the nail. Feed the other end of the wire through the loop and you have your snare. Rabbits are creatures of habit and follow the same paths through their territory; these paths are used year after year by different rabbits.

Rabbits can be snared all year long but the best time is in the late fall and early winter when snow on the ground makes finding their paths easier and the cold weather will preserve your catch. The paths the rabbits travel on have different names depending on what part of the country you live in, I have heard them called trails and leads but here in Northern Ontario they are referred to as runs.

I like to set 12-20 snares at a time, so, as to make the harvest worthwhile. A good ratio of snares to rabbits is three to one as not all your sets will produce the first night. The longer your snares are set the better the chances are of a catch. Rabbits are more active on cold clear nights.

Start looking for rabbit runs in areas of good habitat such as stands of young jack pine trees with a ground covering of birch, poplar and willow. Cedar swamps and tag alder areas are also good areas to look for runs. Once you have found a promising track, make sure the rabbit has used it more than once as snares set on a single track rarely

produce. A good run will be well packed trail five to six inches wide. Look for pinch points where the rabbit passed between two trees or has gone under a leaning branch.

Place your snare in the middle of the run about four inches off the ground. The loop of the snare should be about three and a half inches in diameter or about the size of your fist. If it is too large the rabbit may get caught around the waist as opposed to the neck. If the loop is too small the rabbit will merely push it aside. Tie the end of your snare off to a solid green branch or tree at least a half inch in diameter. If a suitable tie-off is not available, you can tie your snare to a drag by cutting a limb with your axe about 18” long and one inch in diameter. Stick one end in the snow adjacent to the run on an angle and tie your snare off to the drag. Place a few dead sticks on either side and underneath your snare to help guide the rabbits head into the loop. If you use green live sticks the rabbit will stop for a snack and may not get caught. When you make a catch the drag stick will entangle in the surrounding vegetation resulting in a quick kill. Mark each one of your snare locations with a piece of flagging tape. Rabbits caught around the neck will die within minutes. There are occasions, however, when your catch will be alive in the snare. They can be quickly and humanely dispatched with a sharp blow behind the ears with the handle of your axe or even the bottom of your open hand like a karate chop. Always check your snares on a daily basis, if you don’t then other predators will discover your catch and eat it; particularly lynx, foxes and owls. Grey and horned owls see the struggle of the rabbit at night with their keen eye site and swoop in to steal your catch. They leave tell tail wing marks in the snow and an empty snare to let you know they were there. The North in winter is very hungry country and nothing goes to waste.

Prepare your catch as soon as it has thawed. I use the skin and entrails for lynx bait when trapping otherwise it should be returned to the land and never thrown in the garbage. Rabbit meat is a very lean meat high in protein and low in fat. You would have to eat a lot of them to get your daily caloric intake. They can be prepared many ways from soups to stews, fried or baked with salt pork. ∞



▲ A rabbit snare



▲ A wild snowshoe hare.

Rabbit Stew

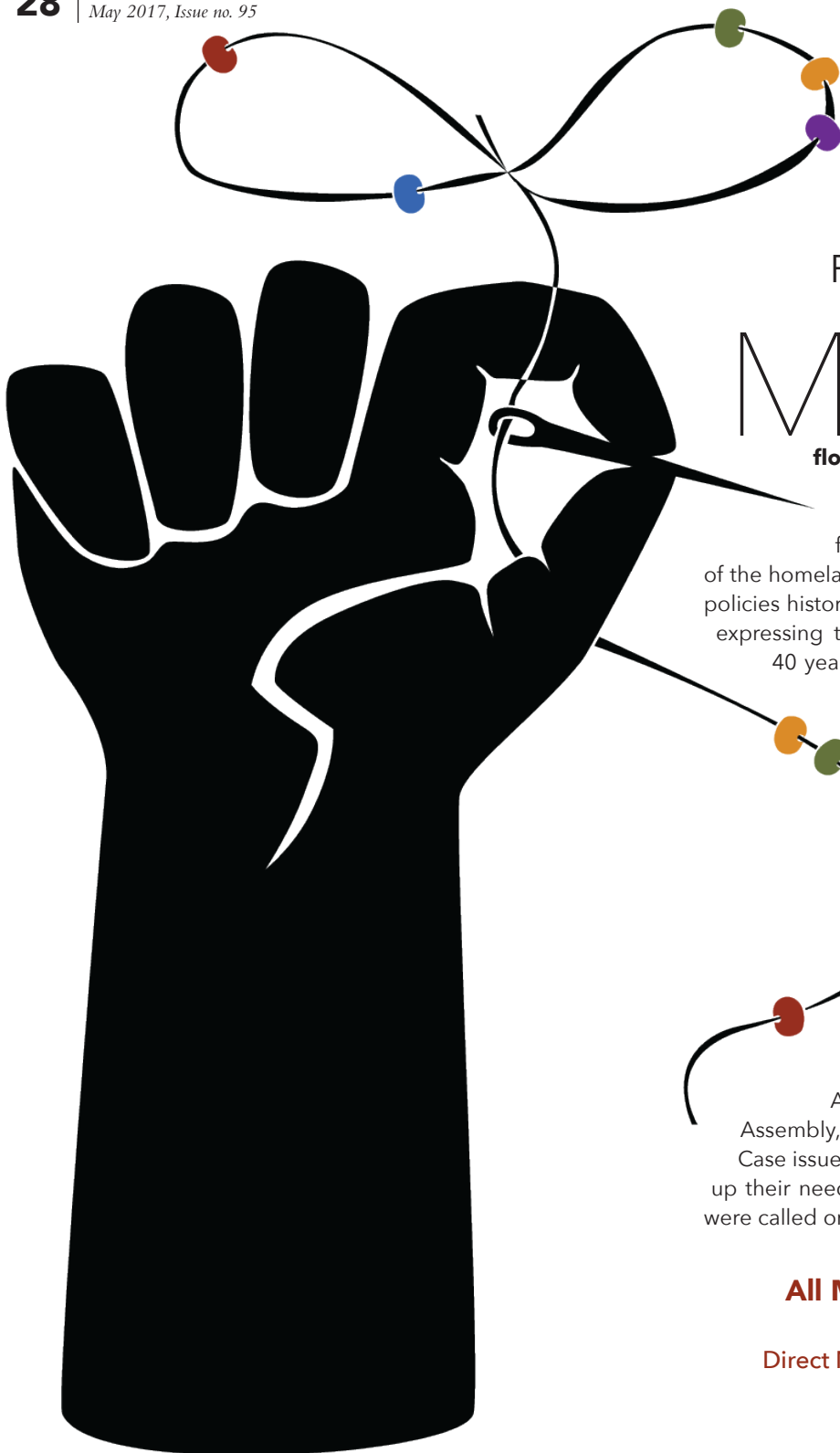
Ingredients:

- 1 rabbit
- 2 tbsp cornstarch
- 1 onion, chopped
- 4 carrots
- 1 small turnip
- 4 medium potatoes
- Oil for frying
- Water for simmering

Instructions:

- Cut rabbit into serving-sized pieces, roll in cornstarch, place in pot with a small amount of oil.
- Add onion, frying until brown.
- Add water, carrots, and turnip, simmering for 30 minutes.
- Add potatoes and cook for another 20 minutes.
- Add salt and pepper to taste, serve with scones or bannock.





MNO YOUTH COUNCIL LAUNCHES #beadworkrevolution

Project goal to foster Métis pride and cultural revival

Métis have long been known for our beautiful floral beadwork, so much so that we were known by the Lakota people as “the flower beadwork people.”

For so long, Métis communities in Ontario were hidden and severed from our relatives in the western part of the homeland. Racism and Canada’s colonialist policies historically led to many Métis people not expressing their identity publicly. For the past 40 years, and especially since the foundation of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) our people have been making a comeback. Our culture is making a resurgence and while our beadwork is becoming more visible, it is still too often absent.

Our beadwork is one of the best ways for us to show the world who we are and for us to express our unique Métis Identity.

At the last MNO Annual General Assembly, MNO Youth Council President Mitch Case issued a challenge to Métis Youth to pick up their needles and express themselves. Youth were called on to lead a “beadwork revolution” to

“reclaim the art of our people, the art we created and to proclaim to the world that we are proud to be Métis”

A challenge was also issued to other MNO citizens to join the youth in their work and to support the youth artists in their communities.

We invite all Métis youth, from Ontario and across the homeland to send us pictures and stories of their beadwork. We will post their art with the story and artist acknowledgement. Let’s work together to inspire each other to create beautiful things, because we are beautiful people!

As part of our #beadworkrevolution, the MNO Youth Council is holding a contest to encourage Métis Youth to create beautiful things with their beads and to share them with the world. For every photo a Métis Youth sends us of their beadwork, they will be entered into a draw to win a beadwork kit – Multiple entries are encouraged!

Photos will be posted to the MNO Youth Council Facebook and Instagram feeds to encourage and inspire other Métis youth!

The beadwork kit includes 20 colours of size 11 beads, three types of material (black velvet, black melton and brown melton), Pellon backing, needles, thread and a few floral patterns.

Photos should include artist’s name, a description of the beadwork, and the youth’s home community. The draw will be made on June 21st, giving youth lots of time to send many pictures or to start a new project in time! ∞

All Métis youth are invited to send in photos of their beadwork, to be entered into a draw for beading supplies!

Direct Message your photos to us on our Facebook page or on our Instagram page!



Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council



@MNOYC

THE MNO OSHAWA AND DURHAM REGION MÉTIS COUNCIL PRESENTS:

11TH ANNUAL

MÉTIS HERITAGE CELEBRATION

JUNE 24, 10AM TO 8 PM; JUNE 25, 10AM TO 4PM
MEMORIAL PARK, OSHAWA

Grand Entry and Opening Ceremonies
Noon, Saturday, June 24th

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE: Performances by ARIKO, cultural entertainment, fiddling, jigging, drumming, storytelling, presenters, children’s activities, games, arts and crafts, Aboriginal vendors and food.

This is a FREE, FUN FAMILY event! Come and experience Métis culture at its finest!