

ISSUE NO. 99, MARCH 2018

# MÉTIS VOYAGEUR



▲ Members of the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO), other signatories and guests following the signing of the MNO/Canada/Ontario Framework Agreement for Advancing Reconciliation. Full list of names on page 5.

MNO SIGNS TWO HISTORIC AGREEMENTS

# ADVANCING RECONCILIATION

On December 11, 2017, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) signed two historic agreements that serve to advance rights, self-government and reconciliation for the Métis in Ontario.

One was the **MNO-Canada-Ontario Framework Agreement for Advancing Reconciliation**, which is intended to establish a process to begin negotiations towards shared solutions advancing reconciliation, and the enhancement of the well-being of Métis Nation of Ontario citizens. It specifies that “Canada and Ontario are committed to meeting their constitutional obligations towards the Métis through recognizing and respecting the section 35 rights of Métis communities as a means of advancing reconciliation between the Crown and Métis

people.”

The other was the **MNO-Canada Agreement on Advancing Reconciliation with the Northwestern Ontario Métis Community**, which details that the parties will seek to advance reconciliation with a “view to settling any outstanding claims of the Northwestern Ontario Métis Community, including any Métis collective claims relating to the Treaty 3 Adhesion of 1875.”

The MNO has consistently pressured other governments to engage in negotiations to deal with the rights, interests and aspirations of Métis within Ontario and these agreements signify a huge step forward in the path to self-government.

The **MNO-Canada-Ontario Framework Agreement for Advancing Reconciliation** sets out a process to begin formal negotiations on matters of mutual priority, including

substantive issues such as Métis self-government, rights and outstanding claims. The **MNO-Canada Agreement on Advancing Reconciliation with the Northwestern Ontario Métis Community** demonstrates the respect that exists for the diverse needs and claims of Métis communities throughout Ontario and sets the stage for dealing with future claims and interests.

MNO will be engaging its communities and citizens to provide further updates and to discuss areas of priority that will enhance the well-being of MNO families and communities for generations to come. ∞



Full stories inside on  
pages 4 and 5 ...

Historic  
agreement for  
Northwestern  
Ontario Métis  
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Métis Youth  
Council fundraiser  
beading kits  
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Métis veteran Alex  
Boucher celebrates  
105<sup>th</sup> birthday  
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# THE MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

MARCH 2018 - No. 99

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**SUBMISSION POLICY:**

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

The MNO does not accept submissions including editorials and letters to the editor that make partisan political statements.

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.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



MARGARET FROH

**E**arlier this year, I had the pleasure of attending the 105th birthday party of Métis WWII Veteran, Alex Boucher. I am very fortunate to have the opportunity to take part in community and family events like Alex's birthday. It was a great honour for me to be there with Alex's family and friends, Regional Councillor Pauline Richardson and other leaders from the region, as well as his colleagues in the MNO Veterans' Council to recognize this amazing milestone. (See story about Alex's birthday on page 10).



▲ MNO President Margaret Froh (right) joins Métis Veteran Alex Boucher (left) to celebrate the occasion of his 105th birthday.

### MÉTIS COMMUNITIES AND FAMILIES

I wish I could attend every Métis community and family event in Ontario but as readers of this edition of the Métis Voyageur can clearly see – that would be challenging for any one person to do. As always the community, stories and family sections of this paper are full of amazing stories and treasured moments. Whether it is teaching beading to students and teachers, raising the Métis Nation flag on Louis Riel Day, honouring Métis women as part of Métis culture, recognizing our veterans, recognizing youth for their dedication or the many other activities highlighted in the Community section of the paper (see pages 12-18) so many of our citizens as well as our dedicated public service are working hard to engage both MNO citizens and mainstream society about Métis culture and history.

### MNO YOUTH COUNCIL BEADING KITS AND GRASSROOTS GRANTS

As many of you already now during this year's Annual General Assembly in Kenora the MNO Youth Council announced they were starting to sell Beading Kits that they were putting together themselves. Sales of these kits have been so successful that they have had the revenue to launch their Grassroots Grants program. These grants are available to communities who are engaging and empowering Métis youth and/or celebrating Métis arts, language and culture. These youth continue to demonstrate their impressive entrepreneurial spirit in true Métis fashion (see full story on page 6).

### PASSING OF MÉTIS ELDERS AND THOSE WHO LEFT US TOO SOON

This issue also has a bittersweet element as we recognize the passing of so many members

of our Métis community. Lloyd Thomson, Emily Quick, Bob McKay, Robert Gelinas and Gordon Calder each provided some of the bedrock that the MNO was built on and they will each be missed but also remembered for all they did for their families and their Métis community.

We are also saddened by the passing of Jorja Gorham and Ken Trudeau whose journeys could have gone on much longer. Our thoughts and sympathy goes out to their families (see page 25-27 for obituaries).

### CONNECTING TO YOUR MÉTIS COMMUNITY

This Voyageur also includes birth announcements (see page 27), marking the next generation of Métis Citizens. Included in this edition is an overview of the work that has been done on the Métis Root Ancestors and a reminder about the resources available to assist with the MNO Citizenship Application process (see page 14-15). This section also provides an update on the Registry and Self-Government Readiness Process (RSRP) and the development and design of the new MNO citizenship card.

### MÉTIS SUCCESS STORIES

While, as always, we are all proud of the achievements of the past, this issue of the Voyageur provides us with examples of modern Métis we can all be proud of. This issue we have artists like Maurice Cadeiux, Kristy Cameron and Sharon Girdwood as well as internationally recognized security expert Bonnie Butlin and broadcaster Larry O'Connor.

### A PATH FORWARD TO RECONCILIATION

On December 11, 2017, the MNO signed

two major agreements to advance reconciliation. These were the *MNO/Canada/Ontario Framework Agreement for Advancing Reconciliation* (see page 5) and the *MNO/Canada Agreement on Advancing Reconciliation with the Northwestern Ontario Métis Community* (see page 4). These agreements mark another critical step forward for Métis rights recognition and Métis self-government. We look forward to sharing additional details about these agreements and getting out into the community to provide more information and seek additional input about how we move forward.

### IT IS ALL FOR OUR FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

The MNO has achieved many successes over the last 25 years because of its citizens and communities and the stories that appear in the pages of the Voyageur are all about those contributions. The work that is done at a community, regional and provincial level is all about advancing the rights, recognition and interests of Métis in Ontario. We can never lose sight of the fact that as elected leaders for the MNO we are entrusted with great responsibility to protect those rights for our future generations. This work is all about our families and communities and every event and activity that we are so fortunate to participate in reminds us what is truly great about the Métis Nation of Ontario.

Marsee,

Margaret Froh

PRESIDENT, MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO



## Métis Voyageur Upcoming Submission Deadlines:

**NEXT ISSUE: March 16, 2018**

May 18, 2018 • September 7, 2018 • November 2, 2018 •  
January 18, 2019 • March 15, 2019



## NATION

# MNO signs Memorandum of Understanding with Treasury Metals

by MNO Staff

**O**n December 11, 2017, Treasury Metals signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) in relation to the company's Goliath Gold Project, east of Dryden in northwestern Ontario.

The MOU is considered a framework cooperation agreement with the MNO, including the MNO Atikokan and Area, Kenora, Northwest and Sunset Country Métis Councils, which represent the regional rights-bearing Métis communities in the Treaty 3 area. That area takes in the Métis traditional territories of Lake of the Woods, Lac Seul, Rainy River and Rainy Lake.

The MOU provides the Métis community with an opportunity to participate in the project through employment, training, business development and ongoing consultation involving the mining project.

In her remarks at the signing, Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Region 1 Councilor and Chair of the MNO Region 1 Consultation Committee Theresa Stenlund explained: "The Métis community depends on the lands, waters and resources of our

traditional territory for our physical and spiritual well-being . . . The agreement signing today is very important to the Métis people for the protection of our Métis rights and interests and our way-of-life in the Dryden area as well as the region more generally . . . This agreement recognizes the unique and distinct needs of the Métis people."

In her remarks, MNO President Margaret Froh praised the Regional Consultation Committee for its hard work in making the agreement a reality and commented on the strength of the local Métis communities in northwestern Ontario. "This is about creating opportunity and it is about creating wealth for the region in a way that respects Métis rights," she said. "I look forward to hearing all about the prosperity as we move forward," she concluded.

"Our objective is to work together



▲ Signatories of the MNO/Treasury Metals MOU: (Front row, left to right) MNO President Margaret Froh, Treasury Metals President and CEO Chris Stewart, Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario Region 1 Councilor Theresa Stenlund. (Back row, left to right) MNO Sunset Country Métis Council President Brady Hupet, MNO Kenora Métis Council President Joel Henley, MNO Atikokan and Area Métis Council President Marlene Davidson and MNO Northwest Métis Council President Ron Robinson.

with all of our stakeholders and Indigenous communities as we work towards bringing the Goliath Gold Project into production," said Treasury Metals President and CEO Chris Stewart. "We are looking forward to working with the Métis community. Their experience and local knowledge will be invaluable

in helping us create a socially responsible project that will benefit the communities, the project and all stakeholders as we move forward," he added.

Treasury Metals' cornerstone development is the Goliath Gold Project, a future open-pit and underground gold mine, 20 kilometres

east of Dryden.

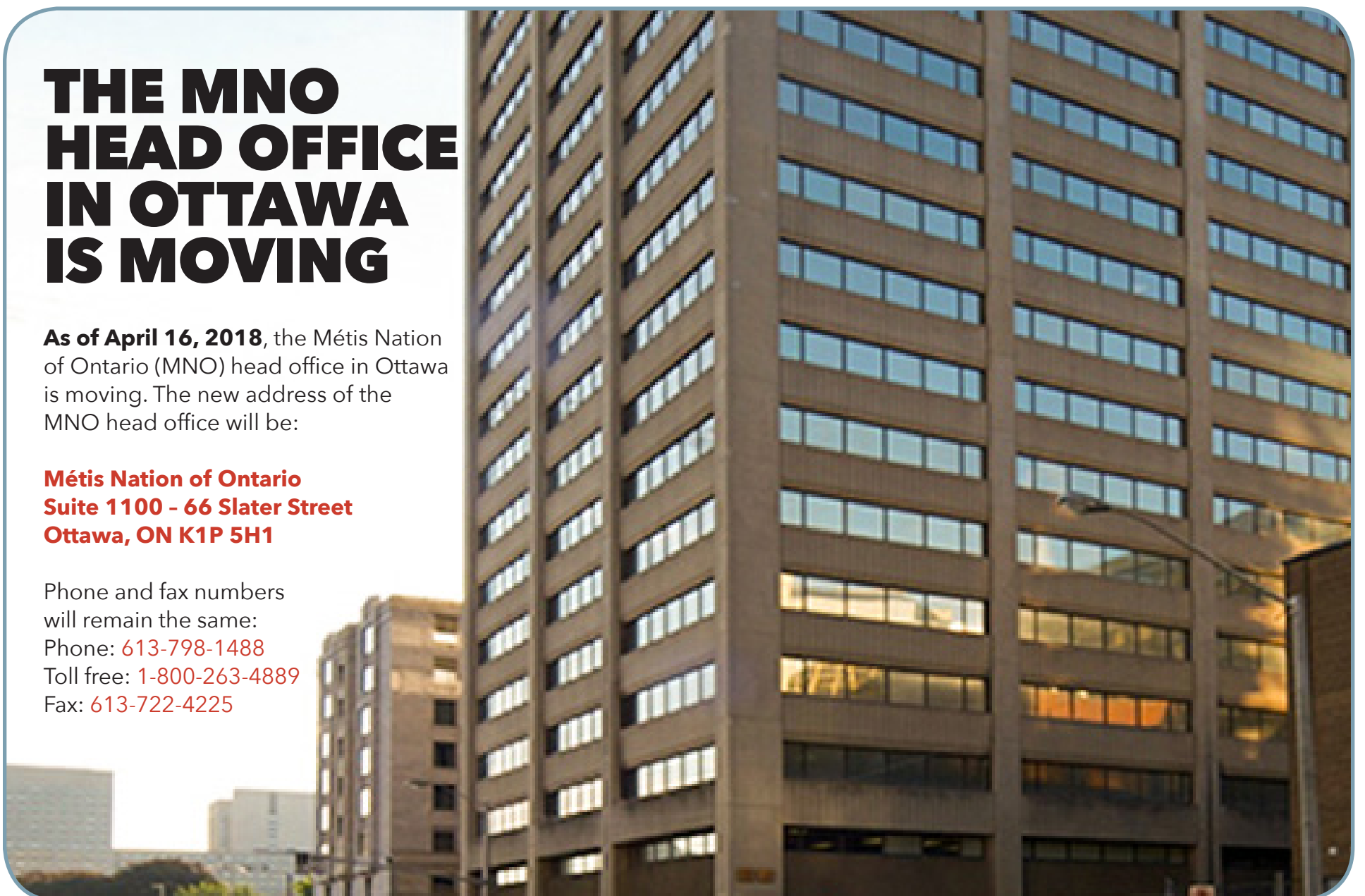
The company is working on a feasibility study for Goliath while undertaking a 30,000-metre drilling program. Treasury's schedule shows mine construction beginning in 2019 with gold production starting a year later. ∞

## THE MNO HEAD OFFICE IN OTTAWA IS MOVING

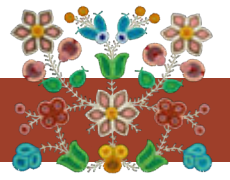
**As of April 16, 2018**, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) head office in Ottawa is moving. The new address of the MNO head office will be:

**Métis Nation of Ontario  
Suite 1100 - 66 Slater Street  
Ottawa, ON K1P 5H1**

Phone and fax numbers will remain the same:  
Phone: 613-798-1488  
Toll free: 1-800-263-4889  
Fax: 613-722-4225







## ADVANCING RECONCILIATION



# MNO, Canada and Ontario sign Framework Agreement for Advancing Reconciliation

by  
MNO Staff

In 2017, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) made considerable progress in its efforts to advance the Métis rights agenda and reconciliation.

On February 3, Canada and the MNO signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Advancing Reconciliation. This set the stage for exploratory discussions that identified a mutually acceptable path to advance reconciliation between the Crown and Métis in Ontario as represented by the MNO, in which the Government of Ontario was invited to participate. These discussions led to the signing on December 11 of the MNO/Canada/Ontario Framework Agreement for Advancing Reconciliation.

The Framework Agreement was signed in the Centre Block of Parliament in Ottawa with almost all members of the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) participating along with leaders for several community councils. Among the many leaders and officials with the Governments of Canada and Ontario in attendance were Crown-Indigenous and Reconciliation Minister Dr. Carolyn Bennett and Parliamentary Assistant to the Ontario Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Sophie Kiwala, who each signed for their respective governments.

“As the home of the Supreme Court of Canada’s landmark decision on Métis rights in *R. v. Powley*, the signing of this Framework Agreement has special significance



*This agreement sets out a new path forward where Métis self-government, rights and outstanding claims can be addressed through negotiations – not just through the courts. This is an exciting day for our citizens and Métis communities here in Ontario.*

Margaret Froh, MNO President

for the Métis Nation of Ontario. This agreement sets out a new path forward where Métis self-government, rights and outstanding claims can be addressed through negotiations—not just through the courts. This is truly an exciting day for our citizens and Métis communities here in Ontario,” said MNO President Margaret Froh.

In the new Framework Agreement, the MNO and the Governments of Canada and Ontario are committed to working together to foster reconciliation and build stronger relationships through a co-operative and respectful dialogue.

“Today we are taking a key step forward, along with the Ontario government, in our shared journey toward reconciliation with the Métis Nation of Ontario. We are setting the stage to renew the government-to-government relationship through a co-operative dialogue that will help end the status quo and build a brighter future for the Métis people of Ontario,” said Minister Bennett.

Under the Framework Agreement, Canada, Ontario and the MNO will begin negotiations toward shared and balanced solutions that advance

reconciliation and enhance the well-being of MNO citizens. The results of the MNO Commission on Métis Rights and Self-Government will assist in informing discussions. MNO will be engaging communities and citizens to provide further updates on the Framework Agreement and identify areas of priority that will enhance the well-being of MNO families and communities for generations to come.

“The signing of today’s tripartite Framework Agreement is an exciting step in advancing reconciliation with the Métis Nation of Ontario. Ontario looks forward to building an even stronger relationship with the Métis Nation of Ontario and working together with the federal government,” said Parliamentary Assistant Kiwala.

The Framework Agreement will establish a process for discussions about developing a government-to-government relationship between the Crown and the MNO. It also identifies areas of mutual interest and key topics for future negotiations, such as Métis self-government, health, housing, education, and a tripartite consultation protocol. ∞



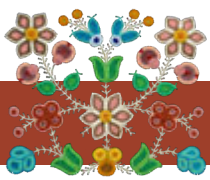
1) (Left to right) Region 1 PCMNO Councilor Cam Burgess, PCMNO Postsecondary Representative Katelyn LaCroix and MNO Secretary-Treasurer Tim Pile sign the Framework Agreement. 2) (Left to right) Region 7 PCMNO Councilor Pauline Richardson takes a selfie with Minister Bennett and MNO Vice-Chair Sharon Cadeau. 3) Region 3 PCMNO Councilor Marcel Lafrance hugs Minister Bennett. 4) MNO Chair France Picotte speaking during the signing ceremony.

## On the cover



(Front row, left to right) MNO Chair France Picotte, Parliamentary Assistant to the Ontario Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Sophie Kiwala, MNO President Margaret Froh, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Dr. Carolyn Bennett and PCMNO Region 9 Councilor Peter Rivers. (Back row, left to right) Senator Ray Bergie, Postsecondary Representative Katelyn LaCroix, Senator Rene Gravelle, PCMNO Region 1 Councilor Theresa Stenlund, PCMNO Region 6 Councilor Tom Thompson, PCMNO Region 2 Councilor Cam Burgess, MNO Vice-Chair Sharon Cadeau, MNO Secretary-Treasurer Tim Pile, PCMNO Region 4 Councilor Ernie Gatien, Youth Representative Mitch Case, PCMNO Region 3 Councilor Marcel Lafrance, PCMNO Executive Senator Joseph Poitras, PCMNO Region 7 Councilor Pauline Richardson, Member of Parliament Bob Nault, Parliamentary Secretary to the federal Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Yvonne Jones and Member of Parliament and MNO citizen Vance Badawey.





## ADVANCING RECONCILIATION



# Historic agreement signed between Canada and Northwestern Ontario Métis Community

by MNO Staff

The MNO-Canada Framework Agreement on Advancing Reconciliation with the Métis Community in Northwestern Ontario was also signed in the Centre Block on Parliament Hill. The Northwestern Ontario Métis community was represented by the Region 1 Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) chartered community councils. The goal of the Framework Agreement is to begin to work together toward a shared solution that addresses the unique history and outstanding claims of the Northwestern Métis community.

The Northwestern Ontario Métis community was represented at the signing by Region 1 Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario Councilor Theresa Stenlund and the Presidents of the MNO Sunset Country, Northwest, Kenora and Atikokan and Area Métis Councils. The Government of Canada was represented by Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Dr. Carolyn Bennett.

"Our Métis community has long struggled to have our unique historic and outstanding collective claims recognized by Canada. While there is much more work to be done, our



**While there is much more work to be done, our agreement sets out a way forward through which we hope the promises made to our Métis ancestors will finally be addressed and resolved.**

**Theresa Stenlund**, Region 1 PCMNO Councilor

agreement sets out a way forward through which we hope the promises made to our Métis ancestors will finally be addressed and resolved," said Councilor Stenlund.

Under the Agreement, Canada and the Northwestern Ontario Métis Community will commit to engage in negotiations that foster an open

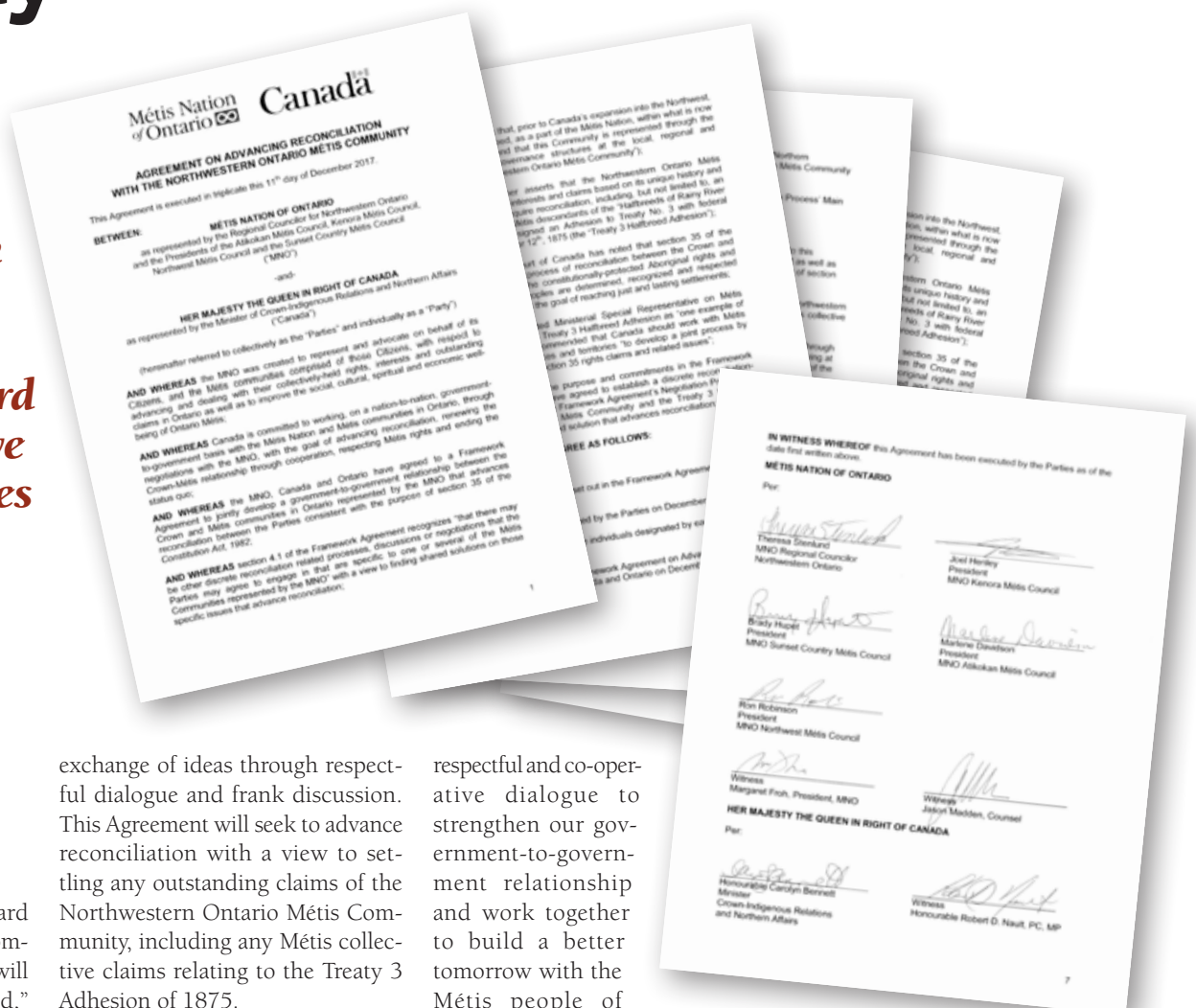
exchange of ideas through respectful dialogue and frank discussion. This Agreement will seek to advance reconciliation with a view to settling any outstanding claims of the Northwestern Ontario Métis Community, including any Métis collective claims relating to the Treaty 3 Adhesion of 1875.

"This is an important step toward reconciliation with the Métis Nation of Ontario's Northwestern Ontario Métis Community. We are moving forward through

respectful and co-operative dialogue to strengthen our government-to-government relationship and work together to build a better tomorrow with the Métis people of Northwestern Ontario," said Minister Bennett.

Through these negotiations, the parties will work to address these outstanding claims and enhance

▲ **Signatories and witnesses of the Agreement on Advancing Reconciliation with the Northwestern Ontario Métis Community.** Front row, left to right): Jason Madden, MNO President Margaret Froh, PCMNO Region 1 Councilor Theresa Stenlund and Minister of Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Dr. Carolyn Bennett. Back (left to right): MNO Sunset Country Métis Council President Brady Hupet, MNO Northwest Métis Council President Ron Robinson, MNO Atikokan and Area Métis Council President Marlene Davidson, MNO Kenora Métis Council President Joel Henley and Member of Parliament for Kenora Robert Nault.



the interests and well-being of Métis Nation of Ontario rights bearing citizens from the Northwestern Ontario Métis Community. ∞





Beading Kits are taking the Métis Nation by storm

## Amazing initiative from the MNO Youth Council

submitted by the  
**MNO Youth Council**

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Youth Council launched its Learn-to-Bead Kit at the 2017 Annual General Assembly and since then the beadwork revolution has swept the Métis homeland.

Each kit includes everything anyone

would need to learn traditional Métis floral beadwork, including: easy-to-follow, step-by-step instructions; 12 colours of size 10 beads; floral beadwork patterns; fabric and stabilizer; needle; and, thread.

Kits are only \$20 each with all proceeds going to support Métis youth-led, youth-focused initiatives across the province,

including our recently-launched Grassroots Grants Program (see ad below). They make excellent cultural training tools, thank you gifts and meeting giveaways.

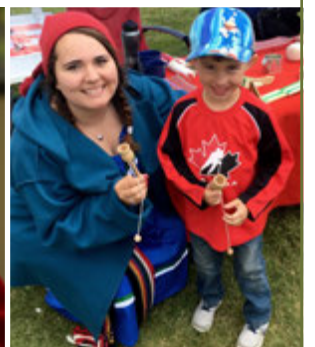
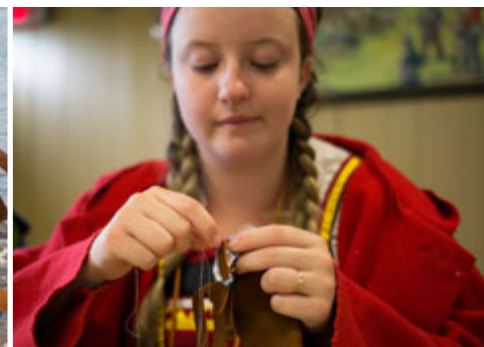
Best of all, they help support the Ontario Métis Community!

The MNO Youth Council welcomes opportunities to work with chartered community councils

who are looking for new and convenient ways of raising funds for youth initiatives in their communities. Starting April 1, the MNO Youth Council is interested in partnering with community councils who are willing to promote the sale of MNO Youth Council Beadkits, and for each Beadkit sold the MNO Youth Council will provide a \$2.00 donation to that community to support local youth-focused events and initiatives. ∞

To order a  
**LEARN-TO-BEAD KIT**  
contact:  
[laneb@metisnation.org](mailto:laneb@metisnation.org)

### MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO YOUTH COUNCIL



## GRASSROOTS GRANTS PROGRAM

**Are you seeking to celebrate Métis arts, language and culture?**

**Do you have an idea about how to engage and empower Métis Youth in your community?**

**If so, the Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council encourages you to apply for a Grassroots Grant!**

#### WHAT IS THE GRASSROOTS GRANTS PROGRAM?

The Grassroots Grants Program provides up to \$500 to Ontario Métis Youth, ages 18 to 29, to test new and innovative approaches to community building. The MNO Youth Council recognizes the energy, creativity and potential of Ontario's Métis Youth community and wants to give YOU the tools to help us empower YOUTH!

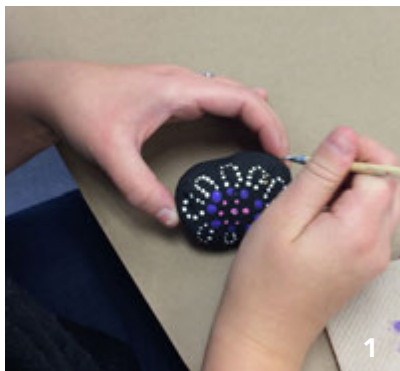
#### WHAT TYPES OF EXPENSES ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING?

All Ontario Métis youth-led, youth-focused initiatives and their associated expenses are considered potentially eligible for funding under the Grassroots Grants Program. Initiatives will be funded on a priority basis, as funding becomes available.

**CONTACT: [mnoyc.grants@gmail.com](mailto:mnoyc.grants@gmail.com)**



LOUIS RIEL DAY ∞ ACROSS THE PROVINCE



▲ 1) Métis Dot Art activity at the Waterloo Region Museum. 2) Learning to finger weave in Guelph. 3) Youth Canoe Expedition 2017 canoeer André Nault shares his journey. 4) The story of Riel with Jennifer Parkinson at the Waterloo Region Museum.

# A week of Riel Day events with the MNO Grand River Métis Council

submitted by  
**Jennifer Parkinson**  
President, MNO Grand River Métis Council

**For the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Grand River Métis Council (GRMC), Riel Day is celebrated through the entire week.**

**Waterloo Region Museum**  
November 13, 2017

The Council's 2017 Riel Day started off at the second annual Riel Day celebration at the Waterloo Region Museum. This year 84 students participated for a whole day at the Museum.

As the students arrived at the Museum, each received a small Métis flag on a stick.

Once they were all gathered in the foyer, MNO GRMC President Jennifer Parkinson welcomed them. MNO GRMC Senator Carol Lévis offered a prayer to get the day started. The students heard a little bit about Louis Riel's life from President Parkinson.

Waterloo Region Museum's Program Coordinator, Dave Neufeld, accepted a Métis culture book as a



▲ **Senator Carol Lévis presenting the Region Nine Sash to MNO Canoe Expedition crew member André Nault.**

thank you for organizing the schools and providing the space for the celebration.

Senator Lévis presented a Region 9 Sash to University of Waterloo MNO Infinite Reach Facilitator and

2017 MNO Canoe Expedition participant, André Nault for sharing his experiences with the students at one of the workshops. The students helped raise the Métis flag in front of the Museum.

After snack time, the students split into four groups and set off to enjoy a day of learning. André kept the students entertained with his canoe stories in the theatre.

Senator Lévis and Treasurer Leslie-Anne Muma brought out the students' creativity with Métis Dot Art on rocks. Councilor Alicia Hamilton and MNO citizen Dave Skene played Métis games with the students in the foyer. President Parkinson had the students role play to sell Rupert's Land to Canada and how to react to this as Red River Métis.

It was a draw as to which group was louder, Métis games or the negotiations during the role playing! From this the students learned Riel's story, the Métis role in bringing the west into Canada and why Riel Day is celebrated.

The Museum has had so many requests from schools to come to this Riel Day celebration that they have asked MNO GRMC to do two days in 2018.



▲ **City of Guelph flag raising with Mayor Cameron Guthrie.**

**City of Guelph**  
November 14, 2017

The City of Guelph has been a long time partner for the MNO GRMC Riel Day celebrations. This was the eighth annual Métis flag raising in Guelph. It started in the afternoon with students from Central Public School travelling to Guelph City Hall.

Several MNO citizens and members from the Guelph community also came to celebrate. City of Guelph Mayor Cameron Guthrie and City of Guelph Councilor James Gordon took time out of their busy schedules to join the celebration.

President Jennifer Parkinson welcomed everyone and thanked the City of Guelph for their continued support of the MNO GRMC.

She talked about Riel's life and why Riel Day is celebrated each year. Mayor Guthrie reminisced about his first flag raising celebration and how much he has learned about the Métis. The MNO GRMC gifted Mayor Guthrie with a Region 9 sash.

Everyone ventured into the cold to raise the Métis flag in front of City Hall. Cheers could be heard through downtown Guelph as the flag hit the top of the pole.

There was no wind, so Mayor Guthrie suggested that if everyone blew hard, the flag would move. Everyone laughed as the students tried. Participants then returned to City Hall for a finger weaving workshop. An hour later, the students returned to their school each wearing a new finger woven bracelet.

*continued on page 8*



## LOUIS RIEL DAY ∞ ACROSS THE PROVINCE



▲ (left to right) City of Guelph Councilor James Gordon, MNO GRMC Treasurer Leslie Muma, MNO GRMC Councilor Diane Kilby, former GRMC Senator Ed Hass, MNO GRMC President Jennifer Parkison and Guelph Mayor Cameron Guthrie.



▲ Finger weaving on Riel Day at Cambridge City Hall.



▲ Raising the Métis flag Riel Day at Kitchener City Hall.

## Riel Day events with the MNO Grand River Métis Council

continued from page 7

### City of Kitchener November 15, 2017

The MNO GRMC arrived bright and early at Kitchener city hall for its third annual Riel Day flag raising. Grades seven and eight students from St. Paul's Catholic School travelled by city bus to participate.

There were no school buses available that morning, so the students used public transit. Apparently, this was a new experience for many of them. Acting Mayor, Councilor Yvonne Fernandes, represented the city at the ceremony.

The MNO GRMC gifted Councilor Fernandes with a Métis mug.

After the speeches, everyone ventured outside to raise the Métis flag. The students each took turns using the crank to take the flag to the top of the pole.

Once back inside City Hall, the students learned to finger weave. A challenge for some young men in the group, but they all managed to finish their bracelets in time to catch the bus back to school.

### City of Cambridge November 16, 2017

Another bright and early morning took MNO GRMC to the City of Cambridge for its third annual Riel Day flag raising. Students from Central Public School in Cambridge

walked over to Cambridge City Hall to join the celebration.

The students arrived early, so the teacher took the opportunity to talk about government with the grade five students. President Jennifer Parkinson joined the conversation by teaching the students about the MNO governing structure.

Acting Mayor, Councilor Pam Wolf, participated in the speeches. Councilor Wolf talked about what she knew of Louis Riel, her visits to Manitoba and what Riel's sacrifice meant to her. She proudly wore her Louis Riel necklace that she purchased in Manitoba.

The MNO GRMC gifted Councilor Wolf with a Métis mug. Out in the courtyard of Cambridge City

Hall, Councilor Wolf helped raise the Métis flag. She then joined the students to learn finger weaving along with community members who happened to come into City Hall during the celebration. Many had several questions and a few shared stories of what they knew of Riel and the Métis. When all of the bracelets were finished, the students said goodbye and walked back to school.

### University of Waterloo November 16, 2017

The MNO GRMC finished off its week of Louis Riel Day celebrations with lunch at the University of Waterloo Aboriginal Centre.

Everyone enjoyed soup and bannock with a room full of students.

President Jennifer Parkinson was asked to speak about Riel Day. She spoke briefly to the students on why Louis Riel Day is celebrated. After lunch the beading broke out. Treasurer Leslie-Anne Muma and President Parkinson spent some time chatting with the students and admiring their beadwork.

*The MNO Grand River Métis Council is looking forward to another week of Riel Day celebrations in 2018! ∞*

### 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  
226 South May Street  
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 1B4  
Tel: 807-626-9300 • Toll-Free: 1-800-891-5882 • Fax: 807-626-9030  
housing@metisnation.org • www.infinitypropertyservices.ca



**Infinity**  
PROPERTY SERVICES  
An agency of the Métis Nation of Ontario



LOUIS RIEL DAY ∞ ACROSS THE PROVINCE

# Louis Riel Day activities in Brampton

submitted by  
**Catherine Corbett**  
MNO Métis Family Wellbeing  
Coordinator

On November 19, 2017, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Credit River Métis Council (CRMC) hosted its Louis Riel Day celebrations at the Peel Regional Police Association headquarters in Brampton. The Council received support from the MNO staff in the MNO Brampton office. The event was hosted by MNO CRMC Senator David Neville, past Senator Bill Morrison, President Karen Derocher, Outreach Coordinator Kyl Morrison, Treasurer Darlene Lent, Councillor Jean-Marc Maheu and Councillor Derek Deluca.

MNO Métis Family Wellbeing Coordinator (MFWB) Catherine Corbett and MNO Community Wellness Coordinator (CWC) Rose Colacci-Fines offered an Angel Ornament Workshop to all guests as well as information on all MNO Healing and Wellness programs and services throughout the day.

Attendees of all ages loved the Angel Ornament activity and the youth really shined with their creativity, making different styles of ornaments with the many items offered by the MNO CWC and MFWB programs.

There were musicians playing fiddle music during the event, hatchet throwing outside the venue, a traditional knowledge display, Nunatuavut "Our Ancient Land Display," Peel Regional Police Diversity display, an auction table, vendor booths, face painting and information on Mississauga Museums.

The day began with some light refreshments as guests were



1) Two Peel Regional Police Officers with MNO CRMC Treasurer Darlene Lent, President of Peel Aboriginal Network Kris Noakes, and MNO citizen and Peel Regional Police Officer Robert Bell. 2) Three youth with their completed ornaments. 3) MNO CRMC President Karen Derocher and Métis Elder Leon Fleury. 4) A Grandmother with her grandchild enjoying the Angel Ornament workshop. 5) MNO citizen and Peel Regional Police Officer Robert Bell's son enjoying the gifted drum. 6) A mother and her son showing off their creative ornaments.

District School Board of Mississauga and Mississauga Museums.

Many wonderful connections were made with our fellow service providers that will ensure that any client who is looking for assistance will be taken care of.

MNO staff Colacci-Fines and Corbett were able to greet each individual and offer them information on the new MFWB program as well as the existing CWC program. The MNO staff and MNO CRMC were very pleased that MNO Veterans' Council President Joseph Paquette, spent the day with the Council. His great spirit and engaging stories were a treat for each guest who had the pleasure of conversing with him.

The event was a great success with 85 people in attendance. Several long lasting connections were made and fun stories shared. Service providers, citizens and community members all gave positive reviews of the new office space and event. ∞

encouraged to bring a potluck dish. Senator Neville started off the event as the Master of Ceremonies. Past Senator Morrison then took the stage to open the event and introduced the MNO CRMC to the many guests in attendance. Outreach Coordinator Morrison gave a presentation on his role with the Council and President Derocher gave a speech on the Council's impact with the community.

Jodie Williams, the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Consultant with the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board, presented the So they Can Go Home Moccasin Project that the MNO CRMC proudly assisted with. MNO CRMC Councillor Deluca and his daughter Emily presented a community drum to the Council. The drum was awoken by ceremony with the help of Métis Elder Leon Fleury and gifted

to the MNO CRMC. Deluca then gave a compelling speech about his own spiritual journey and a prayer before inviting guests to enjoy dinner catered by Nish Dish.

Several service providers and MNO citizens came to mingle and take part in the celebration. Some of the service providers in attendance were members of the Peel Regional Police, Peel Aboriginal Network, Peel Children's Aid Society, Peel



▲ (Left to right) Town of Cochrane Councilor Derryl Owens, MNO Northern Lights Métis Council (NLMC) Councilor Aurel Courville, MNO NLMC Chairperson Urgel Courville and MNO NLMC Women's Representative Jackie Courville.

## Louis Riel Day flag raising in Cochrane

submitted by  
**Jackie Courville**  
MNO Northern Lights Métis Council Women's Representative

On November 16, 2017, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Northern Light Métis Council (NLMC) held a Louis Riel Day flag raising ceremony at Cochrane Town Hall. Councilor Derryl Owens represented the

Town of Cochrane at the ceremony and many local MNO citizens also attended.

Following the ceremony the Council hosted a traditional feast and a game of nutrition bingo. ∞

## 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 would like to know more please contact Jade Bourbonnière:  
[jadeb@metisnation.org](mailto:jadeb@metisnation.org) or 1-800-263-4889





# Canada's oldest Métis veteran celebrates 105<sup>th</sup> birthday

submitted by

**Catherine Corbett**

MNO Métis Family Wellbeing Coordinator

On January 27, 2018, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) veteran Alex Boucher celebrated his 105th birthday in Britt, Ontario. Alex was surrounded by many well-wishers including his family, friends and a delegation from the MNO and the MNO Veterans' Council.

During the Second World War, Alex was part of the Medical Corps and trained new recruits in both battlefield medical procedures and on the rifle range. Alex's son Eugene spoke with pride about his father saying: "He's a good father and he takes care of everyone."

MNO President Margaret Froh and Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Region 7 Councilor Pauline Richardson both attended the party and made presentations to Alex on behalf of all MNO citizens. President Froh presented Alex with the Order of the Sash as well as a Métis blanket.

MNO Veterans' Council Chair Brian Black, Secretary-Treasurer Greg Garratt and Women's Representative Shelly Claus represented Métis veterans at the party. Greg presented Alex with an official replica of the statue "Métis: The Métis Nation," the original of which stands in Penetanguishene.



**From our research, Alex is the oldest Métis veteran in Canada and one of the oldest Indigenous veterans in the country.**

— Margaret Froh  
President, Métis Nation of Ontario

Shelly presented Alex with a Quilt of Valour produced by the Near North Quilters Guild.

Everyone in attendance was blessed to share in the pride his family and fellow citizens felt towards Alex. MNO President Froh explained: "From our research, Alex is the oldest Métis veteran in Canada and one of the oldest Indigenous veterans in the country."

Alex's children indicated that he is in fine health and his spirits are high. They say he is already looking forward to his 106th birthday party! ∞



▲ Alex Boucher with members of the MNO Veterans' Council executive during his birthday party. (Right to left) Chair Brian Black, Secretary-Treasurer Greg Garratt, Alex Boucher and Women's Representative Shelly Claus

## Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans Council thank Bruce Power for their support of Vimy Project

submitted by

**Greg Garratt**

MNO Veterans' Council Secretary-Treasurer

On November 7, 2017, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans' Council (MNOVC) presented Bruce Power representative John Peevers with a certificate and photo to thank Bruce Power for their contribution to the MNO Veterans' Council Vimy Commemoration Project in Ottawa earlier this year.

The presentation took place in the visitor center at Bruce Power north of Tiverton Ontario.

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 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.

To cover the costs of the Vimy Project the MNO Veterans' Council launched a highly successful fundraising campaigns and Bruce Power was one of their most generous supporters.

The MNO Veterans' Council also recognized Bruce Power for their support at the Presidents to Presidents Dinner that was held in January this year. At the dinner the MNO Veterans' Council gifted a paddle created by MNO citizen Maurice Cadieux to Bruce Power President Mike Rencheck.

After the MNO Veterans' Council recognized Bruce Power, Peevers provided the Council members with a tour of their facilities. Bruce Power officials explained the impact of nuclear power on the MNO and its citizens and also provided information on nuclear safety. ∞



▲ (Left to right) MNO Veterans' Council President Joseph Paquette, MNO Veterans' Council Sgt-At-Arms Doug Woods, Bruce Power representative John Peevers, MNO Veterans' Council Secretary-Treasurer Greg Garratt, MNO Veterans' Council Women's Representative Shelly Claus and MNO Veterans' Council Senator Guy Mandeville C.D.





## MNO VETERANS' COUNCIL

# MNO Grand River Métis Council honours Métis veteran and community hero

submitted by

**Diane Kilby**, MNO Grand River Métis Council Councilor

On November 4, 2017, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Grand River Métis Council (GRMC) held a special celebration to honour Bernard Pépin, a community hero.

MNO citizen and veteran Pépin served two extended terms with the Canadian military totalling 26 years of service. He is also a skilled and award-winning sharpshooter who competes at provincial and national levels.

The MNO GRMC decided that a community celebration was the best way to fete this community hero so they arranged to present him with his Louis Riel medal and certificate that recognize his outstanding military service to Canada during the celebration. Pépin

attended with his wife Ella. MNO GRMC President Jennifer Parkinson pinned the Louis Riel medal on Pépin and presented him with his certificate. MNO GRMC Senator Carol Lévis gifted Pépin with a Region 9 sash on behalf of MNO GRMC.

The celebration also featured Métis fiddler Alicia Blore who provided some excellent jigging music and three kinds of delicious homemade soups were made using the produce from the MNO GRMC community garden. The celebration meal also included bannock, friend bread, salad and bountiful desserts.

All in all, a great way to recognize the service of a Métis veteran.



▲ MNO veteran Bernard Pépin and his wife Ella with MNO Grand River Métis Council citizens.



**The Energy Sector in Ontario is looking for Indigenous people to work in the trades. This is a fully funded 8-month training program with an 8-week work placement in Pre-Trades for the energy industry for Ontario self-identified Indigenous participants, with a focus on women.**

**The next session will begin in September, 2018.**

Training provided in an energy-sector field, such as but not limited to:

- **Electrical Techniques**
- **Welding Techniques**
- **Industrial Maintenance Techniques**

Following in-class training, participants proceed to paid work placements with partners in the energy industry. Work placements will provide the vital experience to continue on in skilled trades and/or employment.

This great opportunity includes:

- **Career counselling and resume support from Métis Nation of Ontario and partners**
- **Expenses eligible for coverage include: tuition; books and supplies; safety equipment; living allowances; dependent care and travel**
- **Training is open to Métis, First Nations and Inuit people, with a focus on women**

For more information please visit [www.metisnation.org](http://www.metisnation.org) or contact:

**Rachelle Brunelle-McColl**, MNO Project Coordinator  
1-705 527-1228 ext 215 | [rachelleb@metisnation.org](mailto:rachelleb@metisnation.org)

**Jackie Lachnit**, MNO Employment Developer  
705-474-2767 ext 313 | [jackiel@metisnation.org](mailto:jackiel@metisnation.org)





# COMMUNITY

## A big November for the MNO Northern Lights Métis Council

This story includes information from a story posted online by the **Cochrane Times** and submitted by **MNO Northern Lights Métis Council President Doug Hull** and **Women's Representative Jackie Courville**.

November 2017 was a very big month for the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Northern Lights Métis Council (NLMC)! In one week the Council celebrated their move to new quarters in the new MNO office in Cochrane, commemorated Louis Riel Day and made an impressive donation to the Commando Lake Project.

Jackie Courville, MNO NLMC Women's Representatives said that the Council was encouraged by the great reception these events received in the community.

The new MNO office in Cochrane houses staff for the MNO Métis Family Wellbeing and the MNO Aging and Home programs as well as serving as the home for the MNO NLMC. The MNO NLMC also has plans to hire a Youth Program Coordinator who will work out of the new building. The new



facility is a better venue for more activities as well office space for various personnel.

An official grand opening for the building was held in November with attendees enjoying a feast that included such traditional foods such as roast deer, bear sausage, moose stew, chili, pickerel and partridge. A regular stew was also served for those who didn't want wild meat.

MNO staff also held a nutrition bingo in which winners got to choose from a variety of food packages as their prize.

The MNO NLMC was very pleased with turnout in particular with the number of people who attended from Iroquois Falls.

Also in November, the MNO NLMC held a Métis flag raising to commemorate Louis Riel Day (see the story on page 9)

◀ **Cutting the ribbon at the grand opening of the new MNO office in Cochrane.** (Left to right) MNO Northern Lights Métis Council citizen Jamie Mageau, MNO Métis Family Wellbeing Coordinator Tracy Kerr, facility owner Line Dumont, Cochrane Town Councillor Darryl Owens, MNO Northern Lights Council President Doug Hull, MNO Northern Lights Youth Representative Hunter Mageau. Picture courtesy of the Cochrane Times.

On Louis Riel Day the MNO NLMC also presented the Town of Cochrane with a donation of \$1000 to go towards providing retractable doors on buildings currently under construction at Commando Lake. The Commando Lake Project is a nearly \$2 million legacy project for the community that will provide a perfect outdoor gathering place for all ages. ∞

## MNO Grand River Métis Council teach beading to Wellington Catholic District School Board teachers

submitted by  
**Leslie-Anne Muma**, MNO Grand River Métis Council Treasurer

On January 11, 2018, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Grand River Métis Council (GRMC) provided a workshop at a Wellington Catholic District School Board professional development day in Guelph. Valerie Marks with the Board's Equity and Inclusion with an Aboriginal Focus office arranged for MNO GRMC President Jennifer Parkinson and Treasurer Leslie-Anne Muma to teach 21 teachers.

First thing in the morning, President Parkinson made a Métis 101 presentation and answered many great questions about Louis Riel and Métis History. The teachers were so interested that the session went overtime.

After the morning break, President Parkinson and Treasurer Muma taught Métis beading. Everyone in attendance received a beading kit to take home with them. Once the teachers had learned how to bead they didn't want to stop.

After lunch, Marks, who was also enjoying the beading, let the beading continue stating: "I have never seen teachers so engaged in an activity before."

As can be seen in the photo to the right the teachers all did an excellent job. Everyone had a lot of laughs and a lot of fun.

∞



▲ Teachers from Wellington Catholic District School Board show off their Métis beading with MNO GRMC President Jennifer Parkinson and Treasurer Leslie-Anne Muma.





▲ MNO citizen Barb Lier teaches jiggling during a school presentation.

# MNO Grand River Métis Council reaches over 3000 students in 2016-17

submitted by  
**Jennifer Parkinson**  
MNO Grand River Métis President

The 2016-17 school year proved to be very busy for Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Grand River Métis Council (GRMC). The MNO GRMC was also very successful as it reached over 3000 students with its Métis culture and heritage awareness programming.

September 2016 started out with the Cambridge Multicultural Festival where the MNO GRMC taught Métis beading, finger weaving and fun Métis jiggling to participants. Also in September, the MNO GRMC partnered with the Waterloo Region Museum for their First Peoples Festival that over three days included 1,200 grades six to eight students. In October, the MNO GRMC visited four schools to share Métis 101 with the students. In November, the MNO GRMC visited another eight more schools.

The MNO GRMC invited local schools to participate in the Riel Day flag raisings that the Council organized in three cities. 120 students celebrated with the Council at the flag raisings and they also had fun learning and participating in Métis games, jiggling and finger weaving. Also on Riel Day, the Council was invited by Waterloo Region Museum to host its first ever all Métis programming.

In December, The MNO GRMC managed



▲ Métis dot art painted on rocks.

to fit in one more school visit before the holidays. From January to June, the MNO GRMC visited 15 more schools, with many visits to multiple classes in the same school. Two high schools invited the Council to return to provide more cultural lessons. One high school requested presentations from the Council four times in the same semester. The Council members had a great time at every presentation!

The Council also partnered with the Upper Grand District School Board for their Turtle Island Heritage Festival. There Council members had a great time making medicine pouches with 520 students over three days.

To sum up the year, the MNO GRMC shared Métis culture and history with 3,232 students and is looking forward to a great 2017-2018 school year! ∞



▲ Students in the grade five class from École Catholique Nouveau Regard in Cochrane proudly display their healthy creations. Photo provided by Nouveau Regard

# MNO provides Healthy snacks workshops at Cochrane School

submitted by  
**Tracy Kerr**  
MNO Métis Family Wellbeing Coordinator

In an effort to provide more Métis programming in the Cochrane school system, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) staff from the MNO office in Cochrane collaborated with the Urban Aboriginal Healthy Kids Program at the Ininew Friendship Centre in Cochrane to offer a series of Healthy Snack Making Workshops at schools in Cochrane including École Catholique Nouveau Regard.

To date, 10 workshops have been provided in the schools with a positive

response from educators, students, and parents alike. The workshops have been provided to a range of grade levels between junior/senior kindergarten and grade eight.

During the workshops the students and teachers participate in making fruit kabobs and fruit and yogurt parfaits. The students take part in cleaning, cutting and creating their dishes. The students are taught about food handling safety, knife safety, the importance of healthy eating and other ways of staying healthy.

It is wonderful to see the youth excited and willing to try new healthy options for snacks. The program will be continuing for the rest of the school year. ∞

# MNO High Land Waters Métis Council participates in Governance and Finance Training

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

On November 25-26, 2017, The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Community Relations Coordinator Glen Lipinski facilitated Governance and Finance Training for the MNO High Land Waters Métis Council (HLWMC).

The 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.

Through funding provided by the New Relationship Fund, the MNO has been able to continually develop and deliver Governance

and Finance Training that helps improve community councils perform their work.

Since the MNO has offered this training, the following community councils have participated: the MNO Moon River, Sunset Country, Kenora, Northwest, Windsor, Clear Waters, High Land Waters, North Bay, Temiskaming, Northern Lights, Thunder Bay, Atikokan and Area, Niagara Region, Peterborough and District Wapiti, Grand River, Credit River, Toronto and York Region, Sudbury, Ottawa Region, North Channel, Great Lakes and Georgian Bay Métis Councils.

The course is a two-day seminar held locally that explains the role of



▲ (Front row , left to right) **Candance Lloyd, Denise Apple, Jamie Grand.** (Back row , left to right) **Ashley Lloyd-Gomez, Scott Lloyd, Robert Lloyd, Lee River and Marlon Lloyd.**

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.

The MNO will be updating these training programs in the coming months based on feedback from community councils. ∞



# Connecting to your

**The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) maintains the only recognized provincial Registry for Métis.** The Registry was established in 1994 to identify and register Métis citizens and harvesters who are eligible rights holders in the province of Ontario.

Métis people who are ordinarily residents of Ontario can make an application for citizenship to the MNO. The applications are assessed by an independent Registrar who approves for citizenship those applicants who meet the criteria set out in the MNO's definition of Métis, adopted by the MNO AGA.

The MNO appreciates that the Citizenship application process takes time and effort. In the 25 years since it began the work outlined in the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose, the MNO Registry has collected and archived the genealogical documentation of over 20,000 MNO citizens and has taken strides to conduct research and publish additional resources that can assist Métis to access key records and information.

**Since its formation in 1993, the MNO has worked to fulfil the mandate given to it in its Statement of Prime Purpose:**

*"... to research, publish and promote the genealogical documentation of the Métis, and establish and maintain a registry of Métis citizens of Ontario;"*

*"... to establish democratic institutions based on our inherent right of self-government;"*

## ONTARIO MÉTIS ROOT ANCESTORS

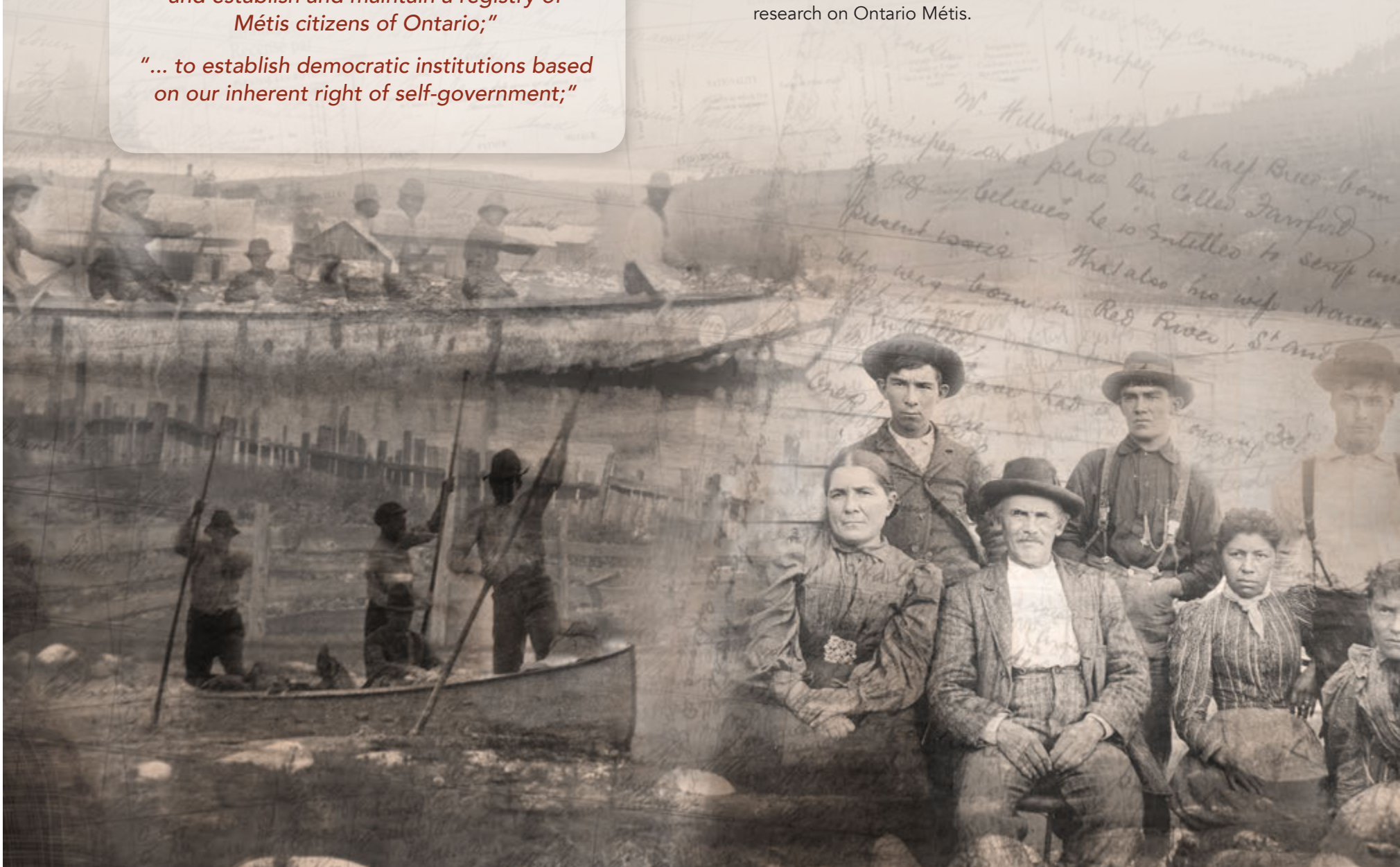
Finding a connection to Métis ancestors from Western Canada is relatively straightforward because of the federal government's scrip records that clearly identify Métis individuals in the West. Few such records were issued for Métis in Ontario and finding connections to historic Métis communities and ancestors can be more challenging.

In 2017, after years of painstaking and rigorous research, the MNO took a huge stride towards making it easier for individuals to identify their Métis ancestor(s) by releasing nearly 100 Ontario Métis Root Ancestor Reports.

Each report focuses on a particular Métis family in a historic Métis community and provides the complete documentation including genealogy charts and copies of key documents such as census records, birth or baptismal records that demonstrate that family's connection to root Métis ancestor(s).

The Root Ancestor documents that are already complete have already been posted on the MNO website ([metisnation.org](http://metisnation.org)) and are available for use in researching and making a MNO Citizenship application. It is expected that more of these documents will be released as the research is completed.

The MNO emphasizes that the mere identification of a mixed Aboriginal ancestry individual in the historic record does not make that individual a Métis Root Ancestor for the MNO's purposes or establish an historic Métis community for the purposes of collectively-held rights. The MNO's rights assertions and claims are based on its representation of Ontario Métis communities who developed their own customs, way of life, and recognizably distinct group identity. Genealogies alone do not establish a Métis community. As such, these packages must be read in conjunction with historic research on Ontario Métis.





# r Métis Community

## THE PATH TO SELF-GOVERNMENT

The Registry & Self-Government Readiness Process (“RSRP”) or the “Registry Review” involves a review of all MNO Citizen files and is part of preparing for Self-Government negotiations and the issuing of new MNO Citizenship Cards. MNO Citizenship files are being reviewed to determine whether they meet the current requirements for MNO Citizenship as set out in the MNO Bylaws and MNO Registry Policy (adopted by the MNO Assembly), which align with the Supreme Court of Canada’s decision in *R. v. Powley* for the identification of Métis rights-holders.

There have been many questions about the RSRP and also a great deal of misinformation and misunderstandings about the current decisions made and the path forward. MNO is committed to providing ongoing updates to MNO Community Councils and MNO Citizens as any new developments or decisions are made related to the RSRP. MNO Citizens absolutely have a say in this process and as detailed in the information bulletins that are posted on the MNO website further information will be brought to the 2018 MNO Assembly for discussion and potential action.

Council members and Citizens are invited and encouraged to ask questions or request more information at any time. MNO administration is prepared to schedule meetings or arrange town hall sessions for Communities and Citizens as requested feel free to email [rsrp@metisnation.org](mailto:rsrp@metisnation.org).

Additional information about the RSRP can be found on the MNO website:  
[www.metisnation.org/news-media/news/rsrp-1](http://www.metisnation.org/news-media/news/rsrp-1)

## NEW MNO CITIZENSHIP CARDS

As reported in the last edition of the *Métis Voyageur* and detailed on the MNO website the Registry and Self-Government Readiness Process (RSRP) or the “Registry Review” involves a review of all Citizenship files. If a citizenship file is complete, that MNO citizen will receive a letter confirming their file is complete and will receive a new MNO Citizenship Card that identifies them as a Metis rights holder under Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* (as soon as these cards have completed production). If there is documentation missing in a MNO citizen’s file, a letter will be sent to the citizen informing them of what is necessary to complete their file.



**\*\* Please note your existing MNO Citizenship Card continues to be valid. \*\***

**\*\* Please be sure to update your address with the MNO Registry \*\***

CONTACT: **MNO REGISTRY**

Suite 1100 - 66 Slater Street | Ottawa | K1P 5H1  
1-855-798-1006 | [registryclerk@metisnation.org](mailto:registryclerk@metisnation.org)





## PRESERVING MÉTIS CULTURE:

# Fur Management and Conservation Course offered in Chapleau

submitted by  
**David Hamilton**  
MNO Chapleau Métis Council  
President

The definition of culture is: “The sum of attitudes, customs, and beliefs that distinguishes one group of people from another. Culture is transmitted, through language, material objects, ritual, institutions, and art, from one generation to the next.” The fur trade in Canada has been a part of Canadian history for hundreds of years and is deeply rooted into the culture of the Métis people across this country; the Métis have even been called the “children of the fur trade.” Métis were voyageurs, traders, trappers, hunters, explorers, guides and servants of the fur traders. The fur trade is the connection of Métis to each other and Métis culture.

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Chapleau Métis Council (CMC) sponsored a Fur Management and Conservation Course between January 11 and 14, 2018. A total of 10 students participated with six of these being MNO citizens. The course consisted of three days of classroom study and one day of practical application in the bush. Students learned about fur bearer biology, humane harvesting techniques, trap-line

safety and proper pelt preparation. Who better to teach a class of Métis students than Métis harvester and MNO Mattawa Métis Council President Nelson Montreuil? Probably no one! He is a Métis trapper and a certified trapping instructor with the Fur Managers Federation of Ontario. Montreuil brought over 40 years of experience hunting and trapping in the Mattawa/Nipissing traditional territory to the course.

The final day of the course saw

**Who better to teach a class of Métis students than Métis harvester and MNO Mattawa Métis Council President Nelson Montreuil? Probably no one!**

the students apply what they had learned in the classroom to the bush. The field portion of the course was held on MNO Chapleau Métis Council President David Hamilton's own trapping territory; a trap line that has been in his family for almost 100 years. As everyone

is well aware, this winter most of North America has been under a deep freeze and with temperatures hovering around -30 C; the first priority was for the students to build a big fire; after which each candidate was required to make two trap sets for randomly selected fur bearing animals.

All students passed the course and will receive a certificate from the Fur Managers Federation, which will allow them to acquire their own trap lines from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry or start as helpers on others.

In this way part of Métis culture and history will continue to live on. While no one expects all Métis youth to take up trapping as a full-time avocation, they should know where they came from and it is an excellent way to stay fit and healthy, especially if you combine it with a diet of country foods (fish and game). Chronic diseases like diabetes were almost unheard of when the Indigenous people of Canada lived close to the land. There is also the bonus of a little money to be made at trapping and they will be helping to “preserve our culture.”

This course and others were made possible by cultural support funding from Detour Gold. ∞



▲ Graduates of the MNO Chapleau Métis Council's Fur Management and Conservation Course. (Standing, left to right) Al Morin, Jayden Byce, Chad Byce, Patrick Dillon, Cameron Plourde, Ben Plourde and Instructor Nelson Montreuil. (Kneeling, left to right) Frank St. Amand, Jeremy Pilote and Brian Byce.



▲ Students check their trap line during the final day of the course.

## Métis Earth Angel Ornament Workshop in Chapleau

submitted by  
**Lynn Bélair**  
MNO Métis Family  
Wellbeing Coordinator

On December 14, 2017, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) staff in the Chapleau teamed up with staff from the Aboriginal People's Alliance of Northern Ontario (APANO) to host a Métis Earth Angel Ornament Workshop. Métis Earth Angel Ornaments are a symbol of honouring and remembrance. The evening included delicious seasonal snacks provided by the APANO staff.

There were five participants who gathered to create the ornaments, which are a physical keepsake of someone special who has passed. Participants were a little nervous upon arriving, wondering if the emotions would be too strong to bear as everyone there had lost someone within the past nine



▲ Métis Earth Angel Ornaments created during Chapleau workshop.

months. They were greeted with soft seasonal music, coffee, tea, water and healthy snacks as well as a wide variety of decorations for their ornaments.

Everyone had brought at least one personal item belonging to their “angel.” One contributor was eager to share what they had brought and why they had brought it. This encouraged everyone else to talk about the personal significance of their items and from there

the evening unfolded beautifully. Stories and memories were shared. There were smiles, laughter and some tears. Everyone took some time to talk about their own personal knowledge of loss and grief. “Check-ins” were made throughout the evening to make sure everyone was okay and there was some discussion on the various services available in the area to help with the grieving process. ∞

## Community kitchen and feast in Timmins

submitted by  
**Ryah Heavens**  
MNO Community Wellness Coordinator

Timmins held a community kitchen and feast for seniors. Twenty-four people gathered to celebrate the upcoming holidays and enjoy each other's company.

This event was especially nice for those participants who sometimes feel isolated because their families do not live nearby or they have mobility issues or don't have easy access to transportation.

The community kitchen included transportation to and from the event as well as an amazing holiday dinner and craft-time. The dinner featured turkey, potatoes, stuffing, carrots, salad and pies that had been prepared by MNO staff and volunteers. Each participant also took home enough left-overs for another full meal.

Participants also decorated cookies and created their own bulb ornaments to take home for the upcoming holidays. As the weather was very frosty, everyone appreciated the warm coffee and tea. Participants shared stories, laughed throughout the entire event and it was clear that they enjoyed this opportunity to spend time together.

Although this was a happy occasion, some participants and staff reflected on people they had lost throughout the year and shared their stories and memories of their loved ones.

MNO staff in Timmins organize these types of gatherings at least once a year and staff and the participants look forward to the next celebration. ∞



# MNO Windsor-Essex-Kent Métis Council experiences whirlwind of activity

submitted by  
**Donna Grayer**, MNO Windsor-Essex-Kent Métis Council President

The months of November and December 2017 were whirlwind ones for the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Windsor-Essex-Kent Métis Council (WEKMC).

Métis veterans were included in the City of Windsor's November 11 Remembrance Day Ceremony with an MNO wreath being laid at the Cenotaph by Métis veterans Wilfred Rochon, MNO Veterans' Council Women's Representative Shelly Claus and MNO WEKMC Women's Representative Sharlene Lance.

The following Sunday, the MNO WEKMC held a celebration and community lunch to honour Louis Riel Day. MNO staff from the MNO office in Windsor organized a healing blanket workshop and MNO WEKMC Senator Jim Turner gave a nice opening and told Louis Riel's story. There were many good conversations throughout the event; everyone enjoyed a hot turkey lunch and delicious desserts and went home with their blankets.

In December, the MNO WEKMC annual year-end meeting included

a historical trolley tour of the area, followed by the business meeting and a delicious pot luck meal.

The trolley tour was led by local historian and tour guide Chris Carter who spoke about the fur trade in the area. He brought his many books to sell; some of which were bought and gifted to those in attendance.

Some MNO WEKMC citizens also attended cultural immersion training in Rousseau. There they had the opportunity to hear MNO Senator Ralph Wolf Thistle speak of his journey and work. MNO WEKMC citizens were so moved by Senator Thistle that they sent him gift cards as house warming gifts and as an expression of admiration and respect for sharing his story.

While the Métis displays at the Chimzuc Museum in Windsor were taken down in December it is hoped that there will be another Métis exhibit in the Museum soon. In the meantime the MNO WEKMC has created a Metis cultural exhibit that is on display in the MNO office in Windsor. ∞



▲ 1) Some MNO WEKMC citizens at the Louis Riel community lunch and healing blanket activity. (Left to right) Donna Grayer, Senator Jim Turner, Gary Lovell, Robert Desjardins, Jon Rochon, Sharlene Lance and Wilfred Rochon. Absent Isaiah Grayer, Terry Desjardins. 2) The healing blanket workshop. 3 & 4) Métis veterans participating in the City of Windsor's Remembrance Day ceremony..

# Helen Bradley Memorial Bursaries awarded

submitted by  
**Pauline Richardson**  
MNO Region 7 Councilor

On Tuesday, December 21, 2017, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Georgian Bay Métis Council awarded three annual Helen Bradley Memorial Bursaries to outstanding Métis youth. The presentation of the awards took place at the MNO Midland office.

The council selected the three recipients by evaluating essays that applicants submitted on "What it means to be Métis." To qualify the students also had to have attended at least one MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council event in the spring or summer of 2017.

The bursaries each come with a cash award. First prize is \$1,500; second prize is \$1,000; and third prize is \$500. The winners of the 2017 Helen Bradley Memorial Bursaries were:

- First place:  
**Leesha Dorion-Leblanc**
- Second place:  
**Celeste Patenaude**
- Third place:  
**Samantha Larmante**

The bursaries are named for Senator Helen Bradley who passed away in 2010. She was a founding member of the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council and deeply respected within the MNO. She was a recipient of the 2008 Ontario Medal of Good Citizenship, an honour recognizing individuals who have made outstanding contributions to their communities.

The MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council would like to congratulate these students and wish them well in their future endeavours. The Council would also like to thank Bruce Power for providing the funds for this wonderful bursary and Danielle Callander for doing an excellent job organizing the presentation. ∞



▲ The recipients of the 2017 Helen Bradley Bursaries with citizens from the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council. (Sitting, left to right) Leesha Dorion-Leblanc, Samantha Larmand, Celeste Patenaude and Heather Garratt. (Standing, left to right) Trish Paradis, Bernice Paradis, Vicky Dorion, Lorraine Mountney, Cathy Larmand, Francine Patenaude, MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council Chair Larry Ferris, Dalton Latondress and PCMNO Region 7 Councilor Pauline Richardson.

# MNO staff educate students on bullying

submitted by  
**Mattingly Turgeon**  
MNO Community Wellness Coordinator

On November 22, 2017, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) staff from the MNO offices in North Bay and Mattawa visited FJ McElligott Intermediate-Secondary School in Mattawa to provide bullying awareness programming to over 160 students.

Intermediate students participated in a

Faceless Dolls Workshop, while the secondary students helped create a Bullying Blanket. Students were thoroughly engaged throughout the day in creating their own Faceless Dolls, contributing to discussions around violence against women and bullying and creating personalized squares for the bullying quilt. Students agreed that bullying is an issue at their school and began the day unsure of how to address it.

Although these activities triggered some unpleasant memories for some students,

there were many thoughtful conversations throughout the day around how students, as peers, can stand up and put an end to bullying.

Learning from what these students go through, the organizers for bullying awareness quickly realized as adults it is vitally important to educate youth about bullying and help students develop strategies on how each individual can do their part to put an end to it.

In the end, it is the youth who need to follow through and set examples for the next generation on how to treat each other. ∞



▲ A quilt square in the Bullying Blanket.





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▲ MNO citizens practice their beading skills during the MNO Sudbury Métis Council Annual Fall Harvest Celebration.



▲ MNO citizens at the Sudbury Métis Harvest Festival had the chance to learn about firearms at the Rodmen's Trail and Gun Club.

# Métis Harvest Festival in Sudbury

submitted by  
**Stephanie Kehoe**  
MNO Métis Family Wellbeing Coordinator

On October 15, 2017, the MNO Sudbury Métis Council held its annual Fall Harvest Celebration at the Rodmen's Trail and Gun Club. The celebration also served as the official launch of the Métis Family Wellbeing program in Sudbury. Despite pouring rain and cold temperatures, 75 people attended. The celebration included various cultural activities and games for the children and adults. A representative

from Northshore Tribal Council provided a demonstration of Indigenous medicinal teaching, which was enjoyed by all. The MNO Sudbury Métis Council provided a wonderful fish fry with door prizes, and vendors also attended. Métis youth held a craft demonstration. All in all, there was lots of laughter and it was a great opportunity for MNO citizens to participate in the Métis community in Sudbury. ∞

# Appreciation day for volunteer drivers in North Bay

submitted by  
**Mary-Kelly McCormick**  
MNO Community Support Services Coordinator

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) staff from the MNO office in North Bay held their annual Volunteer Appreciation Day event on December 2, 2017. The volunteers recognized assist with the MNO medical transportation service in North Bay and area. This service is operated through the MNO Community Support Service program and helps MNO clients maintain an independent lifestyle by

providing rides to medical appointments and services. The service allows individuals who for a variety of reasons such as infirmity, safety and isolation cannot get themselves to where they need to go. By providing rides, the volunteers allow MNO clients to access essential services while continuing to live in their own homes instead of with relatives or assisted living facilities. The work of these volunteers truly makes a huge difference in the lives of MNO clients. The MNO salutes the volunteer drivers in the North Bay area as well as those who volunteer in MNO programs in MNO communities across Ontario. ∞



## HONOURING WOMEN is part of Métis Culture



▲ Faceless doll quilt created by the students of Brock High School.

### CANNINGTON

# Raising awareness about Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

submitted by  
**Raymond Engelsman**, MNO Métis Family Wellbeing Coordinator

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) staff working out of the MNO office in Oshawa have been working to raise the Métis profile in the Durham region over the last year.

The MNO Family Wellbeing Coordinator has been working with the students of Brock High School in Cannington over the last year to raise awareness of the Métis presence in North Durham/Brock Township. Work with both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students included

finger-weaving and beading workshops as well as providing information on Métis history.

On November 23, 2017, MNO staff worked with the Brock students to organize a Louis Riel Day event. The youth involved in the event decided to make raising awareness of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women the focus of the event.

During a presentation students learned about the discrimination and abuse that Indigenous women

*As hands went up, they all had only one thing they wanted to know: “how can we help?” The youth were motivated to become the change the world needs.*

and fellow their Canadians had suffered in their own country. Feelings of sadness, frustration and shock moved through the room as each story of a missing women was told. MNO staff gave the students an outlet for these emotions by providing the supplies to hold a faceless doll workshop. Each student took a small doll and dressed them to represent a woman who had been lost. Taking the time to make sure each one was perfect, the students worked together to create something unique and beautiful just like women they honoured. The faceless dolls were added to a quilt that was displayed in the school.

At the end of the day, the floor was opened for questions. As hands went up, they all had only one thing they wanted to know: “how can we help?” The youth were motivated to become the change the world needs. They realized that something needed to be done before any more women go missing. MNO staff explained how to get involved and what options they had such as organizations to volunteer with, donate to, and how to raise awareness. The youth resolved to stop the cycle of violence so the next generation of Métis and other Indigenous women can walk down their paths without fear of vanishing. ∞

### MATTAWA

# Earth Angel Ornament workshop honours Métis Women

submitted by  
**Christy Lewin**  
MNO Métis Family Wellbeing Coordinator

A women’s event was held at the Canadian Legion in Mattawa. Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) staff from several MNO Healing and Wellness programs organized the event and 11 women attended.

MNO Mattawa Métis Council (MMC) Senator Joyceline Rose provided an opening prayer and offering during a vigil to remember missing and murdered Indigenous women.

Throughout the event, there was the opportunity to make new memories by telling happy stories of new beginnings, empowerment, resilience, strength and trust.

One of the workshops organized

by MNO staff showed participants how to create Earth Angel Ornaments that serve as a physical reminder of loved ones. This activity was originally developed to assist the families of missing and murdered Indigenous women.

In the afternoon participants created healing blankets where each woman wrote words of empowerment, encouragement, love and respect for themselves and all women. This reminded them of how special they are as women. During this time, positive memories were shared, laughter and healing continued.

The event closed with Senator Rose providing a closing prayer. ∞



▲ Participants in the MNO Women’s Event in Mattawa.



▲ Earth Angel Ornaments created at the MNO Women’s Event.



## HONOURING WOMEN is part of Métis Culture



### BRAMPTON

## Honouring missing and murdered Indigenous women in Brampton

submitted by  
**Catherine Corbett**  
MNO Métis Family Wellbeing  
Coordinator

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Credit River Métis Council (CRMC) citizens and MNO staff from the MNO office in Brampton participated in National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women (NDRVAW) on December 6, 2017, in Brampton.

NDRVAW events took place at the Mississauga City Hall and were organized by the Peel Committee Against Woman Abuse (PCAWA) and sponsored by Interim Place, the City of Mississauga, United Food and Commercial Workers Canada Local 1006a, the Region of Peel and the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

MNO CRMC President, Karen Derocher spoke at both the opening and closing ceremony and MNO staff members unveiled a Faceless Dolls banner that had been produced at a MNO workshop in October. Each doll on the banner represented the life of a woman or girl and symbolizes the united effort to end violence in all forms in the community.

As part of the event, participants



▲ MNO Credit River Métis Council President Karen Derocher speaks at the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.

viewed *Fragments of Me*, an exhibit on display at City Hall. The exhibit features original artwork reflecting thoughts and emotions surrounding violence against women. The exhibit toured the Peel area from November 25 to December 10. Following the NDRVAW event, the Faceless Doll banner that the MNO had created was added to the *Fragments of Me* exhibit.

As with most NDRVAW events, a Rose Vigil was held to commemorate the 14 women killed in the École Polytechnique massacre on December 6, 1989. A brief biography of each woman was read as 14 roses were placed in a vase to remember them. The audience took part in a moment of silence for the women who senselessly lost their lives 28 years ago. ∞

### GRAVENHURST

## Faceless doll banner represents unity

submitted by  
**Sarah Sharp**  
MNO Métis Family Wellbeing  
Coordinator

On December 6, 2017, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) staff from the MNO office in Gravenhurst provided a faceless doll workshop as part of National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women (NDRVAW) in Huntsville.

These NDRVAW events were organized by the Muskoka Women's Advocacy Group. Approximately 20 people braved the first major snow fall of the year to attend. These included representatives from Muskoka Victims Services, Women's Shelters, concerned community members and survivors.

During the faceless doll workshop, reactions ranged from moments of silence to laughter as participants dressed their faceless dolls. Dolls were then placed together as a symbol of unity of a diverse community, united to stop violence against women.

Following the workshop, participants gathered in silence to read out loud the names of women taken from us by their partners over the past year. Each name was read



▲ Faceless doll quilt produced as part of National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women in Huntsville.

along with a description of how they were taken and then a candle was lit for each one. The majority of these women were taken through extremely violent means, which is evidence of the severity of gendered-based violence and the continued need to support women and their families who are currently experiencing violence or surviving trauma from their pasts. ∞

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## AROUND OUR MÉTIS COMMUNITY

# Meeting with officials from two Ministries

submitted by  
**Ralph Wolf-Thistle**, MNO Senator

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) officials often hold meetings with the officials of numerous Ontario government Ministries to discuss issues of mutual concern. One such meeting took place on November 30, 2017 with officials of the Ontario Ministries of Seniors Affairs and Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation in Toronto. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the needs of Ontario's Métis seniors.

In recent years, the Ministry of Seniors Affairs has launched a number of programs and funded several Ontario communities to

improve the quality of life of Ontario's ageing population. Through the work of MNO citizen and University of Waterloo professor Dr. John Lewis, the MNO and Ministry of Seniors Affairs will collaborate to contribute a Métis perspective to the provincial government's policy and community planning work. It is important that the voices and needs of Métis seniors are clearly communicated to the provincial and local governments and reflected in local policies and programs. The MNO is pleased to work with the Ministry of Seniors Affairs to provide that voice and direction. ∞



▲ Director with the Ministry of Indigenous Relations Stephanie Prosen, Director with the Ministry of Seniors Affairs Kathleen Henschel, Manager with the Ministry of Senior Affairs Deanna Blair, Manager with Ministry of Senior Affairs Alan Ernst, MNO citizen and Associate Professor at the University of Waterloo Dr. John Lewis, Assistant Deputy Minister of Seniors Affairs Abby Katz-Starr, Senior Program Consultant with the Ministry of Seniors Affairs Ellen Yachnin, MNO Senior Policy and Research Analyst Storm Russell, MNO Chief Strategy Officer Jennifer St. Germain, MNO Research and Policy Analyst Jennifer Kong and MNO Senator Ralph Wolf-Thistle.



▲ Senator Carol Lévis with MacKenzie and Paige Rivers.

## MNO Grand River Métis Council hosts Christmas potluck

submitted by  
**Carol Lévis**, MNO Grand River Métis Council Senator

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Grand River Métis Council (GRMC) held a Christmas potluck on December 3, 2017.

During the event, special guest, MNO Clear Waters Métis Council Women's Representative Tobias Clarke, told the story of the porcupine and helped everyone make quill earrings.

Participants also made faceless dolls and several vendors had their wares available for sale including MNO citizen Cathy Sobczak who brought her beautiful Métis dot art creations. Cathy learned Métis dot art at MNO GRMC's Christmas potluck in 2016 and has now turned her artwork into a business. The MNO GRMC is very proud of Cathy!

Among the door prizes were jars of the MNO GRMC's homemade High Bush Cranberry Jelly. Many participants left the potluck with wonderful gifts. Senator Carol Lévis and other participants had the pleasure of having a great time with the munchkins, MacKenzie and Paige Rivers.

A special Marsii goes out to the Dublin Street United Church and their community for not only sharing their space but for their continued support of the MNO GRMC throughout the year! ∞

## Santa comes to Cochrane

submitted by  
**Jackie Courville**  
MNO Northern Lights Métis Council Women's Representative

On December 11, 2017, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Northern Lights Métis Council (NLMC) held its third Annual Christmas Bowling Party for 27 children and their parents at Butch's Bowling in Cochrane.

Children of all ages enjoyed free bowling, pizza and soft drinks. Santa and Mrs. Claus made an appearance to give the children their gifts. The event was another success and everyone had an amazing time. ∞



▲ Santa with Baby Jackson.



▲ Senator Rick Meilleur and friends at the announcement of federal funding for a research project to help Indigenous seniors. (Left to right) Greater City of Sudbury Mayor Brian Bigger, Health Science North Director Dominc Giroux, MNO Sudbury Métis Council Senator Rick Meilleur and Sudbury Member of Parliament Paul Lefebvre.

## MNO Senator attends funding announcement

submitted by  
**Rich Meilleur**, MNO Sudbury Métis Council Senator

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Sudbury Métis Council Senator Rick Meilleur was among the guests on December 4, 2017, at the Canadian Institutes of Health Research in Sudbury.

Senator Meilleur was there for the announcement of \$1.4 million grant from the federal government for a research project focused on improving the health of Indigenous seniors. ∞

## Honourary MNO Senator Reta Gordon meets Senator Murray Sinclair

submitted by  
**Reta Gordon**  
MNO Honourary Senator

Honourary Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Senator Reta Gordon had the opportunity to meet Senator Murray Sinclair when she attended a ceremony at Ottawa City Hall on December 4, 2017.

The purpose of the ceremony was to present Senator Sinclair with the Key to the City of Ottawa

in recognition of his dedicated service as Chief Commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. ∞

► (Left to right) Honourary MNO Senator Reta Gordon and Senator Murray Sinclair at the Key to the City Award reception at City Hall in Ottawa.





# ACHIEVEMENTS

## Maurice and Donna Cadieux create Open Forum for Métis artists

submitted by  
**Pauline Richardson**  
PCMNO Region 7 Councilor

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Maurice Cadieux has a keen eye when it comes to art. Maurice was born in 1954 and has 13 brothers and sisters. He has resided in the Georgian Bay Métis Traditional Territory throughout his life. The beauty of the area provides all artists with a large variety of opportunities to capture something that is one of a kind. Whether, it is the fall colours, an old white pine tree, wildlife, landscapes or the Georgian Bay shoreline; there is always something for everyone.

Maurice's interest in the arts came to him at a very early age. In the late 1950s, television was just coming into the area with only one black and white channel. However, Maurice watched programs with artists like Jon Gnagy and has been developing his skills from those early days right up to the present. While attending school, Maurice was able to learn more and improve his talents. In grade eight he and fellow artist Barry King (from Christian Island) painted a mural in the front foyer at the Sacred Heart School in Midland, depicting the War of 1812. He was only 12 at the time and this was a great source of pride for him. During high school, Maurice was

presented with the opportunity to attend art school but choose not to go as it meant having to leave the comforts of home. So, it was off to Army Cadet Camp for him and he then later entered the workforce.

Louis Riel said that his people would rise again in 100 years and it would be through the artists and songwriters that they would come forth. In keeping with this theme, both Maurice and his wife Donna enjoy the reward they get from the arts. Many of their efforts have been

shared and donated to groups and individuals throughout the Georgian Bay Métis Traditional Territory. Maurice and Donna's passion for their family, friends, arts and community is well known. So, in the spirit of giving back they are inviting other Métis artists, carvers, sculptors, photographers, potters and any others who may be just interested in art to attend an Open Forum for Métis artists. The idea behind the forum is to provide Métis artists and other artists throughout the Georgian Bay Métis Traditional Territory with a venue to share techniques, product information, supplier contact information and just learn from one another. As Maurice is always looking to improve himself, he is interested in further developing his skills with "air brushing" techniques, equipment upgrades and perhaps better paint products. Maurice and Donna would like to see other Métis artists and crafters showcased in future editions of the *Métis Voyageur*.

There is no cost to attend the Open Forum, but in the spirit of giving Maurice and Donna ask that attendees bring along a non-perishable food gift to support the emergency food bank maintained by the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council (GBMC). The Cadieuxs are also grateful to the MNO GBMC for providing them with space for the open forum at the Midland MNO office.

### Open Forum for Métis Artists

5-8 pm  
Wednesday, April 11, 2018  
@ MNO OFFICE  
355 Cranston Crescent  
Midland

Light refreshments will be served.

Please RSVP by  
Wednesday, April 4, 2018 to  
[tcadieuxmw@rogers.com](mailto:tcadieuxmw@rogers.com)  
or 705-534-1092



▲ Maurice Cadieux.

## Tales from the Big Canoe

submitted by  
**Larry O'Connor**  
MNO Citizen

Larry O'Connor is a Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen with the MNO Moon River Métis Council. He made a proposal last year to the Board of CanoeFM 100.9 CKHA, a volunteer community radio station based in Haliburton, to host an Indigenous radio show. As Métis are one of Canada's founding peoples, he proposed that this program would feature all the Indigenous peoples of Canada with a special emphasis on Métis culture, traditions and music.

This program, now known as Tales From the Big Canoe, showcases issues faced by Canada's Indigenous people and has now been on the air for over a year. Tales From the Big Canoe is an hour-long

program that is aired on CanoeFM 100.9 CKHA, on the last Monday of every month at 10 pm and replayed the following Friday at 11 am.

Tales From the Big Canoe has helped to inform, educate and entertain CanoeFM listeners about Métis and other Indigenous peoples in Canada. It offers listeners a chance to hear first-hand about this important part of the fabric of Canada. Many listeners, for example, are unaware of the Michif language that was historically spoken by the Métis in both pre and post Confederation Canada.

Larry's listeners have also heard about Métis culture and its unique style of fiddle music that has been handed down over generations as well as about many local Métis initiatives.

The music played is either Indigenous music or performed by Indigenous musicians.



▲ Larry O'Connor broadcasting Tales From the Big Canoe

Larry has interviewed Indigenous people from coast to coast on a variety of subject matters. To keep the program fresh, he has covered Métis and other Indigenous events including Métis council gatherings, several First Nations PowWows as well as university events.

## MNO Citizen named Woman of the Decade

submitted by  
**Grant Lecky**  
Co-partner, Security Partners' Forum

Métis Voyageur readers have become familiar with the many successes of Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Bonnie Butlin in the security sector. In past issues, the *Métis Voyageur* has reported she is a co-founder and Executive Director of the Security Partners' Forum (SPF) and International Coordinator of the Women in Security and Resilience Alliance (WISECRA). In 2015, she won the prestigious Professional Security Magazine's Women in Security Award. Since then, Bonnie has received honours beyond the security and defence industry, which has included being a speaker in March 2016 at an International Women's Day event in Winnipeg.

At the end of 2017, Bonnie received even more prestigious recognition. In December 2017 she was notified by the esteemed Dr. Harbeen Arora, Global Chairperson at the Women Economic Forum



▲ MNO Citizen Bonnie Butlin.

that she has been named a recipient of the highly prestigious "Woman of the Decade Award," which will be presented to Bonnie at the 2018 Women Economic Forum in New Delhi, India this coming April.

According to Dr. Arora, the Women of the Decade is their highest award category conferred every year on leading women from across the globe with distinguished contributions in various walks of life like education, entrepreneurship, technology, health, media and business. It is given to very senior women of influence, excellence who have distinctive achievements.

If you have a story or Council activity to share that you would like highlighted on *Tales from the Big Canoe* please feel free to contact Larry at

[oconnor.larry@yahoo.ca](mailto:oconnor.larry@yahoo.ca)





# Métis artist finding success in Terrace Bay and beyond

submitted by  
**Cam Burgess**  
PCMNO Region 2 Councilor  
.....

Sharon Girdwood is a Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen and Métis artist who works out of her own studio in Terrace Bay but whose art is reaching people beyond the area.  
“Living with creative thought

is an important gift and I treasure it,” explained Sharon. Her name in Ojibwe is Mazin-Miigwan, which means “Pictured Feather.” Not surprisingly, therefore, Sharon’s expertise is in painting feathers but she doesn’t stop there. She also dabbles in abstract painting, sculpture and more. “I am always creating,” she said.  
“The pursuit of art is allowing my hands to be the extension of my

dreams,” she added.  
“The reward is when someone else sees it!”  
Sharon uses realistic painting and drawing techniques that make each creation unique and finely detailed.  
Sharon’s work is gaining international recognition through

organizations such as Ducks Unlimited. The Osprey and Mallard Duck were both award winners at the Wildlife Art and Decoy Show in Burlington, Vermont. Common Loon placed fifth in the 2000 Ducks Unlimited Ontario Sponsorship Program. Find Eight Wolves and Memory Bay placed first and

third at an art competition in Deep River, Ontario.  
Many MNO citizens met Sharon and saw her amazing work at the 2017 MNO Annual General Assembly (AGA) in Kenora where she was a vendor. Sharon’s work attracted lots of attention and many buyers at the AGA. ∞

Anyone interested in Sharon’s work can learn more on her website at [studiogirdwood.com](http://studiogirdwood.com)



▲ Trickster Rabbit by Kristy Cameron. Courtesy of Thunder Bay Art Gallery



▲ Fur Trade by Kristy Cameron. Courtesy of Thunder Bay Art Gallery

# Art of MNO citizen exhibited at Thunder Bay Art Gallery

submitted by  
**Alastair McKay**  
Thunder Bay Art Gallery  
.....

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen and Métis artist Kristy Cameron is one of the Indigenous artists whose work is being featured in the exhibit *Converging Lines: Recent Art From the Northwest* at the Thunder Bay

Art Gallery. The exhibit is ran from November 24, 2017 to February 25, 2018.  
*Converging Lines* features the work of regional Indigenous artists and draws inspiration from the connective, emanating power lines found in the works of established Anishnaabe artists such as Norval Morrisseau, Roy Thomas and Ahmoo Angecone. Though each artist shares elements of their artistic

approach and conceptual underpinnings with the innovative and ground-breaking work of their predecessors, the work by Kristy Cameron, and the other artists featured in the exhibit, also speaks to current issues and sheds light on contemporary ways of making art.  
Kristy Cameron is a teacher and visual artist, who was born and raised in Atikokan, Ontario. She is the daughter of MNO Atikokan and

Area Métis Council President Marlene Davidson. Being raised surrounded by the beauty of the natural world has given her endless subjects to paint, while observing and researching this environment and its inner connections. As a Métis artist and descendant of numerous fur trade employees, she often incorporates Indigenous and historical content into her art. With this history and culture, we often see spiritual

weavings throughout her pieces, which evoke sensations such as, mystery, energy, contentment, and joyfulness. Viewers often contemplate saying, “Every time I look at these paintings, I see something new!” The bright, bold colours are templates for more intricate images that unfurl deeper meanings within meanings. ∞



# FAMILY & MILESTONES



## 1935 - 2018 Remembering Senator Bob McKay

**O**n Monday, January 8, 2018, Robert Charles McKay (Senator Bob), chose to pass his life on to the Creator. His loving wife was by his side assisting him in his journey. He was born February 24, 1935 and a celebration of Bob's life was held February 24, 2018.

Born in Port Arthur in 1938 to George and Edna McKay, he grew up in the Thunder Bay area. His family were commercial fishers and lighthouse keepers and he learned at an early age how to operate a commercial fishery. During his life he worked in the bush camps and construction industry, lighthouse keeping and commercial fishing. He was a member of the Operating Engineers Union for 40 years and in 1965 purchased a commercial fishing license on Sturgeon Lake.

He met his life partner, Gloria, in 1963 and they married in February 1964 and had three daughters. Bob is survived by his wife Gloria and his daughters: Maureen (Jim) (Sudbury), Diana (Thunder Bay) and Suzi (Texas) as well as his granddaughter Michelle (Kris) (Thunder Bay). He is also survived by his sisters Christina Egeland and Carol Autio of British Columbia and many nieces, nephews and cousins. He was predeceased by his brother George (December 2017) and Margaret (2016) and his mother and father.

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Margaret Froh stated: "I have passed on our deepest condolences to Senator Bob's wife, Gloria, on behalf of the Métis Nation of Ontario. Senator Bob was such a beautiful man with such an amazing spirit. While we will feel this loss for a long time to come, we are blessed to have so many memories and prayers that he has shared with us."

Jean Camirand, President of the MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council stated: "We will miss this amazing Métis elder, Senator and citizen."

Former MNO President Gary Lipinski said: "Bob was an amazing person, a true elder and Senator. Someone who was filled with historical and traditional knowledge and always willing to share. His sense of humor was another gift and he knew just when to interject it to lighten the mood or keep a meeting on a positive track. A true statesman, a gentleman, father, husband and friend to all. He will be deeply missed but not forgotten in that he will always remain with us in so many ways."

A colourful character who lived a colourful life, Bob was the last light keeper and caretaker of Point Porphyry Lighthouse near Thunder Bay, which closed in 1979. An article published in 2014 by *Wilderness North* magazine about the Lighthouse really caught Bob's spirit:

*... and what a memory this gentleman [Bob] has! Whether it is the location*



▲ Bob has some fun at the 2013 Annual General Assembly in Ottawa.

*of overgrown trails from past decades, grave sites from the eighteen hundreds, rare flora, stories of run aground ships, past light keepers, local fishing lore, and much more, Bob is a waling specimen and testament of a rare and what seems to me as a dying breed. History oozes from his every word and his recollection of events includes the smallest detail; you know you're talking with the real McCoy, or in his case, McKay!*

In 2014, Bob was one of the founders of the non-profit organization: Saving the Lighthouses of Lake Superior.

The MNO has been blessed that Bob chose to share so much of his time and his amazing talents with his fellow Métis. Bob became an MNO citizen in 1995 only a few years after the MNO's founding in 1993. He joined the MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council in 1997 and became the Council's Senator in 1999, a position he served in until 2015. As a Senator and a Métis Traditional Knowledge Holder he

volunteered countless hours to teach the Métis way-of-life and increase awareness and pride in Métis culture and heritage. He especially placed importance on passing on his knowledge to younger people and made many presentations to schools and youth groups.

In his capacity as a Senator and Métis Knowledge Holder he also served on numerous committees and advisory boards including the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, Lakehead University, the City of Thunder Bay, Lakehead School Board and the Labour Council for Aboriginal Youth. His wise counsel and experience were highly valued as evidenced by awards he received from the Ontario Public School Board (OPSB). Bob had been a member of the OPSB Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee between 2008 and 2014 and in 2014 OPSB presented him with both their Achievement Award and their Award of Excellence to recognize his outstanding community service and leadership.

Continued on page 28...

## A Prayer for Bob McKay

By  
PCMNO Executive Senator  
Joseph Poitras

### Great Spirit,

You have called our Senator to your protection; he is done with his time on Earth. He has gone to his new home, leaving us with our memories of his inherent goodness, his dignified manner, his concern for others, his quiet attention to his world.

Thank you God that he has lived in our great world and experienced the joy of life, the love of family, the fellowship of friends and the beauty of our homeland. In his life you provided Bob with strength to face the biting winds, light to guide him on the paths he chose Then you took him to your protection.

There is sorrow, heartache and loneliness, which always comes with parting, but dawn always breaks. Night's gloom will yield and morning's light will break through as we share fond memories of Bob and the fellowship of being in his company.

We offer our prayer of gratitude that you will be at Bob's side on the journey we all must make. His Spirit is now free from life's burdens as he makes his trip through the peaceful waters of eternity. You were his compass as he carried himself from the alleyways of life toward his broad peaceful avenue.

Spread your blessings like a gentle summer rain, sprinkling Mother Earth as she cradles Bob in her arms. Mother Earth stay soft, and let his Spirit be up and on its way like an eagle soaring homeward. His Spirit will dwell in the beauty of your creations.

Bless those who shed tears for words left unsaid and deeds left undone. Help them to smile and remember their time together with Bob. Memories will build that special bridge which brings them peace of mind. May the music of the ever blowing winds on leaves sweep the void from their hearts and bring gratitude for the time that Bob was in their lives.

Our time on Earth is as fleeting as an afternoon shadow lost to an early sunset, a brief moment in time lost to the vastness of eternity, but memories are forever. May memories be the soothing balm for the void created by his leaving.

Marci,  
Thank you,  
Merci,  
Amen.  
∞



# Obituaries



## Gordon Calder 1933 - 2018

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen and Honourary Senator with the MNO Sunset Country Métis Council Gord Calder, 84 years young of Fort Frances, passed away

Sunday, February 4, 2018 with his family by his side.

Gord was a passionate man who enjoyed life to the fullest, especially when it came to hockey, family and learning more about his Métis heritage - not necessarily in that order!

Gord was also one of the founders of the MNO Sunset Country Métis Council in Fort Frances, which started in 1994. Gord also served as a Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Senator. He was also very active in darts and of course - HORSESHOES! He was always trying to get everyone involved in a quick game of horseshoes!

In 1952, Gord was ecstatic when his team the Fort Frances Canadians won the Allan Cup in hockey, for which they were inducted into the North Western Ontario Sports Hall of Fame in 1984.

Everyone loved Gord, especially the ladies at the Métis office here in town!

They so looked forward to seeing his smiling face every day and the occasional home-made baking made by his wife Charlotte.

Gord was also recognized by Member of Parliament Ken Boshkoff for working diligently behind the scenes on behalf of his fellow Métis. He was the 2011 recipient of the MNO Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award that recognized his many contributions to the Métis Nation. He was so proud to receive the award and had no idea he had even been nominated!

Gord is survived by his wife Charlotte; they were married for 44 years. Also left to mourn his passing are his daughters; Leanne, Carla, Roz, Pam, Charlene and sons Kelly, John and Valley. He also had numerous grandchildren and great

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

– Gordon Calder

grandchildren - all of whom he was very proud of, and loved. He will be greatly missed by everyone!

His legacy of love and family will live on through his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life was held Friday, February 9, 2018 at the Royal Canadian Legion in Fort Frances. ∞

- Submitted by the Calder family



## Robert 'Snooky' Gelinas

February 14, 1958 - January 12, 2018

Métis Nation of Ontario citizen Robert Conrad (Snooky) Gelinas passed away peacefully with his family by his side at the North Bay Regional Health Centre on Friday, January 12, 2018. Robert was in his 60th year.

Robert's niece Christa Lemelin, the

Chair of the MNO Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council said: "My Uncle is the reason we were all able to reconnect with our Métis Roots."

Predeceased by parents; Bella, Roland; stepfather Armand; siblings, Linda, Jacqueline, Gaston, Simon, Normand; father-in-law, David (Tub); sisters-in-law, Marilyn, Cindy; brothers-in-law, Robert, Leon; Niece, Janet; and nephews, Roger, Brad and Jessie. All will be waiting to welcome him and most likely to take him fishing.

Robert will be dearly missed by the rest

of his family and friends and everyone that had the privilege of knowing him and spending time with him in their lives. Our memories of "Snooky" will live on forever.

There will be no service. Please take a moment of silence, light a candle, or just go fishing in memory of him. Thanks to all that put a smile on his face through his hard times and throughout his life. ∞

- Submitted by MNO Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council Chair Christa Lemelin



## Jorja Gorham 2006 – 2018

With very heavy hearts we need to let you know that with her parents by her side Jorja's journey here on earth ended, at Sick Kids Hospital, on January 31, 2018 at the age of 11. But as many people have sung before ... Jorja is always on my mind.

Much loved daughter of David and

Jodi. Loving sister of Davis. She will be missed by her four-legged best buddy, Oakley. Cherished granddaughter of Judy (Dan) Taylor, Mark Thompson, Margaretann Gorham and Robert Gorham (Lito) and great-granddaughter of Georgina Penney and Marie Thompson. Adored niece of Wesley Thompson, Jennifer (Steve) Dickerson, Luke Thompson (Stacy), Chris Gorham and Nicole Gorham - Elder (Darren). She will be fondly remembered and missed by her

cousins, Kyla, Lana, Chelsea, Josh, Jax, andolan.

She will be remembered for her exuberant personality, her passion for helping others, her love of art, being a part of many sports teams, and being truly able to express her thoughts and feelings while making things happen her way. She inspired and connected so many communities and is remembered as being AWESOME. ∞

- Submitted by Luke Thompson



## Emily Mary Quirk August 21, 1934 - December 31, 2017

It is with heartfelt sadness that we announce that on Sunday, December 31, 2017, after a short illness, Emily Quirk (nee Summers) passed away at Lake of the Woods District Hospital, to reunite with her late husband Doug and son Michael in Heaven.

Emily was a past Senator with the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Kenora

Council. Nina Henley, Secretary of the MNO Kenora Council said: "Emily was a force to be reckoned with; a very strong, independent woman, who wanted the best for everyone she met. She held the position of Senator on our Council from 2007 until 2012 when she had to give it up due to her health. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her. May she rest in peace.

Emily will be dearly missed by her daughters Rosemary (Matt Parliament) and Patricia, grandchildren Shauna, Chelsea, Delaney and Justin, great-grandson Jack and his Dad Erv Reimer, numerous nephews and nieces as well as cousins. Predeceased by her parents Ella and Michael Summers, her sisters Ella and Agnes, and her brothers Gerald and Vincent.

Emily was a "feisty" lady and a true force to be reckoned with. She was a friend to so many, a great mom, and a wonderful grandma and great-grandma. She was born in Kenora, and overcame hip problems in childhood while

attending Mount Carmel School. She met and married Douglas Quirk in 1954 and her family followed in quick succession.

She had a talent for business and after obtaining her certificate as a hairdresser, started working in her chosen profession, finally opening her own shops in Kenora and Winnipeg. She also became a licensed realtor. An opportunity arose to return to Kenora after Doug's retirement, and they became owners of the Anchor Inn Restaurant and Marina in 1986. Emily was a unique fixture for many years in the business community, and life as a hotelier and restaurateur provided many fascinating stories for family and friends. Emily felt a strong bond with people of Indigenous ancestries. She was elected to the MNO Kenora Métis Council in 2007 in the position of Senator. She helped found the "Kenora Métis Warmth and Wellness Group," a community group that met weekly to knit hats, mitts, sweaters and blankets for the less fortunate. She loved to travel with her family, including stops in Florida,

Alaska, the Ottawa region as well as over to Ireland.

Emily soldiered ahead in life happily despite health issues in her later years. She stayed active in recent years, even after the passing of Doug and Michael, whom she missed every day.

Her family is deeply grateful for the kindness, consideration and compassionate care provided by the physicians and staff of the Emergency Department, Medical ICU, and third floor at the Lake of the Woods District Hospital. In addition, special thanks to the Home Care staff of ParaMed Home Health team for care over the years.

A Funeral Mass was held on Monday, January 8, 2018, at Notre Dame du Portage Catholic Church. In lieu of flowers, the family asked mourners to consider donating to the charity of your choice or honour Emily's memory by passing on an act of kindness to someone less fortunate. ∞

- Submitted by PCMNO Region 1 Councilor Theresa Stenlund



# Obituaries

## Lloyd Thompson

1940 – 2017

Métis Nation of Ontario citizen Lloyd Thompson passed away after a short illness on Wednesday, December 27, 2017. Lloyd originally came from London and was in his 77th year. He was the beloved husband of Cora for 57 years. He was the dear father of Richard (Donna) and Larry (Theresa). He was the loving papa of Laura

(Paul) and loving brother of Nora Timmerman. Lloyd will be fondly remembered by his nieces, nephews and devoted friends. He was predeceased by his parents Nadine and Manley as well as by brothers and sisters, Tom, Durwood, Edith, Ilene, Emma, Morley, Marilita and Hazel. He was son-in-law of the late Sadie and Dirk Olie. Lloyd was proud member of the United Autoworkers Local 593 for 59 years. ∞

- Submitted by  
PCMNO Region 6 Councilor, Tom Thompson



## Kenneth Trudeau

1987 – 2018

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Kenneth Napoleon Trudeau of Moon Island, passed away on Saturday, January 20th, 2018 at 30 years of age.

He was the beloved son of Bernard and Jean Trudeau; loving brother of Christopher and husband to Mallory. He will be forever remembered by the

Trudeau and Pyle families and by his many friends.

Georgian Bay was Kenneth's life and love. His spirit and soul will remain with the Bay forever.

Go to Georgian Bay's Moon Island and look around. In your mind's eye to your right you'll see Kenneth fishing, ahead is where he shot his first deer, to the left a cottage he worked on, and behind his parents, brother and sister-in-law who had to say goodbye too soon.

Kenneth wasn't one for leaving the Bay or even straying too far from Moon Island, he wasn't one for book work or boasting of his accomplishments, he didn't race or take chances, he preferred his picture wasn't taken with his trademark sideways smile.

He was a proud Métis, had the patience to create beautiful spaces out of wood, a generous heart for the people, animals and world around him, and the respect of those who knew him and for those he was around.

Kenneth's parents Bernard and Jean moved him and his older brother Christopher into the paternal family home on Moon Island with his grandmother and grandfather when he was three. He never really left. Kenneth's love for the Bay had him take a job with his cousin's construction company that he took pride in and allowed him to stay home where he was most happy.

"One thing is, I'm sure you've gathered by now, this isn't the easiest place to live. You either love it or you hate it and fortunately, in my opinion, he loved it," said his father Bernard.

Kenneth died on the Bay January 20 when he was thrown from a machine, while snowmobiling home.

As a youngster, life on the island meant sleepovers with cousins, taking a boat and bus to elementary school in MacTier and then high school in Parry Sound. It was fishing and hunting for his own table and that of the Métis elders; cheering on the Leafs and video games.

"He was always helpful, always with a smile. We are very proud of the fact that he was polite to everybody — strangers as well as people he knew," said his mother Jean. "I've seen him offer up a chair in a waiting room to an elderly man when he was only in his teenage years — not just get up and move, but get up and say, 'here you go sir, you have my chair,' I'm very proud of that."

"When he was here he still thanked his mother for dinner every day," said Bernard.

"Whenever he was ever at a meal ... he always thanked the person who prepared the meal for dinner, and Christopher is the same way," said Jean.

As expressions of sympathy, donations to the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters would be appreciated. ∞

- Submitted by Louise Goulding with information from an article by Sarah Bissonette and published in the **Parry Sound North Star** and **parrysound.com**

## Birth Announcement



## Meadow River CALLANDER

Mark and Danielle Callander would like to announce the birth of their daughter, Meadow River Callander. Meadow was born on December 7, 2017 at Royal Victoria Hospital in Barrie. Danielle is an Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen as well as a MNO Regional Advisory Committee/ Métis Awards Committee volunteer. She served as a member of the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council from November 2011 to October 2017. ∞



## Gerard (Jerry) Albert Legault

1931 - 2018

It is with great sadness the family of Gerard (Jerry) Albert Legault announces his passing on February 10, 2018.

He was born in Pentanguishene, Ontario, yet spent most of his adult years in the Western Provinces.

Jerry was a Korean Veteran #1 Royal Canadian Horse Artillery serving 1951-1953, a Charter Member of the Korean Veteran's Association Unit #61 and a member of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #256. He was also a Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) veteran and was featured in the MNO Veterans' Council book *Fighting for Canada* before there was a Canada.

His greatest joy was "meeting the boys" for coffee where he shared his wonderful sense of humour.

He originally wanted to join the Navy, but the office was closed. So he went across the road to the Army office and

enlisted in the Canadian Army (Artillery) on Oct. 19, 1951.

After training at Canadian Force Base Shilo, Manitoba, Jerry attained the position of Gunner First Class.

He served in Korea from 1952 to 1953 and was awarded the Canadian Korea Medal, the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal for Korea, the Canadian Peacekeeping Service Medal and the United Nations Service Medal – Korea. He was later awarded the Queen's Coronation medal.

Jerry will be missed by his wife Marie, his children, and his many friends.

An afternoon to remember the life of Jerry Legault will be held at Sands Funeral Chapel, 1 Newcastle Ave. Nanaimo, on Saturday, March 3, 2018, at 2:00 pm.

- Submitted by MNO Veterans' Council President  
Joseph Paquette



## STORIES

# Relics of the War of 1812

submitted by  
**Jim Turner**  
MNO Senator

The war of 1812 was an event that left a lot of artifacts around Amherstburg and Essex county. There were battles up and down the shoreline and islands in this area. In about a four mile radius there was heavy fighting; and the area is rich in history and artifacts.

The Métis people, First Nations and British soldiers fought shoulder to shoulder against the invading American troops. Fort Malden was strategic in that the Detroit River is very narrow there, and the cannons could blow a ship out of the water.

There is a museum on the grounds with trenches, palisades, bunkhouses, cannons etc. This is where we had the Métis rendezvous this summer. I thought we had a wonderful turnout, although through no fault of our own, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Windsor-Essex-Kent Métis Council couldn't be in full attendance as many were busy or away that weekend.

The MNO Niagara Regional Métis Council was well represented; in fact they were awarded the best encampment. The count was about 600 people per day that came through to enjoy our history and there was even an education day with Métis people helping groups of children understand the culture and who we are. There were busloads of school kids that came from all around the county. The Métis that were there answered all their questions and taught them about our culture, the fur trade, trapping, how to survive and how people roughed it back in the day.

Thanks to everyone that came, it was a great event, but very windy and cool right on the water.

Battles and skirmishes were fought all around Amherstburg and LaSalle and around my home. They say there were about one thousand American troops that landed on the shores just south of our house so there is a probability that there are a lot of artifacts to be found there.

I know several farmers that have shoeboxes of arrowheads and lance points, fleshing tools and all manner of stone tools. A lot of these are dated back thousands of years. Sometimes I find them while walking on the beach or in a field. They aren't easy to spot and you have to have a keen eye.

The water in the Great Lakes has been high the last few years so there isn't much beach left right now. It's a cyclical occurrence, about every five to seven years the water will recede or become very high and erode the shoreline. Next year we are hoping it will go back down a bit so we can go beachcombing once again.

It's a different story if you want to walk a farmer's field. First, you have to get permission, and then there is the problem that there



▲ The grave marker of Simon Girty, who acted as a liaison between the British and their Indigenous allies during the War of 1812.



◀ Coins dating back to Canada's pre-Confederation days, found by Jim Turner.



▲ The ruins of Old Elliott Homestead near Amherstburg. One of Jim Turner's favourite sites for artifact hunting.

**“The Métis people, First Nations and British soldiers fought shoulder to shoulder against the invading American troops. Fort Malden was strategic in that the Detroit River is very narrow there, and the cannons could blow a ship out of the water.”**

could be winter wheat or an early planting of crops that you shouldn't step on. The best time to do this is after plowing and discing and before planting.

Some of the prime spots are private property and because of duck and deer hunting, they frown on people trespassing during that season. There are however a lot of places to explore.

I have a small collection of artifacts, some that are really nice, others that are chipped or broken by farmers plows, discs etc. Many of my friends and neighbors also look for these treasures.

When there is a strong west wind, usually in the fall or spring, the wind pushes the water out about a quarter of a mile.

The shoreline has changed over the last few centuries, and I suspect the waters edge was out that far back then.

One fellow was walking out there and found a few muskets bundled together. There was no wood left but the metal parts were all there;

complete with the flintlocks, trigger, barrels etc. I found a bronze ship's porthole with a thick piece of glass and the latch and hinge attached. It was in beautiful shape so I donated it to the museum. Another time we found a human jawbone sticking out of the sand, which I brought home and gave away.

When we were kids, there was a clay bank that jutted up about 10 feet above the sandy beach. After a rain we would walk along there and you could see bones sticking out. It must have been a burying ground of some sort but it's all washed away now. Some other acquaintances use metal detectors and find a multitude of things from the war. There are guns, hundreds and hundreds of musket balls and brass buttons, medallions, coins and rings.

One of my friends was cutting down a tree for firewood and when he was chain sawing it into pieces he noticed a leather bag sticking out of a hollow spot in the center of the trunk. He managed to get it out intact and opened it up. To his

surprise, inside was a scalp and a long lock of black hair wrapped around a 70 caliber musket ball.

About two miles from our house sat the cabin of Colonel Mathew Elliot. When we were youngsters we used to go in it, but it was very rickety and the upstairs was ready to cave in. It is completely gone now with only a plaque to explain its history. The Métis and First Nations people would meet there and Chief Tecumseh attended on many occasions to help the British plan a strategy to try and defeat the Americans. There was a double fireplace at one end, one for cooking inside one for the guests to cook with on the outside. There are lots of artifacts in the fields around this old house.

About a mile closer to our home stands a monument to Simon Girty. Simon was hired by the British Indian Department as a negotiator, scout and military leader. He is allegedly buried there and when one of my boyhood friends purchased the property and the house, he decided to build a garage. While digging the

foundation, he was sure there were signs of a burial near one corner. He didn't disturb the ground any further and moved the foundation.

Many nice coins have been found on farm fields in the area. I was walking in a field one day and I noticed what looked like a small flat piece of cardboard. I picked it up, wiped the dirt off, and it was a one-cent piece, dated 1852 and issued by the Bank of Upper Canada.

Another time when the water went out, I decided to go for a quick walk just before dark. There was a little tip of white bone sticking out of the sand. I pulled it out and it was a tusk from a wild boar. I asked the curator at the museum his opinion and he said yes, there were wild boars here but thousands of years ago. I decided to incorporate it on one of my chokers.

I have since acquired an old metal detector and I plan to try it in the spring. I doubt that I'll find a treasure chest but even if I find a bottle cap or a penny, that will be exciting. ∞



STORIES

# Trees that mark an ancient trail

submitted by  
**Jim Turner**  
MNO Senator

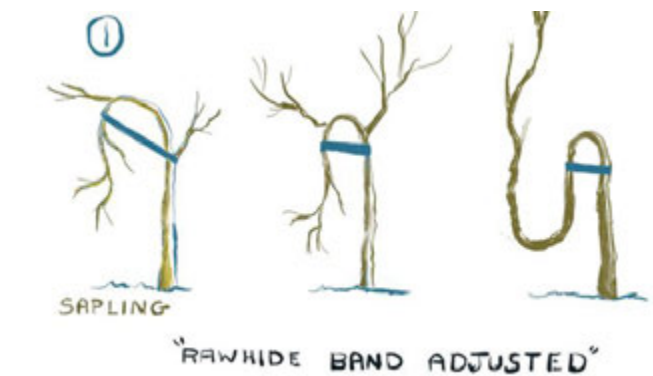
Within a few miles of my home near Amherstburg, Ontario, I have always admired a few trees that are oddly shaped. I can remember them as a youngster. They weren't dead then, but I wanted to share the picture and the story of these type of trees. There were two in particular in the area but due to development, there is only one left now and it is dead. I thought I had better get a picture of it before it is gone as well.

They are trail markers. Our Indigenous ancestors bent these trees as saplings to mark special trails and to guide them to things off the main trail. These people were very clever, as they knew these sign posts would be there for hundreds of years. There are hundreds of these trees around Ontario but not too many are left now that are alive. It is only a matter of time and all of them will be gone forever.

If you happen to see one of these misshaped trees, report it to your local MNO Council and they can get in touch with people who may be able to protect it. As you can tell from the picture; it is in the shape of a horseshoe or badly carved slingshot.

Our ancestors would find a bendable sapling. They gently bent the tree from the middle down towards the ground as far as it would go without cracking and tied a piece of rawhide around it; to hold it in that shape. As it grew, the next year they snugged the rawhide tighter. Through the following years after the rawhide rotted off, the tree kept its shape and grew very big. These were the road signs of old; 200 to 300 hundred years ago.

For the different tribes, it meant different things, but all the people in that area knew what that particular tree meant! It was perhaps pointing the way to the next marker to follow a certain trail. It



▲ This illustration shows the way in which early Indigenous people bent saplings to create trail makers.  
▼ A tree bent to create a trail marker near Jim Turner's home.



could have meant that you were to get off the main trail right there and find good water, food or a safe place to sleep or hunt. It also could have meant that there was very tough terrain ahead. I feel blessed to see one of these in my lifetime, as the next generation probably won't be so lucky. There is a diagram of how they bent the saplings and a photo of the tree near my home

One other story I have to share with you is about a large wolf spider. I was on my bicycle and travelling down a back road that goes through and around a swamp near my house.

I noticed what I thought was a large mouse run across the road ahead of me. It stopped on the gravel edge. I got off the bike and slowly walked up to it. What I thought was a mouse was a very large wolf spider. This particular one was a bit bigger than the palm of your hand and the legs would have hung over the sides of your fingers. I picked off a small stem

from a weed and crouched down to see what was moving on her back. I rubbed the pliable stem on her back and it was covered with her babies. There were about 100 or so. I scraped a few off to see what would happen and they just crawled back on. I knelt there amazed at nature and what she had to offer and just then I had a feeling that I was being watched from behind. As I turned to look around there, standing there about five feet behind me was a coyote. This gave me pause for thought as all sorts of things ran through my mind.

Is it rabid? Is it going to bite me? Is it someone's pet? As it startled me, I startled it with my fast movement while turning and it backed up a few feet, but held its ground.

I figured it is time to get out of there so I stood up, grabbed my bike and started walking down the roadway. The coyote followed me for about 50 feet and then turned back and ate the spider. I guess I was interfering with its lunch. Thinking about it later I guess it was stalking the spider in the weeds and I didn't notice the coyote probably crouching down by then.

I came home and was wondering what my wife and family would say when I told them about it, but was surprised when they believed me. I got on my computer and looked up the wolf spider on the internet. It said one of its enemies are coyotes.

I learned something else that day! ∞



▲ Blake and Cameron

## Dean Lake, Blind River Jensen family harvest

submitted by  
**Jennifer Jensen**  
MNO North Channel Métis Council Secretary

It was a beautiful sunny winter morning, my brother Bobby called and wanted to take my son Blake hunting, along with my brother's son Cameron. I woke my son up and said, "Get ready buddy, your uncle is taking you hunting for a moose!" He jumped out of bed and rounded up his hunting stuff. As we were walking out the door, I looked at my son and said, "I have a good feeling about today" and off we went to my brother's house. Once we arrived I wished them good luck and they did a ceremonial smudging before they left.

Later on that day, I received the call from my brother saying Blake shot a moose! Now the work begins, we got some help from other family members to help take the moose out from the bush. The walk in seemed to take forever until we came upon the moose. We all took a moment to say thank you for the beautiful harvest and providing for our families. On that beautiful sunny day my son shot his moose, which will provide for three families. My son was so proud to be able to help and provide for his family. ∞

## OBITUARY: Remembering Senator Bob Mckay

...continued from page 24

Suzanne Tardif, the parent representative on the committee explained why Bob had been selected for these prestigious awards: "When Senator McKay shares his stories, he not only helps children and youth understand an earlier way of life, he also helps preserve the right cultural history of the Thunder Bay area."

In 2012, Bob received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal that acknowledged his long-term dedication to the cause of achieving Métis rights

and self-government, and in 2014 he was the recipient of the MNO Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award.

When presenting Bob with the Award, former MNO President Gary Lipinski stated: "Your commitment to Métis youth and the Métis community is unprecedented. You actively keep Métis culture alive by sharing our culture and passing on our traditions through the many events that you attend. Through your volunteerism you also educate our youth and the general public on what it means to be Métis. I personally would like

to thank you for your many years of dedication to the betterment of the Métis Nation."

While Bob's work on behalf of Métis people was truly inspiring, what many appreciated even more was his warmth and humour. Until very recently, he was a fixture at every MNO Annual General Assembly (AGA) and when he approached the microphone to speak he would always introduce himself, to everyone's delight, as Brad Pitt. MNO Executive Senator Joseph Poitras said "Bob has a real presence and a quiet, dignified and

courteous demeanor. Bob was always willing to give a leg-up to anyone who needed or asked for help; there are many examples of him doing so. One example that I know first-hand, is that when I got elected to the PCMNO, he gave me copies of his prayers because he knew I would need them."

In his final years, Bob was afflicted with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease). Even faced with this challenge, Bob retained his spirit and wrote MNO citizens to express his gratefulness for their kindness and support. He closed the letter with one of his favourite proverbs

(especially for Métis youth): "A vision without a plan is just a dream. A plan without vision is just drudgery. But a vision with a plan can change the world."

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Lakehead University Achievement Fund, Northern Ontario Medical School, ALS Canada or Canadian Lighthouses of Lake Superior or a charity of your choice will be appreciated. ∞