

LOUIS RIEL DAY • NOVEMBER 16th

# Drawing strength from history

RIEL DAY HIGHLIGHTS: GROWING MÉTIS PRIDE & CELEBRATING “YEAR OF THE MÉTIS”

“Today we gain strength by remembering past struggles and we use that strength to find ways to move forward,” proclaimed Gary Lipinski, President of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), during Louis Riel Day commemorations at Queen’s Park in Toronto on November 16. President Lipinski’s remarks eloquently captured what many Métis people felt across the Homeland as they gathered in their communities to both remember Riel, the heroic defender of Métis rights, and to celebrate their own growing Métis pride. This year’s Louis Riel Day was especially full of meaning because it took place during the *Year of the Métis*, a time designated by the governments of Canada and Ontario to recognize the contributions of Métis people. Even this designation is rich with irony, because the *Year of the Métis* also commemorates the 125th anniversary of the end of the Northwest Resistance, where these same governments attacked the Métis and executed our leader.

As has happened for 18 years in Ontario, Métis people across the province gathered in their communities on November 16, the day Riel was executed, to commemorate Louis Riel through speeches and celebrations of Métis culture. The Métis flag was raised in special ceremonies in many cities and towns across the province. At each of these ceremonies, local Métis leaders and elders along with local

officials spoke of the significance of Louis Riel Day during the *Year of the Métis*. Métis dances and songs were performed and our stories re-told. People gathered together for traditional feasts and celebrated with friends and family.

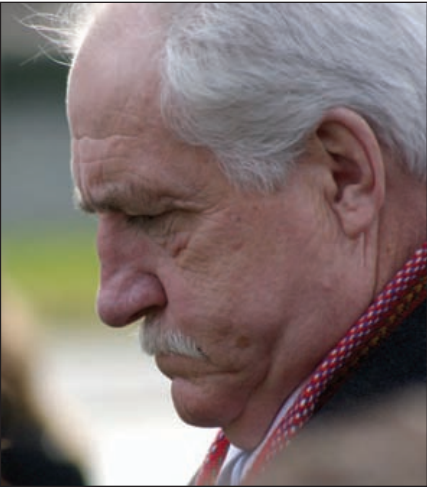
Every Riel Day celebration is special, but it is perhaps the ceremony held at the provincial legislature in Queen’s Park in Toronto that captures most strongly the historical significance of the day. It was the Government of Ontario in that very legislature that declared Louis Riel a criminal, and placed a price on his head, after the Red River Resistance in 1870, which prevented him from taking his duly elected seat in the House of Commons. It was the Legislature of Ontario that on its very own grounds raised a monument to the soldiers who had fought the Métis in Batoche in 1885. Despite this tragic history, on November 16, 2010, Ministers of the Ontario Government gathered with Métis people to remember Riel and recognize his remarkable legacy, and to speak hopefully about the growing positive relationship between Ontario and the MNO.

While often in the past, November 16 has not been a pleasant day for the outdoor ceremonies held at Queen’s Park, this year was a glorious fall day. President Lipinski with the Honourable Chris Bentley, the Ontario Attorney-General

continued page 14

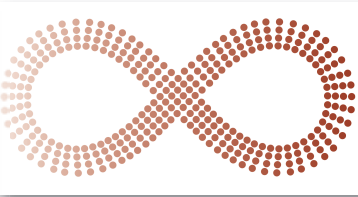


(clockwise from above) Métis lawyer and Riel descendant Jean Teillet; PCMNO Region 4 Councillor, Art Bennet; MNO President Gary Lipinski; Métis fiddler Roger Giroux and Bob Goulais, Nipissing First Nation, honours the Métis Nation by singing the Michif Song.



## MÉTIS WAY

Is the complexity of past and contemporary Métis society lost in the retelling of our history?  
**Page 27**



## REGISTRY

MNO holds province-wide Métis Identification and Registry Community Consultation meetings  
**Page 3**



## MÉTIS RENDEZVOUS

MNO Region 7 holds its annual Métis Rendezvous in Port Severn  
**Page 8**



## HEALTH

Did you know youth have the highest risk of developing gambling related problems?  
**Page 21**

# Announcements

## THE MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

WINTER 2011, No. 64

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## Announcements



Weighing 8 lbs. **Onyx Reath Maksoud** was born at home on August 19, 2010, via water birth. He is a second son for Amanda Desbiens, the MNO's North Bay Healthy Babies and Healthy Children Program Co-ordinator and her husband Joe Maksoud, and a new Métis for North Bay.



Janel Charron and Nathan Vallillee are proud to announce the birth of their son **Taylum Vallillee**. Taylum was born in Timmins on August 25, 2010, weighing 6lbs 5oz. Proud grand parents are Joe and Nicole Charron.



*Blessed with two little babies sweet as can be  
What cherished additions to our family!*

We are delighted to announce the birth of our twins, **Preston John**, 7 lbs 7 oz., and **Samuel Sunny**, 6 lbs 5 oz., born on Friday, September 24, 2010. Proud Parents are Sunny and Laurie Fonjong.



**Mathis Joseph Denis Vien Perron** and his mother Louise Vien attended the Métis Identification and Registry consultations in Ottawa on December 5. Mathis, who was born on November 24, 2010, is so far the youngest person to attend one of the consultation meetings.



Councillor Donald Crawford of the Grand River Community Métis Council recently celebrated the birth of his first great-grandchild, **Joseph Vernon Parsons Crawford**. Above left to right: Donald Crawford, Vernon Crawford Sr., Vernon Crawford Jr., and Joseph Crawford. Donald has served with the GRCMC since its 2007 inception as interim Senator and councillor.

## Spotted



### Ancestor Shrine

This photo is from our campout this past summer. The canoe was hand made by a cousin. I thought I would make a small shrine in honour of my six great-grand-fathers, who are my voyageur ancestors: the Berthiaumes; the Seguins; and the Leroux. – *Senator Jacques Leroux*



### Santa at the Dentist

Do you recognize this Métis Santa? He was discovered getting a little work done at the Rideau Dental Centre. (It's our frequent poet, **Raymond Tremblay**, who helps out the "big guy" from time to time.)

## Special Days



### First Hunting Trip

**Joel Henley**, President of the Kenora Métis Council, and his six year old granddaughter, **Hailey Fortier**. This was Hailey's first hunting trip with her Papa. It was a very exciting and successful day for both of them.



### Homecoming

The Boese Family and the Niagara Region Métis Council received a very special Christmas present. About a week before Christmas **Kevin Boese** returned to his family after a tour of duty in Afghanistan. He was greeted by his parents Doug and Huguette Boese at the airport in Toronto. Welcome home from your friends at the MNO and the *Voyageur*!

### CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES:

After 33 years of serving children, youth and their caregivers, **Louise Logue** has been appointed a Justice of the Peace for Ontario. She will remain in Ottawa.

## Letter to the editor

## The Gift of Sight

Dear Linda,

My name is Fernand (Fern) Tremblay. I have been involved as a volunteer with the Canadian National Institute for The Blind since 1966.

You will agree with me that we are born to die and what a beautiful gift we could leave to someone when we die such as our eyes and or organs.

To promote the donation of tissues and organs I have developed a bilingual donor vinyl sticker to place on a wallet or card holder to identify the bearer as someone who is willing to donate their eyes or organs at death. There are so many visually impaired persons that could benefit from a cornea transplant to allow them to clearly see their loved ones and live a better and more productive life after



**Fern Tremblay and Timmins Mayor, Tom Laughren, proudly display wallets with the bilingual donor vinyl stickers.**

receiving the gift of sight.

I would be happy to provide the Métis Nations' Regional Health Offices with these bilingual donor vinyl stickers at no charge to promote and identify would-be donors.

Proud family member of the Métis Nation.

**Fern Tremblay**

## PROVINCE-WIDE CONSULTATIONS ON MNO REGISTRY:



(clockwise from above) **The crowd at the MNO Métis Identification and Registry Consultation Meeting in Midland on Nov. 20; Chair France Picotte and Larry Duval, President of the Moon River Métis Council in Parry Sound on Nov. 21; MNO President Gary Lipinski at the Parry Sound meeting.**

# Registry Consultations



Over 600 Métis citizens joined MNO President, Gary Lipinski and MNO Chair, France Picotte at 12 Métis Identification and Registry Community Consultation meetings held before Christmas in Welland, Hamilton, Kitchener, Mississauga, Owen Sound, Midland, Parry Sound, Toronto, Oshawa, Peter-

borough, Flinton and Ottawa. At these meetings, President Lipinski updated citizens on the progress the MNO continues to make towards advancing its agenda throughout Ontario. As well, the meetings provided citizens with an opportunity to discuss their priorities and interests in such areas as harvesting rights,

social housing, economic development, the Crown's duty to consult, scholarships and bursaries, promoting Métis culture and care for our elders. Another key aspect of each consultation meeting was a presentation and discussion on the MNO Registry, and its importance to the credibility and integrity of

the MNO and our rights-based agenda. These discussions are part of a multi-year, province-wide consultation process about the Métis identification and registration that the 2010 MNO Annual General Assembly directed the MNO leadership to carry out. These community consultation meetings are Phase I in this

important process. In all, over 30 community consultation meetings will be held throughout the province over the next few months. Details on upcoming meetings will be posted on the MNO website and every MNO citizen will receive an invitation to the meetings held in their communities.

### 2011 AGA

## Moon River Métis Council to host 2011 MNO Assembly in Parry Sound

**The Town of Parry Sound on Georgian Bay will be the venue for the 2011 AGA, taking place at the Bobby Orr Community Centre**

On December 8, 2010, the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) announced that the 2011 Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Annual General Assembly (AGA) will be hosted by the Moon River Métis Council in the small picturesque community of Parry Sound, Ontario, August 20-22, 2011. The business meeting and cultural events of the weekend for the last few years have been preceded by two days of workshops and it is hoped that format will be available this year as well. It looks like an exciting venue for MNO citizens to conduct the

business of the nation, celebrate our proud heritage and culture and reconnect with friends and family. "On behalf of the Moon River Council, we would like to express a warm welcome to all the staff of the Métis Nation of Ontario and to all the Ontario Councils and citizens to this year's AGA. We are honoured and excited to be hosting this event and promise to make it very memorable," stated Larry Duval, the President of the Moon River Council. "We are extremely honoured to be hosting the MNO AGA for the first time," exclaimed Louise Goulding, Chair of the Moon River Council. "Parry Sound will be an ideal location as it is right on Georgian Bay. The Bay was very important to all Métis as our ancestors lived on, and travelled it extensively as voyageurs, fishermen, trappers and lumbermen. The Moon River Métis Council and the Town of Parry Sound will ensure that this will be one of

the most memorable MNO AGAs ever!" Pauline Saulnier, PCMNO Councillor for Region 7, which includes Parry Sound, congratulated the Moon River Council for taking the initiative to host the AGA. "This will be a great event," she said, "let's show the Nation what Region 7 is capable of accomplishing!" MNO President, Gary Lipinski stated: "The Moon River Council has a lot to offer, and along with the local council, I look forward to welcoming MNO citizens to the 2011 AGA. I am confident this will be another productive AGA, where we both learn a lot and enjoy ourselves as we experience the flavour of Métis communities from across the province." Hugging the shores of Georgian Bay, the Town of Parry Sound is the world renowned jewel of the 30,000 Islands of the Georgian Bay. Located approximately two hours north of Toronto, and 45 minutes

away by air, Parry Sound has a year-round population of 18,000 and will welcome the MNO with its small-town charm. The AGA business meeting and many of the associated events are taking place at the Bobby Orr Community Centre with several other great venues available such as the Charles W. Stockey Centre for the Performing Arts, which coincidentally is the home of the Bobby Orr Hall of Fame. Announcements about registration, activities, venues, accommodations and meals will be forthcoming, but for now, mark August 18th-22nd on your calendar for the 2011 MNO AGA!



Energy News

# MNO optimistic about Long-Term Energy Plan

*Plan recognizes importance of Métis participation*

On November 23, 2010, the Government of Ontario, after extensive public consultations, released its Long-Term Energy Plan (LTEP). This updated plan will help guide the province as it continues to build a reliable, clean and cost-effective energy system for Ontario families now and into the future.

The LTEP recognizes that the successful participation by Métis and First Nation communities is important to advance key energy projects. It includes a section on Aboriginal communities and developing opportunities for Aboriginal participation in renewable energy and transmission projects. The plan recognizes that the path forward requires regular and meaningful dialogue between the government and Métis and First Nations leadership.

“This government has clearly demonstrated the respect it has for its relationship with the Métis people of Ontario both through unique program supports and commitment to future relationship building,” said Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President, Gary Lipinski. “I look forward to continued opportunities for discussion as proposed by Ontario in the LTEP. The government’s clean energy plan is in line with our environmental values and we appreciate being able to play an important role and to benefit from the realization of the clean green economy of the future.”

In particular, the following aspects of the LTEP are encouraging to the MNO:

- Ontario’s commitment to meeting its duty to consult Métis and First Nation communities and accommodate these communities if the potential exists that these communities could be adversely impacted;
- provision of capacity funding for aboriginal communities that are discussing partnerships on future transmission projects;
- distinct processes for working with Métis and First Nation communities;
- programs to support conservation initiatives (participation in conservation initiatives, including Aboriginal Community Energy Plans and targeted conservation programs);
- opportunities for Métis and First Nations communities in the renewable energy sector.

DUTY TO CONSULT:



(Left to right) **Robert Pellerin, President of the Ottawa Métis Council; Gary Lipinski, President of the Métis Nation of Ontario; Tom Thompson Jr., President of the Seven Rivers Métis Council; and JoAnne Wass, Region 6 Councillor.**

## Métis Nation of Ontario signs seventh Regional Consultation Protocol

On October 18, 2010, The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) signed the seventh of its Regional Consultation Protocols. The Protocol was signed between the MNO and the Ottawa Regional and Seven Rivers Métis Councils to help ensure Métis in the region are effectively engaged and consulted.

Gary Lipinski, President of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) joined Robert Pellerin, President

of the Ottawa Métis Council, Tom Thompson Junior, President of the Seven Rivers Métis Council and JoAnne Wass, Region Six Councillor on the Provisional Council of the MNO at the signing ceremony in Ottawa. The event formalized the traditional working relationship that exists among the Métis in the region.

“The signing of this Protocol is an important part of the MNO’s Consultation Framework, which

was developed based on province-wide consultations on the Crown’s duty to consult and accommodate back in 2008,” President Lipinski said. “It demonstrates the commitment of Ontario Métis to work together to ensure all citizens have input when projects related to land use planning, energy, mining and forestry on Métis traditional lands are proposed,” he added.

MÉTIS WOMEN’S ASSEMBLY



(left to right - standing) **Lisa Pigeau, Patricia Lejour, Sharon McBride, Phoebe Mandry, Pearl Gabona, Brenda Powley, Colette Surovy, Barbaranne Wright, Pat Taylor, Lynn Pantuso,** (seated) **newly elected WMN President, Melanie Omeniho.**

## MNO participates in founding of ‘Women of the Métis Nation’

Ten women, representing the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), participated in the historic founding assembly of the Women of the Métis Nation (WMN) in Saskatoon, Sask. The WMN is now the national voice representing Métis women in Canada, within the governance structure of the Métis National Council.

The MNO delegation included Sharon McBride, Spokesperson

for the MNO Women’s Secretariat and Vice-chair of the MNO. Delegates from all five of the governing members of the Métis National Council attended this event, which elected Melanie Omeniho as the WMN National Interim President.

The WMN will address important issues facing Métis communities such as child suicide, access to health care, jobs and the growing number of missing and murdered

Aboriginal women. The WMN is calling on the federal government to fulfill its promise of providing 10 million dollars for investigating the number of missing and murdered Aboriginal women in Canada. The WMN is also calling on Ottawa to provide the support and services to help Métis women entrepreneurs grow businesses that will create jobs in their communities.

Funding News

# Our Missing Sisters

*Feds announce funding to address tragedy of hundreds of murdered and missing Aboriginal women*

On October 29, 2010, the federal government announced \$10 million in funding to address the tragedy of hundreds of murdered and missing Aboriginal women and girls.

Women of the Métis Nation President, Melanie Omeniho, says, “Although it is promising that the federal government is taking steps to address the issue, it is disappointing that they did not recognize the need for consultation and importance of working at the grassroots level to make best use of this opportunity for change.

“The decision to provide the RCMP with \$4 million dollars to expand their missing women and unidentified remains branch could be better spent. The police and authorities cannot help find solutions without first understanding the communities they need to work with and for.”

Other notable concerns include imposing a region-specific funding requirement that only includes the western provinces and has no Aboriginal-specific nor women and girls-specific requirements for approval.

## Helping Urban Aboriginal People

*McGuinty Government Invests In Friendship Centres*

Ontario is partnering with the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres to build or renovate friendship centres so they continue to play a prominent role in the lives of urban Aboriginal people.

Over the next three years, a number of friendship centres will receive funding through the \$8-million capital initiative for renovations of existing facilities and new building projects.

This program will support the creation of short-term construction and renovation jobs across Ontario and is part of the “Open Ontario Plan” to create jobs and strengthen the province’s economy.

Sylvia Maracle, Executive Director of the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres, said: “Friendship Centres desperately need to address health and safety issues and space requirements. This new capital will permit them to better provide their services and programs to urban Aboriginal people.”

Aboriginal Skills and Employment Strategy (ASETS)

# MNO to receive \$30.6 million for Employment & Training over five years

“This funding will have a lasting inter-generational impact. It will help our citizens develop skill sets and qualifications that will have ripple effects across the province.” – MNO President, Gary Lipinski

November 22, 2010, was a great day for the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) as MNO President Gary Lipinski, welcomed to the MNO head office in Ottawa, Shelly Glover, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Secretary Glover, who is a proud Métis woman from St. Boniface, Manitoba, the home of Louis Riel, spoke warmly about feeling she was among family at the MNO. “I usually don’t smile quite this much,” said Secretary Glover, “but when you are with family, that’s what happens!”

With CBC cameras present, and before an audience of MNO and Human Resources and Skills Development (HRSDC) staff, the MNO and HRSDC formally announced the MNO’s new five-year \$30.6 million agreement for employment and training programs through HRSDC’s Aboriginal Skills and Employment Strategy (ASETS) program. The MNO’s solid employment and

training delivery foundation combined with an ongoing commitment to partnership and skills development culminated in MNO being the first ASETS agreement approved in Ontario.

President Lipinski thanked the HRSDC for investing in the MNO over the next five years stating: “Métis are a proud people who have contributed to the building of this province and Canada. This funding will have a lasting inter-generational impact. It will help our citizens develop skill sets and qualifications that will have ripple effects across the province because having a career will improve life in all other areas, which will then have positive impacts on families and communities.”

Parliamentary Secretary Glover, who was representing the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of HRSDC, congratulated President Lipinski and the MNO for its record of success. “The MNO has grown under your leadership” she told President Lipinski, “and while



(Left to right) Bruce Stanton, Chair of the Parliamentary Committee on Aboriginal Affairs; Shelly Glover, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development; and, Gary Lipinski, President of the MNO, on November 22, 2010, in the MNO head office in Ottawa.

you have faced many challenges, you and your team have overcome them.” Secretary Glover called on Métis to celebrate their success and not to rest, “until the Métis story is one success story after another from beginning to end.”

Bruce Stanton, the Chair of the Parliamentary Committee on Aboriginal Affairs, also attended the media event. Commenting on the large Métis population in his own riding of Simcoe North, Chair Stanton said: “The Métis are very connected with the success in our region. Announce-

ments like the one today demonstrate that we will continue to work together. I look forward to many new accomplishments in the months and years ahead.”

MNO Chair France Picotte, who has worked tirelessly for the advancement of Education and Training issues within the MNO, was unable to attend the media event and was missed by all participants. Her work has been critical to MNO’s ongoing success in the education and training field.

The ASETS agreement will allow the MNO to expand upon an established employment and

training delivery structure and design new programs and services for Métis people in Ontario. As a result, many Métis will secure jobs over the duration of the project, and Aboriginal youth will get help to return to school or to find full-time work.

“Métis people across Ontario,” concluded President Lipinski, “understand the significant benefits of this agreement to their families and communities and to all families and all communities in Canada. Long term investments like the one announced today benefit all of us.”

## MNO congratulates Audrey Poitras on receiving National Aboriginal Achievement Award



**November 23/10** – On behalf of Ontario Métis, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Gary Lipinski, congratulated Audrey Poitras for being selected to receive a 2011 National Aboriginal Achievement Award.

The Awards were created by the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation in 1993, in conjunction with the United Nation’s *International Decade of the World’s Indigenous Peoples*. The awards recognize the outstanding career achievements of First Nations, Inuit and Métis people, in diverse occupations.

Audrey, as the President of the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA), has been selected to receive the award for political service. She was elected as the first female president of the MNA in 1996. Since then, Audrey has been re-elected by Alberta Métis for four consecutive terms. As MNA President, she has advanced the interests and rights of Alberta Métis as well as the



**Métis Nation of Alberta President, Audrey Poitras (left) with MNO President, Gary Lipinski (centre) and MNO Chair, France Picotte (right) in August 2010, signing the Memorandum of Understanding between the MNO and the MNA.**

Métis Nation as a whole. Her full biography is available at [www.naaf.ca](http://www.naaf.ca).

MNO President, Gary Lipinski, said, “Over her years of dedicated service to the Métis Nation, Audrey has been a shining example of Métis leadership with integrity and credibility. She is a role model for many and is known for unwavering commitment to advancing the interests

and rights of the Métis in Alberta and the entire Métis Nation. This award could not go to a more deserving Métis citizen.”

In August 2010, President Lipinski and President Poitras signed a MOU to strengthen the relationship between Ontario and Alberta Métis as well as to share best practices between the MNA and MNO in order to benefit Métis in both provinces.

### MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO EDUCATION AND TRAINING BRANCH SEEKING MÉTIS VOLUNTEERS

The Métis Nation of Ontario Education and Training (MNOET) Branch is seeking Métis community members who are interested in volunteering their time as members of the Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) or the Métis Awards Committee (MAC). These roles offer an opportunity to make valuable contributions to Métis communities across Ontario. RAC and MAC members assist in the review of employment and training services in keeping with MNOET 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). While reviews are ongoing, 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. MNOET will provide the tools necessary to assist us with making informed decisions
- RAC/MAC work is strictly voluntary

What a great way to provide valuable feedback to our communities.

*If you are interested in this position or would like to know more please contact Guylaine Morin Cleroux for more information:*

**[guylainem@metisnation.org](mailto:guylainem@metisnation.org)  
or 1-800-263-4889 ext. 116.**

# An Afternoon of Celebration

Métis Nation of Ontario signs agreement with Central East LHIN

By NATALIE LLOYD  
Health Branch Supervisor

Natalie Lloyd (seated on left) signs the Central East Local Health Integration Network (CE LHIN) LHIN Terms of Reference on behalf of the MNO. Signing with Natalie is Deborah Hammons, CEO of the CE LHIN. Standing on the left is Foster Loucks, Chair of the CE LHIN who also signed the agreement with the MNO. The other four people were signers of a separate agreement with local First Nations.

On Sept 30, 2010, I had the pleasure of attending the signing ceremony for the Terms of Reference with the Central East Local Health Integration Network (CE LHIN) for the Métis, Inuit and Urban and Non-Status Indians. At the same event, the First Nations Terms of Reference was also signed by representatives of local First Nations communities. Representatives from the mainstream health care system also attended. The Alderville First Nation was the host for the day, and welcomed everyone into their beautiful community centre.

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) was well represented with approximately ten citizens attending including: Senators Reta Gordon, André Bosse, Olive Tiedema, and representatives from the Northumberland, Wapiti and Oshawa and Durham Métis Councils. All of the Métis in attendance proudly wore sashes for the occasion.

Senator André Bosse carried the Métis



(Left to right, seated) **Natalie Lloyd, Senator Andre Bosse, Senator Olive Tiedema** (standing) **Terry Bloom, Brenda Bosse, Senator Reta Gordon, Cecile Wager, Claire Kearns and Gregory Bloom.**

flag during the opening that also included an honour song and youth and adult traditional dancers. The youngest dancer was a jingle dress dancer who could not have been more than four years old, but who danced with intensity beyond her years. Representatives of the Alderville First Nation welcomed the participants and spoke of the importance of addressing the health issues through the CE LHIN. An Elder from the community provided a prayer, which was followed by a smudging to clean the room to ensure the energy going into the signing was clear of any negativity, and also supported the CE LHIN moving forward positively.

The chiefs from Curve Lake and Hiawatha First Nations shared powerful

words on the significance of this day, and then I had the honour of speaking on behalf of the MNO. I reflected on my drive to Alderville First Nation with Senator Gordon and how we both enjoyed the beautiful colours of the changing leaves in the slow steady rain. I then spoke about how the signing in 2010 is special for Métis people in Ontario and across Canada because both the provincial and federal governments declared 2010 the “Year of the Métis Nation”. For too long the contributions of Métis people to both the Aboriginal community and to Canada have been downplayed, ignored or denied, but with the signing of the CE LHIN Terms of Reference, we can say the Métis voice has been heard and today we can say “you count”.

Several local Métis citizens were instrumental in opening the doors of the CE LHIN to the MNO. These include Art Henry, his mother Rose and his sister Kelly Semjan. Marsee (thank you) should also be extended to Senator Andre Bosse, Brenda Bosse and Dawn Boston for working with the LHIN to develop the Terms of Reference. Jai Mills, the Aboriginal Liaison Representative, with the CE LHIN also played a critical role by asking questions, listening and understanding the concerns and reality of the groups involved in CE LHIN.

The importance of tying the Métis relationship with the CE LHIN was signified with the presentation of a sash to Foster Loucks, the CE LHIN Chair by Senators Bosse and Gordon. They shared that the sash was not just a garment, but also a tool to help Métis voyageurs carry large loads. We asked the Chair to use it to help carry the large load necessary to move forward on issues of Métis and Aboriginal health.

Following presentations by James Meloche, the Senior Director of Planning, Integration and Community Engagement, and Deborah Hammons, CEO of LHIN, the two Terms of Reference were signed with drummers providing a suitable accompaniment. Following the ceremony, Chair Foster presented everyone with a gift of tobacco to signify the sealing of the agreement.

To say the least, the attention to detail and the respect shown throughout the day was truly beautiful. The MNO looks forward to building on these relationships and future meetings are already being planned. I would encourage all Métis citizens to learn about the LHIN in their areas and check out the [www.lhins.on.ca](http://www.lhins.on.ca)

PARTNERSHIPS WITH INDUSTRY

## Detour Gold and MNO sign Memorandum of Understanding

Detour Gold Corporation (TSX: DGC) (“Detour Gold” or the “Company”) is pleased to announce that the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and Detour Gold have formally signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to guide their working relationship in regard to the development of the Detour Lake gold mine in north-eastern Ontario.

“Based on the positive relationship-building efforts we have been making over the past year with Detour Gold, we developed this MOU collaboratively to guide engagement and consultation with the regional rights-bearing Métis communities in the James Bay/Abitibi-Témiscamingue traditional territories. I am pleased that the MNO was able to sign its first MOU in the mineral sector with Detour Gold and I applaud Detour Gold’s pro-active efforts in working with the Métis Nation,” said MNO President, Gary Lipinski.

Gerald Panneton, President and CEO of Detour Gold, added: “Since the acquisition of the Detour Lake project, we have been committed to working and consulting with all local communities, including the First Nation and Métis people. This initial

agreement represents a milestone in our continuing working relationship with the Métis community as we plan to build upon it to provide opportunities to the regional Métis. The development of the Detour Lake mine will provide positive economic and employment benefits to all the local communities in the region.”

The MOU details the way the local Métis have been and will be consulted regarding the development of the project and if there is an impact on Métis way of life, then how the parties will work together to address them in an accommodation agreement based on impacts.

MNO Regional Councillor Marcel Lafrance, Chair of the James Bay / Abitibi-Témiscamingue Consultation Committee, commented: “Our community has worked hard with Detour Gold and we are very proud of our positive relationship and successful negotiations.”

**About Detour Gold**

*Detour Gold is a Canadian gold exploration and development company whose primary focus is to advance the development of its flagship Detour Lake gold project located in north-eastern Ontario towards production.*

PARTNERSHIPS WITH INDUSTRY

## Union Gas and MNO sign relationship Agreement

Formalizes the process for engagement and consultation

On October 14, 2010, The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and Union Gas Limited, a Spectra Energy company, signed an agreement that will guide their future working relationship in Ontario.

“Based on province-wide consultations with Métis communities on the duty to consult in 2007, the MNO’s leadership was directed to establish positive working relationships with companies like Union Gas in order to guide future engagement and consultation with regional Métis communities in Ontario. I am very pleased that the MNO was able to sign a relationship agreement with Union Gas and I applaud Union Gas’s pro-active efforts in working with the Métis Nation,” said MNO President, Gary Lipinski.

The agreement formalizes the process for engagement and consultation between Union Gas and regional Métis communities in Ontario on construction projects occurring within Métis traditional homelands in the province.



**Julie Dill, President of Union Gas (left) and Gary Lipinski, MNO President (right).**

“Union Gas strives to be the partner of choice for communities and that includes building long-term productive relationships with citizens of the Métis Nation based on mutual respect and economic opportunity,” said Union Gas President, Julie Dill. “That’s why we are thrilled to be entering into this new partnership.”

The two-year agreement reflects the MNO and Union Gas’s ongoing efforts to work together in a forward-looking, productive and transparent manner. It builds on the process for Union Gas to make use of the

MNO’s consultation framework in order to engage and consult Métis communities as early as possible in the planning for projects that have the potential to impact their traditional way of life, in areas such as hunting, fishing and harvesting of medicinal plants and herbs.

Union Gas also seeks to identify business development and procurement opportunities that assist Aboriginal peoples by creating jobs, introducing training opportunities or addressing the social or economic needs of a particular community.

House of Commons

# Advancing Métis Issues by Working Together

## MNO Position Raised in House of Commons

by Gary Lipinski  
President, Métis Nation of Ontario

Another example of the effectiveness of the MNO's efforts to advance Métis issues was recently demonstrated in the House of Commons.

At the 2010 Annual General Assembly, MNO citizens passed a motion calling on the federal government to reverse its plans to eliminate the mandatory long-form census. Community councils and Métis citizens were encouraged to contact their Members of Parliament requesting that these Métis concerns be conveyed to the Honourable Tony Clement, the Minister of Industry and to the Harper Government in Ottawa.

In response, Marlene Davidson, the President of the Atikokan Métis Council wrote to her Member of Parliament, John Rafferty, who represents Thunder Bay-Rainy River. As a direct result, Mr. Rafferty raised the census issue in the House of Commons and in his remarks quoted extensively from Marlene's letter, which forcefully outlined the MNO position on the census.

On behalf of the MNO, I want to thank Marlene, the Atikokan Community Council and all other MNO Community Councils and Métis citizens who have raised this issue with their local Members of Parliament. This is another example of how we can effectively raise and advance the Métis Nation's agenda by working together.

MICHIF

# Métis Council receives funding

The Kenora Métis Council received a grant of \$20,000 this past fall to be used to support the Michif language. Lessons and a lending library are planned.

MP Greg Rickford visited the Métis Centre in person to make this, his first announcement as Parliamentary Secretary for Official Languages.

PROVINCIAL RELATIONS

# Anniversary of Framework Agreement with Ontario marked

Following a series of successful Louis Riel Day and "Year of the Métis" events held throughout the province on November 16th, the MNO's leadership and the Ontario Government issued a progress report on the MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement.

"The Métis Progress Report" was developed in collaboration with the Ontario Government, and outlines many of the collaborative initiatives that have been pursued and achieved through the Framework Agreement.

"Today marks the two year anniversary of the signing of our historic Framework Agreement with the Ontario Government. I am pleased to provide this progress report to our citizens and communities in order to show the tangible results we have achieved so far," said MNO President, Gary Lipinski.

Lipinski added, "This anniversary also provides us an opportunity to take stock and assess where we have been successful and where we want to go in the future with respect to priorities under the Framework Agreement process. I look forward to hearing about the priorities of our Métis citizens and communities, as a part of the MNO's province-wide community consultation process that is currently ongoing."

The MNO's leadership and



David Zimmer, Parliamentary Secretary to the Honourable Chris Bentley, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs presents MNO President, Gary Lipinski with a certificate recognizing the second anniversary of the MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement.

the Ontario Minister for Aboriginal Affairs signed the MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement on November 17th, 2008. The Framework Agreement commits the MNO and the Ontario Government to promote the mutually agreeable objectives of: strengthening the MNO; recognizing and promoting Métis his-

tory and culture; enhancing the well-being of Métis individuals, families and communities; and, facilitating the recognition of Métis rights in Ontario.

For information on the *MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement* visit [www.metisnation.org](http://www.metisnation.org)

# MNO contributions recognized at Prince Arthur's Landing

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) was front-and-centre at a ceremony held on September 17 in Thunder Bay to celebrate the one year anniversary of the Prince Arthur's Landing Waterfront Development Project. The first phase of the Prince Arthur's Landing Development involves preparation for future construction and the development of attractions. Preparations include electrical installations, water systems, foundation piles for piers, boardwalk renewal and break wall relocation. When the project is complete, the attractions will include a water garden, skating rink, splash pad and a spirit garden. It is anticipated that Phase 1 will be completed by the end of March 2011.

The MNO is among the partners involved in the project, along with the federal government, the provincial government and the City of Thunder Bay. As the terms of reference for the project include Aboriginal consultation, particularly in respect to the environment, the MNO has been directly involved in the development and consultations on the

Spirit Garden that will be located on Wilson Island in Lake Superior.

The MNO was well represented at the ceremony by PCMNO Secretary-Treasurer, Tim Pile; Region 2 PCMNO Representative, Cam Burgess; and Thunder Bay Métis Community Council President, Wendy Landry. The MNO delegation was joined by Prime Minister, Stephen Harper; provincial Minister of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry, Michael Gravelle; and the Mayor of Thunder Bay, Lynn Peterson. Minister Gravelle and Mayor Peterson both specifically acknowledged the contributions of the MNO in their remarks, and Minister Gravelle introduced our MNO representatives to Prime Minister Harper. Secretary-Treasurer Pile presented the Prime Minister and Minister Gravelle with "Year of the Métis Nation" pins and a group photograph was taken for the occasion.

The MNO's involvement in this huge project, and our recognition at this ceremony, provide another example of the growing influence and prominence of the Métis Nation of Ontario.

QUEEN'S PARK



MNO President, Gary Lipinski (left) and MNO Chair, France Picotte (centre) with Premier Dalton McGuinty (right) during their meeting on Monday, December 13, 2010.

# MNO leadership meets with Premier McGuinty

President Gary Lipinski and Chair France Picotte of the Métis Nation of Ontario met with Premier Dalton McGuinty and Minister Chris Bentley at the Ontario Legislature. This

annual meeting gives the Premier and Minister an opportunity to listen to the MNO on a variety of issues allowing us to strengthen and move our relationship forward.



# MNC welcomes Canada's long awaited endorsement of UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

On November 12, 2010, the Métis National Council (MNC) expressed approval of Canada's endorsement of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) as a positive step for the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms for Canada's Aboriginal population.

MNC President, Clément Chartier says: "Ever since September, 2007, when the UN adopted the UNDRIP, the Métis Nation has been urging Canada to reverse its decision not to support the UNDRIP. Today, Canada finally listened and we congratulate the government on taking this important step."

President Chartier adds: "This decision helps to clear the way for a positive, constructive path forward for the Métis Nation and all Canadians in addressing many of the challenges facing our people across the Homeland."

The Métis National Council and its governing members are ready to work closely with the Government of Canada in adopting the UNDRIP's core principles of mutual respect, equality, partnership and good faith.

# Community Council News

MNO REGION 7 | RENDEZVOUS 2010 HELD IN PORT SEVERN

# Métis Rendezvous ‘10

by **Rachelle Brunelle-McColl**

My family and I have been involved with the *Métis Rendezvous* from its first year and it has become a tradition. It has made us even more proud of who we are and our culture. It represents learning, living and loving everything about being Métis. The music and dancing have always been in our blood and when the fiddle starts to play our feet just need to move.

My children have also learnt many wonderful things by being at the Rendezvous--more than anything, respecting the culture and being able to say they are proud! My first son, Camden, was only eight weeks old when he first attended in 2006 and experienced his first smudge. It was a beautiful moment and he slept for almost eight hours straight as well! (Not sure what all that tobacco was spiked with.)

His second year he was dressed to impress with his voyageur shirt made by our friend Ruth Quesnelle and his sash given to him by Scott Carpenter. That year he sat on top of his pèpère's shoulders (Victor Brunelle) and wandered the grounds of the *Rendezvous* in amazement at everything he could see, hear, smell and taste. This was his first real



**Nathan Thomas McColl takes in the sights at the 2010 Métis Rendezvous under the watchful eye of mom, Rachelle Brunelle-McColl and Lisa McCron (bottom right).**



experience of being Métis. It brought happy tears to my eyes to see him on the cover of the fall/winter 2007 *Voyageur*--a close up picture of my father with my son on his shoulders. My uncle even had a print of it framed for us for our wedding. It is just so beautiful and it now sits at my front entrance for everyone to see.

This year, my youngest son, Nathan, who is 14 months old wore his brother's shirt and sash and had his own real Métis experience. You could smell bannock cooking over an open fire, hear fiddle music playing on a beautifully decorated stage along with laughter from the children at the voyageur games area. There was so much to see and learn that my son just walked everywhere over and over looking at what best describes his Métis pride--geese hanging on display, hides and furs, along with many arts and crafts. Even if it wasn't the warmest fall day, the warmth in the air was beyond belief. To see my children grow with the opportunity to learn and be part of their culture is more than I could ever ask for.

To sum it up: The *Métis Rendezvous* is more than just a yearly event; it's tradition and always will be. Thank you to the planning committee along with all the volunteers who made this day so successful and so special for my family.



GRAND RIVER MÉTIS COMMUNITY COUNCIL:

## Métis receive grant to bring cultural knowledge to youth

by **Barb Rusk**

The Grand River Métis Community Council recently received a grant from The Department of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages.

Presented by Stephen Woodworth, Member of Parliament for Kitchener Centre, on behalf of the Honourable James Moore, the purpose of the grant is to

help bring cultural and traditional knowledge to the youth of the community.

"Like every ethnic group, it is important for their cultural heritage to be passed from one generation to the next, otherwise it will be lost forever," said MP Woodworth. "I am pleased that our government places such a high value on preserving the traditions and culture of all Canadians."

## Council Prez wins at Seniors' Games

The Ontario Senior Games, Activefest, was held in Oshawa with 1,260 athletes requested to compete in 20 different sports, ranging from golf to slow pitch, swimming, tennis, bocce, darts and bowling among others.

To compete at this level, athletes must have qualified as senior champions in their local district, which allows them the chance to test their skills against other champions across Ontario.

The Ontario Senior Games provide adults 55 years plus an opportunity to increase their

social interaction and to maintain and enhance their physical and psychological well-being through participation in recreational activities and sports.

Congratulations to Trent Desaulniers on winning the gold medal in golf. Trent is President of the Superior North Shore Métis Council and was sponsored by the Geraldton and Area Métis Council.

Former MNO President, Tony Belcourt, has given Trent fair warning that he intends to challenge him next year. Stay Tuned!

## Canning Workshop & Harvest Feast in Renfrew

By **Shannon Davis**  
*Community Wellness Coordinator*  
RENFREW

The Renfrew office would like to express its appreciation and sincere gratitude to Darlene Gauthier, Linda Thibodeau and Monica Owl for their help in preparing for our workshop and feast. On September 15th the smell of fresh tomatoes, onions, peppers and spices filled the air as Linda Thibodeau facilitated a canning workshop. Linda showed the community how to make and can salsa.

On September 29, 2010, laughter and conversation were heard throughout the Renfrew office. Elder Darlene Gauthier made delicious venison stew which everyone enjoyed. Monica Owl made scrumptious bannock for the citizens. The Métis community united to celebrate the beauty of autumn and the harvest that the earth had provided us this year. On behalf of the Renfrew office we would like to wish the Métis Nation a happy and safe New Year!

## Métis Nation in the Thunder Bay Christmas Parade

by **Joan Panizza**  
*Community Wellness Coordinator*  
THUNDER BAY

November 20 was National Child Day and in Thunder Bay it was our annual Christmas Parade. Kerry New, CAP-C Coordinator seized the opportunity to enter a float for the Métis Nation.

It is estimated that up to 35,000 people line the parade route for this annual event. Seeing ourselves showcased was a

proud Métis moment. From the snowman and snow shoes to the 20 foot long sash and traditional games this float was the culmination of many hours of planning, organizing, decorating, and the inevitable troubleshooting. Kerry was able to get the help of more than 12 different families to pull this feat off. We have to give a big hats-off to Kerry, Liisa, and all their families. You did the Métis Nation of Ontario proud for this annual event!

HISTORIC SAULT STE. MARIE MÉTIS COUNCIL



above: **Jacinthe Trudeau and daughter Victoria.**

# Invitation to jig in the Soo

by Anne Trudel

The Métis Dance Club of Algoma, encompassing the Historic Sault Ste. Marie and North Channel Métis Communities, continues to offer fun, physically active heart pumping step dancing. Started in 2006 the club practices on selected Monday nights from 7:00 to 8:00 P.M. at the Sault Métis Centre. For specific times and events, contact either Senator Brenda Powley or me, Anne Trudel.

This year we are very pleased to introduce Elders Clifford Saunders (First Nation fiddle player) and Eugene Provencher (mouth organ). With Elder Saunders on the fiddle we have started our own band made up of local Métis musicians who play guitar (Brandon Boyer, Jordan Stolar, Neil and Rebekah Trudel), mouth organ and jew's harp (Cody Rydal), drums and guitar (Brent McHale), and accordion/key board (Anne Trudel). The list of musicians fluctuates. Because our events are held at a variety of locations and times during the day, not all musicians or all dancers are available for every event. If you are a musician, dancer or square dance

caller, please share your talents. Do not let skill level or shyness limit your involvement. We do not force anyone to perform, but sometimes strongly push a talented youth who just needs some encouragement.

We have yearly events in the Algoma and Sault Ste. Marie region such as Bruce Mines Community Day, Fort St. Joseph Parks Canada, Old Stone House Fall Rendezvous, Passport to Unity. We also exhibit at local Métis gatherings.

This year the dance club stepped out of our region and were invited to Sudbury for the "Northern Aboriginal Festival" held the first weekend of October. This yearly grand scale powwow event held in the Sudbury Arena comes to fruition due to the hard work of First Nation and Métis volunteers. Local Sudbury Métis, Gail Charbonneau, Métis Facilitator from Cambrian College, and Bobbi Aubin, Laurentian University Métis Outreach worker, volunteer their time to make this event a reality. They even provided us with the outstanding music of Jacinthe Trudeau and her band "Jacinthe Trudeau". Being optimistic, I foresee Sudbury Region having its own Métis

dance club in the future, especially with access to fiddle playing musicians like Mrs. Trudeau. I even challenge our MNO Region 4 youth representative Mitchell Case and his drum group White Frost to be in attendance at the next festival.

Rebekah and I had the opportunity to return to Sudbury to perform and present Métis culture at the Ontario Native Women's Association's 39th Annual General Assembly on October 16, 2010. Once again, we danced to the music of Jacinthe Trudeau of Sudbury and guitar player Geoff Horricks of Ottawa. Mr. Horricks is also interested in the Métis dancers and would like to have a Métis dance group in Ottawa to access. To our enjoyment, at this assembly we met fellow Métis women. It was a warm welcome that we received from our Métis Nation of Ontario Provincial vice chair Sharon McBride.

In the same cordial sincerity, the Métis Dance Club of Algoma challenges and invites Métis people throughout this province to join us for fun, physically active heart pumping step dancing. Enjoy your heritage, get jigging!



clockwise from above: **Tammy Hill, Rebekah Trudel, and Ariel Biron; Jean-Marie Wissell, Christine Viens, Neil Trudel; Bobbi Aubin, Laurentian University Métis Outreach-worker and Gail Charbonneau, Métis Facilitator from Cambrian College.**

## Métis Student Success

# With a little help from her friends -- at MNO

"Thanks to MNOET, I was able to enjoy my college years without financial worries"

by Rebekah Wilson

Since before I can remember, I have wanted to be a writer. I have always had a creative flare for things and recall finding a particular joy in tagging along with my dad to work on days that I stayed home sick from school.

When I was young, my dad worked for *The Dundalk Herald*, a local weekly newspaper. On days that I was too sick to go to school, my dad would take me to the office with him where he could keep an eye on me. He would sit me down with a notepad and a pencil and I would write away to my heart's content. Occasionally, I would also draw pictures, cut them out and then stick them back in my notepad using the office's glue machine. One of my most exciting adventures was when my dad let me put a photo through the glue machine and place it in the newspaper layout (yes, this was before the layout process became digital).

In elementary school, I always excelled in my English and writing courses. I was even told in seventh grade that my writing skills topped out at a grade twelve level! So, while my fellow students were dreaming of careers as doctors and lawyers and movie stars, I was fantasizing about my byline on the *Globe & Mail's* front page.

After high school I took a year off and moved to Calgary to work as a portrait photographer but returned in 2007 to begin studying *Print Journalism* at Sheridan College. The program was phenomenal and taught me aspects of print, video, online and new media journalism. I also delved into some photojournalism and dabbled in broadcast. These were long, exhausting days but I loved each and every moment.

I was in class almost daily from 9am to 6pm which didn't leave much time for part-time work, and so I was finding it hard to afford rent in student housing and to keep food in the fridge. I was nearly at my wit's end – I couldn't give up on my dream now but I didn't know where to turn.

Through connections with my family's local Métis community, I got in touch with Scott Carpenter who helped me to fill out an application for post-secondary funding through the Métis Nation of Ontario's Education and Training Branch which came through at just the right time! My school schedule got even



more intense and textbook costs were piling up. Finally, with financial support from the MNO, I could focus on my class work and assignments and not have to worry that when I got home, my cupboards would be bare.

I graduated with high honours from the program in April of 2009 following an exciting and successful internship with a small town newspaper, *The Creemore Echo*. In October of that same year, I moved to Ottawa and began work with the Métis Nation of Ontario and was able to give back a little in my work as a Registry and Communications assistant.

**"I could focus on my class work and assignments and not have to worry that when I got home, my cupboards would be bare."**

In November of 2010, I began my work with "Motivate Canada", a Canadian charity that encourages youth to become positive role models through engaging in sport and physical activity and taking on leadership roles within their communities. I am the program coordinator for one of the organization's Aboriginal programs called the GEN7 Aboriginal Role Model Program. GEN7 aims to engage First Nations, Inuit and Métis youth in sport and physical activity while also tackling the unique issues that face them. My job duties include coordinating travel for GEN7 Role Models to Aboriginal communities, website updates and maintenance as well as the design and creation of promotional materials.

Thanks to MNOET, I was able to enjoy my college years without financial worry and landed a job I love working with motivated youth like myself!

# Feast of the harvest moon

by Brian Cockburn

The cars are loaded in the dark, goodnights abound, as I drive down the lane I notice one more sign to be taken down, tied from a fence post to a lone birch tree. Harvest day is over and many thanks go out to Mike Stevens and his staff at Dutrisac Cottages in Sturgeon Falls. The hall he donated for the fourth year was bouncing with music all afternoon, as his staff set up the deep fryers that supplied the huge crowd with a great pick-e-rel dinner cooked by Marc Laurin and supplied by the North Bay Métis Council. The Feast of the Harvest Moon, put on by programs and services, was one of the warmest I had attended. Visitors came from all over and included Chair, France Picotte; Region 5 PCMNO Councillor, Maurice Sarrazin; and Captain of the Hunt, Richard Sarrazin.

The North Bay Métis Council held their Annual General Meeting (AGM) on October 27th, during a major storm that had the lights out from Sturgeon Falls to Mattawa. Marc “chef” Laurin moved upstairs in the dark to use the gas stoves for his spaghetti supper, as David Potvin set up the tables and other volunteers lit



back from left: **Marc Laurin and North Bay Métis Council President, Walter Deering.**  
front: **Doris Evans and Senator Marlene Greenwood.**

candles and placed them about. Senator Marlene Greenwood, Doris Evans, and President Walter Deering, joined 45 members that evening for a meal and Métis business at hand. All the staff from the programs were there for introductions and to provide information on their services.

During the contacting of members for the AGM, there were a lot

of phone numbers and addresses out of service on the list we use. If you are not sure if you have updated your address in a while, send a letter to the North Bay Métis Council (address below). An email list is growing (north-baymetis@gmail.com) or check on facebook, “North Bay Métis” for events.

On November 5th, Amanda

Desbiens, MNO’s Healthy Babies Healthy Children Co-ordinator in North Bay, and Jayne Jansen, Aboriginal Best Start Co-ordinator with the North Bay Friendship Centre, organized a “Métis Awareness Day” at the Early Years Learning Centre in North Bay. Fiddle player, Samantha Depatie along with her two students Chloe and Danika Gravelle performed for 88

children and 42 parents. Other activities included crafts, colouring contest, and learning about animals and identifying their tracks.

On November 11th, Remembrance Day, Senator Greenwood laid a wreath for the Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans at a ceremony in North Bay, while veteran Gerry Potvin attended the observance in Sturgeon Falls.

On the 17th of December, programs and services celebrated “2010 the Year of the Métis”, with their annual open house and potluck lunch, along with music and activities, and conversation.

A “Métis on Ice” day is in the planning stages for February 19th, 2011, to be held on Lake Nipissing.

We wish everyone all the best in the new year from Lise Malette, Long Term Care; Stacey Rivet, Community Wellness; Amanda Desbiens, Healthy Babies; Brian Cockburn; Susan Van Der Rassel; Linda Krause, Education and Training; Jason Jamieson, Community Wellness Supervisor; and all of the North Bay Métis Council.

CONTACT  
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North Bay, PIB 2V5  
northbaymetis@gmail.com



**ART ROB**  
**PLANT MANAGER**  
**NORTHWEST HYDROELECTRIC**

## ONTARIO POWER GENERATION

John Murphy, Executive Vice President, Hydro, Ontario Power Generation (OPG) is pleased to announce the appointment of Art Rob as Plant Manager, Northwest Hydroelectric Plant Group. Mr. Rob replaces Mike Martelli, who was recently appointed Plant Manager of OPG’s Niagara Hydroelectric Plant Group.

Mr. Rob received his Bachelor of Engineering from Lakehead University and is a graduate of its Management Leadership Program. Since joining OPG, he has worked in various capacities in both the thermal and hydroelectric divisions of the company.

The Northwest Plant Group, headquartered in Thunder Bay, operates 11 hydroelectric generating stations across Northwestern Ontario with work centres in Kenora, Ear Falls, Cameron Falls (Nipigon) and Thunder Bay.

Ontario Power Generation Inc. produces about two-thirds of the province's electricity. With 12,000 employees working at 73 power plants across Ontario, our focus is on producing reliable, low-priced electricity in a safe, open and environmentally responsible manner.

**ONTARIOPOWER**  
**GENERATION**  
opg.com



**CHRIS FRALICK**  
**PLANT MANAGER**  
**NORTHWEST THERMAL**

## ONTARIO POWER GENERATION

Frank Chiarotto, Senior Vice President, Thermal, Ontario Power Generation (OPG), is pleased to announce the appointment of Chris Fralick as Plant Manager, Northwest Thermal. Mr. Fralick is responsible for OPG’s Atikokan and Thunder Bay generating stations. He replaces Derrick Brooks who will be retiring from OPG at the end of 2010.

A Chemical Engineering graduate from the University of Waterloo, with an MBA from Wilfrid Laurier University, Mr. Fralick joined OPG in 2000 in the Graduate Engineer Training Program. Moving to Nanticoke Generating Station in 2002, he held a

number of technical, supervisory and management positions before being appointed Production Manager at Thunder Bay Generating Station in 2009.

Ontario Power Generation Inc. produces about two-thirds of the province's electricity. With 12,000 employees working at 73 power plants across Ontario, our focus is on producing reliable, low-priced electricity in a safe, open and environmentally responsible manner.

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# Beautiful day, beautiful people

by **France Picotte**  
*Chair, Métis Nation of Ontario*

I recently had the pleasure and privilege of attending the New Harvest Moon Celebration with the North Bay Métis Council. The day was beautiful and so were the people; the musicians were fantastic. I was impressed with the families who are so musically talented and also the fiddle playing students were very good. Now let's talk

food--moose, deer and much more for lunch; then to top it off--a fish fry for supper. What else can one ask for? Oh yes, good people, and there were lots of those. I want to thank the volunteers who helped put this on--the council, the staff and many more. The conversation whether casual, business, family, or whatever, is always informative and enjoyable. I love being able to converse with people because our stories are told and that is what we are about.



**Métis youth Angelica Laurin speaking at Riel Day ceremonies in Toronto.**

Making new friends, renewing some old friendships, being us; that's what that day was about. The children were entertained and also encouraged in their artistic endeavours. We have a talented Métis gen-

eration coming up waiting to take our places as they should. I had a conversation with the Métis youth role model, Angelica Laurin; she is an articulate, intelligent, young women. We must nurture our youth for they are our future. If you want her to speak at one of your events invite her. Her expenses are covered by the role model program. Congratulations North Bay on a successful day and all the other work you are doing. I thank you again.

UPDATE ON THE BICYCLING ENVIRONMENTALISTS:

## At the edge of the continent

(See *Métis Voyageur* #63 Fall, 2010, page 27.)

As of December 13th, Garrett Gauthier and the rest of the team were making their way down the rainy, windy Oregon coast. They have already made the 5500 km trek across Canada. When they reached the BC coast, Garret experienced a sort of epiphany when he realized they had come to the edge of the continent. Thinking back, he said: "I recalled seeing a sign in northern Ontario indicating that



Wawa was only 180 km away, and I remember thinking, 'Golly, we're really out there, and we've come all this way on our bikes! I mean, gosh, Wawa!' "To tell the truth, the dis-

tance between here and Wawa doesn't seem any more significant than the distance between Wawa and home. I can vividly recall the mountain passes, the thrilling descents, the cold mornings, the sunny days, the rainy days, the furious headwinds, and the innumerable warm people of our journey thus far, and it all feels like a logical progression...."

*You can keep track of Garrett's adventures and read his blog at [www.pedalacrosstheamericas.com](http://www.pedalacrosstheamericas.com)*



**Derrick Pont and Barbaranne Wright prepare to pull a Red River Cart in St. Catharines' Grape and Wine festival parade.**

NIAGARA REGION MÉTIS COUNCIL:

## Red River Cart rolls in Wine Fest parade

The Niagara Region Métis Council (NRMCC) took part in the St. Catharines' Grape and Wine Festival during the fall of 2010 giving those in attendance a taste of Métis culture. "Unfortunately we could not use our canoe, 'Second Chance', as the water ways were not on the parade route," said NRMCC Women's Representative, Barb Wright. "However, Derrick Pont was strong enough to pull the Red River Cart along the route with Valerie Boese as his lead hand. Next year we hope to get

the paper work straightened out so we can have our fiddler, camp tent, canoe and yes, the cart again," she continued. Among those attending the event from the Niagara Region Métis Council were Derrick Pont, the main work horse; Valerie Boese; Amanda Pont-Shanks; Sarah MacDonald; Kirby-Lynn Wright, who carried the Banner; Suzanne Matte and Barbaranne Wright, who proudly carried the Métis flags. Thanks to everyone who made this day possible.

CREDIT RIVER MÉTIS COUNCIL:

## Métis community activities in Peel

The following workshops and activities have been planned for the Peel Region. If you are interested in any of them or want more information, please contact Simon Bain. **Nintendo Wii:** Use the Wii for recreation, leisure, and exercise. Learn how to use the Wii and its various fitness programs. These classes will be held every week during January, and February. **Open Circle:** This will focus on Holism and Health. **Beading and Finger Weaving:** During the month of February beading and finger weaving will be available on Sunday afternoons. Contact the council ([crmc@rogers.com](mailto:crmc@rogers.com)) for information about location and times. **The Community Wellness Pro-**

gram includes workshops and educational outreach, counselling services, friendly visiting, advocacy and referrals, assistance for people with disabilities, access programs, stress management, health issues and awareness, prenatal care, child safety, gambling awareness and prevention. If you are interested in any upcoming activity, or would like more information contact: Simon Bain Community Wellness Coordinator Tel: 905-625-3351 or [simonb@metisnation.org](mailto:simonb@metisnation.org) Visit the Credit River Métis Council website for more activities and up-coming events at: [www.creditrivermetisCouncil.org](http://www.creditrivermetisCouncil.org)

TEMISKAMING MÉTIS COMMUNITY COUNCIL



**Métis youths Mikka Fortin and Nolan Nichol donated a hamper of canned goods to local area food banks. The canned goods were collected during the TMCC's Harvest Time Gathering and donated to New Liskeard Lions Club members Ray Lafleur and Wayne Green on November 14, during the Santa Claus Express for the kids.**

## Temiskaming Métis hold Harvest Time Gathering

by **Tina Nichol**  
*Temiskaming Métis Community Council*

The Temiskaming Métis Community Council (TMCC) held its annual Harvest Time Gathering on Nov. 13, 2010, in Haileybury, Ontario. Approximately 50 members came out to enjoy live entertainment, kids' activities, a silent auction and cultural display. The feast was put together by members of the TMCC, and included everything from wild berries to caribou to moose stew. The entire feast was traditional and delightful. We also took the opportunity to remember our Senator, Mr. Earnie Lavallee who passed away

this fall. The feast was in his honour this year. The TMCC also hosted a presentation by the Elk Lake Community Forest Committee, who is a partner in the TMCC's Way of Life project. The project is researching our Métis citizens to map out their traditional hunting and gathering areas. We are also trying to trace the route of the Métis people who arrived in the Temiskaming area beginning in the 1600s. In addition, the TMCC will be launching a new website in the coming year. It was designed by JR Printing in North Cobalt, Ontario. We cannot wait to share it with other councils and the MNO who made it all possible.

### Métis Cookhouse

by Gail LeBlanc

#### Cranberry Scones

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- ¼ cup sugar
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 1/3 cup butter, diced
- 1 cup whipping cream
- ¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1 egg white
- 1 teaspoon orange zest
- 1 cup fresh cranberries, chopped

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. In large bowl, combine flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt. Gradually add butter until mixture is coarse and crumbly. Add whipping cream and stir until mixture is moist. Mix in cranberries, nutmeg, and orange zest. Place on a lightly floured surface and knead 6 or 7 times. Roll until ½ inch thick. Cut with a biscuit cutter and place each scone 2 inches apart on a lightly greased baking sheet. Brush tops of scones with egg white and bake for 20 minutes or until golden brown. 12 servings.

#### Devonshire Cream

- 3 ounces cream cheese
- 1 tablespoon powdered sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 cup whipping cream

Beat cream cheese, sugar, salt, and vanilla until well blended. Add whipping cream and beat until mixture is stiff. Cover and chill at least 2 hours. Spread on scones.

# Métis heritage festival

by Senator Cecile Wagar

On June 26 and 27, 2010, we hosted our fourth Annual Métis Heritage Celebration at Memorial Park in Oshawa—a perfect event to commemorate the contributions of the Métis Nation to the formation of Canada during this, the “Year of the Métis” and the 125th anniversary of the North-West Resistance.

As this was our third year at this location, we had many return visitors and many new ones; the furthest came from New Zealand. Upwards of 5000 people attended and took part in the festivities. Our mandate was to entertain and inform Métis and non-Métis visitors alike about traditional Métis culture.

We offered a great variety of fiddlers, singers, drummers, Métis and Aboriginal vendors and demonstrators, youth activities, as well as university recruitment officers, exhibitors from the MNO Education and Training Branch, Georgian Bay Métis Council, Toronto York Region Métis Council, Wapiti Métis Council, our own Olivine Bousquet Métis Dancers and All Our Relations Drum Circle. We were pleased that Métis citizens from Québec, New Brunswick, and Ontario returned as vendors, presenters, and visitors to strengthen national Métis unity.

As a highlight of our Métis Heritage Celebration, we offered to our audience the collaborative fiddling efforts of master fiddler James Cheechoo (Moose Factory) and elder fiddler Ruth Wagner (Bracebridge) with two young fiddlers from southern Ontario: Alicia Blore (Toronto) and Rajan Anderson (Guelph). We were thrilled that our event provided the mechanism where knowledge-holding elders were able to pass their knowledge on



(clockwise from top) **Rajan Anderson, Ruth Wagner, Alicia Blore, James Cheechoo and Daisy Cheechoo; Colleen, Ian, and family at the Métis Heritage Celebration; Honourary Senator Olive Tiedema and PCMNO Senator Joseph Poitras; J.J. Lavallee and Marianne; Métis Fiddler Quartet on stage.**

to our youth and that Métis and non-Métis alike were able to share in this experience.

It was also exciting to have the Métis Fiddler Quartet (Alyssa, Danton, Conlin and Nicholas Delbaere-Sawchuck) return to our

stage for the fourth year in a row with their unique style. We appreciate that we were a stop on their very busy summer tour. We look forward to the release of their next CD in the new year.

Fiddler J.J. Lavallée closed out

our Celebration. The crowd kept asking for encore after encore, and JJ was happy to oblige. His Métis fiddling while we were breaking down our tents and packing up ended our weekend appropriately and satisfactorily.

We held a free draw for those who completed our survey. Brandi MacLeod and her family from Oshawa were the proud recipients of the first prize: a VIA Rail/Travelodge trip to Montreal. Dave Davenport of Whitby won our second prize: a large dream catcher made by Sylvie Gagnon. The results of the survey were very enlightening. They will help us in our planning for next year’s event.

I would like to acknowledge some other very important individuals who made the event a success: B.C. Métis artist, Dennis Weber; Quebec Métis, Archie Martin; sash finger weaver, Louise Vien; hand drum entertainer, John Somosi; Manitoba fiddler, J.J. Lavallée; MNO Senators and presenters; Andre Bosse; Ruth Wagner; Alis Kennedy; MC Serge Gagnon and his wife Sylvie Gagnon; MP Dr. Colin Carrie; MNO Past President, Tony Belcourt; MNO President, Gary Lipinski; Wapiti Métis Council President, Helene Savard; Oshawa Deputy Mayor, Nester Pidwerbecki; Brock Township Métis Mayor, Larry O’Connor; Manitoba Métis/International Métisfest Organizer, Dan Goodan; and our soundman, Métis Rick Morgan. Most important, the Métis Heritage Celebration would not have been the success that it was without the countless hours and effort of so many committee members and volunteers. I offer a resounding Chii Miigwetch, Marsee, Merci, and Thank You to each one of you!

Finally, we sincerely wish to thank our financial supporters. They include: Celebrate Canada; the City of Oshawa; the Ontario Arts Council – Aboriginal Arts Projects Program; CIBC; OPG; VIA Rail; Travelodge; the Durham District School Board; and a private donor.

## GOVERNMENT OF CANADA INVESTS IN OSHAWA AND DURHAM MÉTIS COUNCIL

# MÉTIS TRIO: jig, fiddle, canoe

OSHAWA, Nov. 10/10 -- On behalf of the Honourable James Moore, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages, Colin Carrie, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health and Member of Parliament (Oshawa), announced funding to the Oshawa and Durham Métis Council for three projects—the Métis Dance Project, the Métis Fiddle Project, and the Voyageur Canoe Project—that will provide Aboriginal young people with opportunities to learn about Métis culture.

Under the Métis Dance Project, Aboriginal youth will participate in developing and designing a jigging course. This includes learning basic steps, moves, and routines to various jigging dances. In the Métis Fiddle Project, young people will take part in developing, designing, and implementing a fiddling program and will learn about the history of

fiddling and how to play the instrument. Finally, the Voyageur Canoe Project will get youth involved in building a smaller version of a voyageur canoe that was used to transport trade goods and furs mainly between Montréal and Fort William.

“Our Government recognizes the importance of providing Aboriginal young people with projects that connect them with their culture and language,” said Minister Moore. “By funding youth-led activities, we are helping these young people gain the life skills they need to achieve their goals, which will lead to stronger communities.”

“We want to thank Canadian Heritage for providing funding for our three projects and, of course, Colin Carrie for being so supportive of the proposals,” said Robert Pilon, President of the Oshawa and Durham Region



(from left) **Robert Pilon, J.J. Lavallee, Joe Paquette and Art Henry.**

Métis Council. “Oshawa has a relatively large number of Aboriginal residents, so having these heritage projects is particularly meaningful to us and helps bring the community together, as well as bring a sense of pride to our youth. The Durham District School Board and their trustees have embraced these projects wholeheartedly and worked tire-

lessly to ensure the youth in the community will benefit from participating in the canoe building, Métis dance lessons, and Métis-style fiddling lessons.”

The Government of Canada has provided funding of \$137,015 through the Cultural Connections for Aboriginal Youth initiative (formerly known as the Urban Multipurpose Aboriginal Youth Centre Initiative) of the Department of Canadian Heritage’s Aboriginal Peoples’ Program. This initiative provides Aboriginal young people aged 10 to 24, living in urban settings across Canada, with programming that incorporates Aboriginal values, cultures, and traditional practices in projects and activities designed to improve their social, economic, and personal prospects and to strengthen their cultural identity.



## Oshawa Métis revamp website

The Oshawa and Durham Region Métis Council is constructing a new website.

The old website will no longer be updated but it is still up and running for now.

Watch the new website at [www.oshawadurhammetis.com](http://www.oshawadurhammetis.com) as it develops.

Lots of new pictures and videos coming soon.

# A Bannock Banquet

by **Stephen Quesnelle**  
*President, Niagara Region Métis Council*

On November 12th the MNO Health Department, in conjunction with the Niagara Region Métis Council, held its 5th Harvest Dinner at a new venue, the Welland Lions Club Community Centre, to accommodate our increasing numbers—more than 100 people attended. It was an evening filled with dancing, fiddle music and celebrations giving thanks for the many blessings we have received throughout the year.

We were privileged to be entertained and awed by the fiddle playing of award winning fiddle player and song writer JJ Lavallee. We were also captivated by the very talented Olivine Bousquet Métis Dancers from Oshawa, who were amazing, as usual.

It was a pleasure to have Robert Pilon, President of the Oshawa and Durham Métis Council join us. During the evening’s festivities Robert presented our council with a gift of a framed photograph of a view of the church at Batoche, with many Métis citizens holding the Métis flag. It is now hanging in a prominent place in our council office for everyone to see and appreciate, thanks again Robert.

Enjoying the evening with us were Welland’s MPP Malcolm Allen, Mayor-elect Barry Sharpe and his wife, and Paul Grenier, Welland Councillor for Ward 3.

Again this year the food was wonderful. We had numerous traditional dishes, including moose stew, deer, rabbit, tourtière, and bannock as well as many other favourites brought in by our families for all to share and enjoy.

Throughout the years the harvest dinner has become bigger and more successful and this is due in part to the hard work of those who diligently work in the background. Without them, the harvest dinner would not be the success that it is. It is time to acknowledge and give much thanks to Donna Labbe; Tammy Wintle, Long Term Care Coordinator; Rebecca Vander Sanden, Healthy Babies Healthy Children Coordinator; and Terry Lynn Longpre, Community Wellness Coordinator. Thank you! We appreciate all that you do.



(right) **Fiddler JJ Lavallee and the Olivine Bousquet Métis Dancers entertain at the Niagara Region Métis Council’s Annual Harvest Dinner.**



by **Ken Simard**  
*Captain of the Hunt - Region 2*

A big thank you to the Health Branch at the Thunder Bay Métis Centre for entering a Métis float in the 2010 Santa Claus Parade.

The weather was sunny and cool—a very nice day for the parade. The children from the Community Action Program for Children were busy making decorations for the float. On route the

children handed out candy to all onlookers, and when they ran out of candy other stuff. They were able to ride on the float sitting on bales of straw that kept them warm (sort of). They waved to the people that were standing along the road.

As the Métis float passed by I was also one of those people standing on the road but I was proudly waving a large five foot by three foot Métis flag as our Métis float passed right in front

of me. What better way to get our message out to the public? I urge all Métis Councils across Ontario to do the same. This will encourage our Métis citizens to come out and be proud of who they are.

Now for this spring, I’m reminding all fishermen to take extra precautions when approaching early ice breakup. It’s not worth the risk to take chances. Play it safe and stay alive; your family needs you.



## Kokomis Tchiman

Birchbark canoe being built in Oshawa

by **Art Henry**

On November 10, 2010, the Durham District School Board announced the official unveiling of a voyageur canoe creation project led by Métis master birch bark canoe maker, Marcel Labelle, at G.L. Roberts Collegiate in Oshawa.

This unique project has been funded by a generous grant from the Department of Canadian Heritage to the Oshawa and Durham Region Métis Council.

“The Durham District School Board is proud to be a part of this incredible project that will combine the sharing of cultural teachings with the creation of a canoe. The Durham District School Board thanks the Oshawa and Durham Region Métis Council and the Department of Canadian Heritage for giving our students, staff and the community a unique opportunity to learn the teach-

ings of the canoe,” said Chair of the Board and Oshawa Trustee, Larry Jacula.

Marcel (Mahigan) has begun constructing a full-sized, 25 foot birch bark voyageur canoe in a specially prepared room at G.L. Roberts CVI in south Oshawa. The canoe not only provides transportation for First Nations and Métis, it is also an important vehicle for the cultural teachings which have been passed down from generation to generation. Lessons which can be learned from the canoe include, balance, cooperation, and harmony. As Marcel constructs Grandmother Canoe (Kokomis Tchiman) students, teachers, and community members will be invited to visit, take part, and learn.

The creation of Kokomis Tchiman can be viewed on the DDSB Aboriginal Education website: <http://spiritcalling.ddsb.schools.ca>



Capote Workshop

## Simplicity of the blanket coat

Supported by the Niagara Region Métis Council, Women’s Rep, Barbaranne Wright; Treasurer, Suzanne Matte; and Councillor, Giselle Legiehn joined master capote maker Fritz Steele to learn another traditional Métis skill—capote making.

“We had the opportunity to learn about the importance of the simplicity of a blanket coat, its creation and how warm our ancestors were with a little cut here and a tuck there,” said Barb, “not to mention the modeling. We created three of the most incredible capotes the Niagara Region has ever seen! Thank you Fritz for helping us in another Métis event that gives us back our identity.”

## MOON RIVER MÉTIS COUNCIL:



**Cathy Fournier presents the commissioned artwork to Larry Duval, President of Moon River Métis Council.**

## Métis woman beads gift from local school

Last spring Moon River Métis Council was requested to do a presentation on Métis history and culture at Thorah Public School in Beaverton.

As well as the presentation, the students were invited to take an active role by doing a sampling of traditional beadwork. The presentation was well received and when it was explained that 2010 was the “Year of the Métis”, the school commissioned Moon River to have an artist complete a piece of beaded art. These mittens were the result; they were made

and beaded by artist Cathy Fournier. Made of elk with racoon fur trim, the beading took 250 hours to complete; the pattern is Ojibwe.

Cathy has been beading for several years since taking a class at the Midland Métis Centre where she developed a passion and talent for this work. Cathy takes pride in practicing this traditional art form. She is the mother of two daughters and proud grandmother of two. She resides in Midland with her husband Ken.

## Louis Riel Day • November 16th

# Drawing strength from our history

from front page

and Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, raised the Métis flag outside the legislature and then joined a procession led by a colour guard of Métis veterans and accompanied by a Métis fiddler, Roger Giroux. The long parade of over one hundred people made its way across the legislature grounds to the Northwest “Rebellion” monument where everyone gathered for official ceremonies.

France Picotte, the MNO Chair, acted as MC for the ceremony and called upon each speaker, starting with Senator Reta Gordon who provided the opening prayer. Senator Gordon recounted some of the indignities suffered by the

Métis who were even initially denied the right to provide Riel a decent burial. The Senator concluded,

however, that despite his death, Riel was a great success. “Because they killed Riel,” she explained, “they thought they killed us too, but we all accomplished in life what he [Riel] couldn’t do in death. We could be robbed of our lands but we cannot be robbed of our dreams.”

The presence of government ministers and MPPs as well as opposition party MPPs at the Queen’s Park ceremony testifies to the new relationship developing between the MNO and Ontario. Minister Bentley commented on the many successes of the MNO and how these successes enrich the entire province.

“Every year can be the *Year of the Métis*,” stated Bentley, “because if there is a brighter future for the Métis, there is a brighter future for Ontario and a brighter future for everyone.” Northern Development, Mines, and Forestry Minister, Michael Gravelle, who also attended, focused on the extensive work going on between his Ministry and the MNO: “I cannot overstate the importance of your contributions to the changes to the Mining Act,” said Gravelle. “By working together we are assuring that the Métis will benefit from resource development.”

In his remarks, Progressive Conservative MPP Ted Arnott called on the Ontario Government to re-dedicate the Northwest “Rebellion” monument to all the combatants rather than just those who fought for the Canadian Government. New Democratic Party MPP Michael Prue commented on the “delicious irony” of staging Riel Day ceremonies at the monument. “Today they [the people who erected the monument] are all gone and we want to forget what they said,” Prue pointed out. “What is remembered today is that this was an uprising of people who had a story to tell. [This ceremony helps us] understand that we have changed.” The Honourable Michael Chan, Minister of Culture and Tourism, the Honourable Linda Jeffries, Minister of Natural Resources and MPPs Dave Levac, Maria Van Bommel and Garfield Dunlop also attended the ceremony.

The theme of growing Métis pride figured prominently in the remarks of many of the speakers. Chair Picotte commented: “While 125 years ago it would not have been the case, today Métis people are proud to say ‘I am Métis!’ By proclaiming the *Year of the Métis*, people are discovering their culture: ‘Yes I am Métis; I live the culture; I speak the language, or I remember my grandmother speaking it.’”

Jean Teillet, a Métis lawyer, who has defended Métis rights before the Supreme Court, and who is also a descendent of



(clockwise from top) **Ontario Minister of Aboriginal Affairs Chris Bentley; MNO Chair France Picotte; MPP for Beaches-East York, Michael Prue.**

Louis Riel, called on the Canadian Museum of Human Rights, which is being built in Winnipeg, to include a statue of Louis Riel in the new building, saying: “Louis Riel was fighting for the rights of all Canadians, not just Métis rights.” Angelica Laurin, a representative of Métis youth said that celebrating Métis heritage was about knowing who you are and called for the abandonment of old stereotypes, stating: “When we share our Métis doctors, lawyers, CEOs, nurses, teachers, actors, actresses or like me, an honour-roll student, we are telling the world, ‘be proud of who you are; believe in yourself, and reach for the stars.’”

President Lipinski reflected on the history being commemorated on Louis Riel Day and on what he described as a “failure of leadership” that led to the tragic events of 1885. He described how Riel had tried to negotiate with the Canadian Government and how the government’s intransience finally led Riel to the decision: “The Métis way of life is worth protecting and I would put my life on the line for it. Canada lost a great opportunity when it executed Louis Riel,” concluded President Lipinski, “but fortunately, today many of the things he worked to build are becoming a reality. It is our job to keeping building on that vision.” President Lipinski also spoke with great hope because in the very legislature that had once condemned Riel, members of that legislature voted unanimously this year to declare 2010 the *Year of the Métis*. He suggested that the presence of so many Ministers and MPPs at Louis Riel Day ceremonies points to the success and significance of the MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement, which was signed just one day after Louis Riel Day two years ago. “The government’s willingness to sign the framework agreement with us,” stated President Lipinski, “signalled there was a new way of doing business with the Métis, and that the process of reconciliation had started.”

With the completion of the speeches, Bob Goulais of the Nipissing First Nation was called upon to perform the Métis Honour Song in Michif. After much research and investigation, the Métis Honour Song had been recovered in North Dakota and Mr. Goulais is one of a few people who have learned the song so far. Following his performance, wreaths were laid at the Northwest “Rebellion” monument by Senator Gordon and Métis veteran Joe Paquette. The wreathes—with a portrait of Riel—are placed on the monument each Louis Riel Day to honour Riel and all the Métis who fought for our rights.

As the ceremonies closed, the participants moved inside the legislature where a traditional Métis feast was served. Following Louis Riel events across the province, MNO citizens felt a renewed sense of purpose, which was captured by a quote from Louis Riel with which Angelica Laurin closed her presentation:

“We must cherish our inheritance; we must preserve our nationality for the youth of our future. The story should be written down to pass on.”

FLAGS FLY ON LOUIS RIEL DAY ACROSS THE PROVINCE:



**BRUCE MINES** - Louis Riel is remembered in Bruce Mines Ontario as the North Channel Métis Council raises the Métis flag at the town hall on November 16th.



From left: **Susan Van Der Rassel, Ishmael Van Der Rassel, Rev. Terry O'Connor, Marianne Van Beek, Mel Jamieson, Jason Jamieson, Doris Evans, Senator Marlene Greenwood, and North Bay Mayor Victor A. Fedeli.** Photos by Stacey Rivet and Brian Cockburn



left to right: **Mitch Lepage, Policy Development and Aboriginal Education, Durham Catholic District School Board; Claire Kearns, ODRMC Women's Representative; Senator Cecile Wagar, ODRMC; Tiffany Harrington, Métis student at Monsignor Paul Dwyer, Catholic High School; Cathy Bazley, Senior Administrative Secretary, DCDSB; Anna Mahura, Aboriginal Education Facilitator, DCDSB.**

PHOTO: Mitch LePage

# Métis flag flies in Oshawa

by Kathy Bazley

On November 22, 2010, the Durham Catholic District School Board, with the assistance of members of the Oshawa Durham Métis Council, raised the Métis flag at its Catholic Education Centre at 650 Rossland Road West in Oshawa in recognition of Louis Riel Day. The staff of the Catholic Education Centre was invited to attend the ceremony and a large number came out to watch the event.

Cecile Wagar and Claire Kearns, Oshawa Durham Métis Council, started with a drum song, and then Tiffany Harrington a student at Monsignor Paul Dwyer Catholic High School and the Student Representative on the Board's Aboriginal Advisory Committee recited the poem "Ode to the Métis". The flag was then raised and flown for the remainder of the week. This is the second year that the Durham Catholic District School Board has publicly paid

respect to Louis Riel and recognized his special day. As an employee of the Board and a proud Métis (and the only Métis working in the Catholic Education Centre), it is a very emotional ceremony for me to be involved in. As I said last year, "Never in all my years of walking on Mother Earth did I ever think I would see a day when I would see the Métis flag flown and recognized in such a public manner."

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LOUIS RIEL DAY • November 16, 2010



**Louis Riel after his arrest following the Battle of Batoche in Saskatchewan, May 16th, 1885.**

## Whose History? Whose Narrative? Whose Story?

### The Importance of Métis History to Our Nation

by Brenda Macdougall

Based on a presentation at the Law Society of Upper Canada on Riel Day, November 16, 2010

A few years ago, I asked an elder from home to read my PhD dissertation and give me feedback on some significant cultural concepts and ideas that I had used about family and the significance of family in a Métis worldview. I was a friend of this man's son and other relatives so when I was uncertain about my work, both these people encouraged me to approach him. The elder had been a high school teacher for many years and was raised by his parents who are still acknowledged in my home territory as important cultural, educational and spiritual teachers who were instrumental in getting Native Studies and Cree language courses into Saskatchewan's universities. We spoke a bit about the Métis and First Nations history courses I had developed for the Department of Native Studies at the University of Saskatchewan. Before agreeing to read my work and comment on it though, he asked me one question: Why not leave the teaching of Aboriginal history to mainstream history departments because, after all, wasn't our history also Canadian history?

Without hesitating I replied that our history belongs first and foremost in Native Studies and treated as an area of study distinct separate from Canadian narratives. It has long been my belief that we need to write, analyze, and interpret our history because we understand who we are from a distinct worldview, framework of knowledge, and understanding of experience that is different from the way we have been described, interpreted, and analyzed in non-Aboriginal history. The counter argument is

that, if treated as distinct, we will be marginalized and left out of larger national narratives to which we belong and so risk intellectual "ghettoization" and segregation. However, this has already happened and we are little more than props to explain, rationalize, or analyze Canadian national narratives and the history of colonization. The call for Canadian history to be more inclusive which began in the 1970s has reverberated into other intellectual fields and has become popularized by writers such as John Ralston Saul. Several years ago, Saul became interested in what he has identified as the three pillars of Canadian socio-political and judicial processes—First Nations, English, and French intellectual traditions. In the past, Saul has described the Métis as the glue that bound these three pillars together and made their synergy a uniquely Canadian experience. In his most recent book, *A Fair Country*, Saul has boldly proclaimed, "Canada is indeed a Métis nation." Some may be seduced by this statement because, superficially at least, it appears to be a positive affirmation of our identity and history. However, Saul's declaration really has little to do with Métis people. Saul is not concerned with Métis history, culture, or nationalism, but instead uses the term to advance an argument that Canada is a mixture of western European and First Nations worldviews. Although he makes reference to seminal figures and events in Métis history—Riel, Dumont, and 1885—to ground his notion of "Métisness" in a Canadian-specific historical narrative, he also asserts that "anyone whose family arrived before the 1760s is probably part Aboriginal" and, by implication, Métis. The underlying idea embedded within this generalization is

continued page 16



MNO President, Gary Lipinski speaks at a panel discussion at the Law Society of Upper Canada.

# RIEL DAY PANEL | What has been learned over the last 125 years?

The Métis Nation of Ontario and the Law Society of Upper Canada consider the significance of the Year of the Métis

As part of Riel Day events in Ontario on November 16, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and the Law Society of Upper Canada co-hosted a panel discussion and reception at the Law Society offices in Toronto. The event attracted over 150 people, who listened to the panel examine the significance of the “Year of the Métis” within the context of Métis history, identity, and Crown-Métis relations today.

The Honourable Mr. Justice Todd Ducharme, with the Ontario Superior Court of Justice, moderated the distinguished panel that consisted of: Dr. Brenda Macdougall, Chair of Métis Studies at the University of Ottawa; David Zimmer, Parliamentary Assistant to the Attorney General of Ontario; Jean Teillet, partner in Pape Salter Teillet Barristers and Solicitors and great grandniece of Louis Riel; and Amanda Carling, University of Toronto law student.

In her presentation, Dr. Macdougall provided a sharp critique of past interpretations of Métis history by non-Métis writers and stated: “We need to write our own history.” She argued that Métis people have not been thoroughly engaged in their history and that

needs to change. (The full text of Dr. Macdougall’s presentation may be found on pages 15, 16 and 22, titled “Whose History”.)

Mr. Zimmer pointed out that the relative percentage of the population in Ontario, particularly in urban areas, who are Métis is declining significantly compared to the rising immigrant population. He suggested this is a noteworthy challenge for the Métis and asked the question: “How does the Métis perspective not get swamped with all the other perspectives out there?”

Ms. Teillet provided the audience with an overview of legal issues surrounding Métis rights across Canada. She outlined the challenges she has faced in defending Métis rights in court and discussed the various types of documents and other sources used in these cases. Métis rights court cases are crucial to the future of Métis people because according to Ms. Teillet: “Right now, history is being written by judges.”

Ms. Carling discussed how her personal identity as a Métis was formed and the challenges it presented her and her family. Following the presentations, a question and answer period was held and then MNO President, Gary Lipinski gave a keynote address dis-

cussing the overall significance of the *Year of the Métis*. President Lipinski pointed out that, “125 years is too short a period of time when discussing the Métis Nation. The tragedies of 1885 were not the beginning of Métis rights or the Métis people.” President Lipinski provided background on Métis people asserting their rights prior to 1885 and examples of the Métis making contributions to Canada prior to that date as well. “Even after the War of 1812, which we were a part of,” stated President Lipinski, “even when we worked with, fought for and died for Canada, we were still not recognized.” Unfortunately, as President Lipinski pointed out, the situation today has not changed appreciably as Métis governments are being forced to go to court to defend and gain their rights. “Governments should negotiate,” explained President Lipinski, “but when they don’t, we have to litigate.”

The evening’s presentations and discussions proved very thought provoking and provided a basis for discussions about the Métis in the next 125 years. The Law Society of Upper Canada recorded the presentations and will be making them available through their website, which can be viewed at: [www.lsuc.on.ca](http://www.lsuc.on.ca).

“125 years is too short a period of time when discussing the Métis Nation.”

RIEL DAY • REGION 9

## The Métis colours fly on Nov. 16

by Stephen Quesnelle

November 16, 2010, was a time of celebration for the Niagara Region Métis. In celebration of the life and achievements of Louis Riel, the Niagara Region Métis Council and Métis citizens, along with Vance Badawey, Mayor of Port Colborne; Barb Henderson, Mayor of Wainfleet; Paul Grenier, City of Welland Councillor, Ward 3; were present at Welland City Hall to raise the Métis flag for the fourth year.

We also raised the flag in St. Catharines for the third year; Port Colborne for the second year; Niagara Falls and Wainfleet for the first year.

After the flag raising ceremony, we gathered in the community room of the City Hall for refreshments and to reflect on the life of Louis Riel.



(top) Niagara Region Métis Council and citizens are joined by Barb Henderson, Mayor of Wainfleet; Paul Grenier, City of Welland Councillor, Ward 3; and Vance Badawey, Mayor of Port Colborne at Welland City Hall to raise the Métis flag for the fourth year. (bottom left to right) Métis flags fly in Niagara Falls, the Township of Wainfleet, and St. Catharines.

Dr. Brenda MacDougall

## Whose History?

from page 15

that mixed blood, mixed ancestry, or just an Indian great-great-grandmother is all that is necessary to be Métis. This type of thinking instantly negates the stories of our families, the histories of our communities, and the authenticity of our Aboriginality, our Métisness, reducing us to an in-between, “not-quite-race,” stuck somewhere on the outside of the discourse. However unintended, declaring Canada to be a “Métis nation” perpetuates the fallacy that the Métis do not hold a distinct place in North American history, as a new nation, a new people, a distinct culture. Instead we are, in this narrative, simply a by-product of the interactions between First Nations women and French or British men. Furthermore, it posits our historical experience as an extension of the French-English paradigm that permeates Canadian history. Saul can, perhaps, be forgiven for his interpretive over-generalization and simplification of Métis history because so many Canadian historians in the 20th and 21st century have done the same.

We have only to scan the dominant texts by renowned scholars such as Stanley, Giraud, Foster, Pannekoek, Ens, Devine, Brown, Waiser, Stonechild, Van Kirk, and so on. I’m not arguing that the works of these authors have no value or that we should disregard them. Indeed the works of these scholars are important sources of information and each one of them has contributed invaluable research to our knowledge of events. It is simply that none of these authors has written from a Métis perspective taking into account our cultural values, worldview, or intellectual traditions which informed the manner in which we made decisions, ordered our society, arranged our alliances, determined who was friend or foe, worshiped, and, most importantly, defined ourselves.

Instead what Métis history has become, from an interpretive standpoint, is an extension of Canadian national history and so the focus of scholarship has been those aspects of our history mirroring the Canadian tradition. The focus, therefore, has been on great battles that defined Métis nationalism such as Seven Oaks in 1817, the 1869 Resistance in Red River, and the 1885 Northwest Rebellion; the assertions of economic independence such as the Pemican conflicts between 1812-17, the 1849 Sayer Trial; the development of agriculture in Red River within a history dominated by trade; on the role of Christianity—especially Anglican and Catholic—on Métis culture; and, the leaders such as Cuthbert Grant, Louis Riel Sr.,

continued page 22



left to right: Riel Day Celebration cake; Elder Doris Marion accepting a mandala creation by Jim Tolles; Guests enjoy the craft tables.

# Keeping Métis culture alive

by Joyce Tolles

On November 14, 2010, the Credit River Métis Council and citizens gathered at the Port Credit Royal Canadian Legion Branch #82 in Mississauga on the Credit River. The event was to celebrate and remember Louis Riel, as well as to see old friends and make new ones. The day included arts and crafts, music and a wonderful feast to be enjoyed by all.

A special presentation was made on behalf of Heritage Mississauga to the Credit River Métis Council by Elder Joseph Paquette, Chair of the Sub-Committee for Maanjiidowin. It was given in recognition of the council's participation in Maanjiidowin in July of this year (2010). The council was touched by the acknowledgement of their efforts and will cherish the plaque, book and thank you note for many years to come. Debbie Alves, President; David Babcock, Vice-President; Joyce Tolles, Treasurer; Kevin Alves, Youth Rep.; and Jim Tolles, Councillor; were on hand to accept and unable to attend were Ray Bergie, Senator and Roger Lauzon, Councillor.

During the afternoon, guests were invited to participate at the various craft tables. Sharon McBride, Vice-Chair of the Métis Nation of Ontario was helping guests make medicine pouches. Judy Carter of Peel Aboriginal Network had an assortment of children's crafts including bracelets, finger weaving and creating the Métis infinity symbol with paper, and Carol Walters was beading. We also had the pleasure of hosting MNO Community Wellness Coordinator, Simon Bain; Daniel Davey; and Lisa Scott, Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Strategy Worker from Hamilton, who provided an informative display on Métis culture and had various games and activities for the enjoyment of the guests. Shehnaz Fakim of Mississauga Halton Local Health Integration Network provided the Aboriginal Health Needs Assessment Final Report. Jim Tolles supplied the Credit River Métis Council display which included trapping, taxidermy and crafts exhibits. Elder Doris Marion was so touched by one of Jim's mandala creations that she com-

mented on how it reminded her of her husband and how much she liked it. Jim was very drawn to and impacted by Doris and asked if he could take her picture because she reminded him of his Grandmother Vasseur. She agreed, and in appreciation, he presented her with his creation--a very touching moment for both.

It was time to feast on goose breast sheppard's pie, tourtière, venison and moose prepared in a variety of ways. The meal also included fresh baked bannock, wild rice casserole, delicious sugar pie and cake.

We want to send a warm note of "thanks" to all who attended and to the hard-working, dedicated volunteers who were involved in the planning of this event.

Their work and efforts are greatly appreciated. We would also like to extend a special "thank-you" to Roger Lauzon for his contribution to making this event a success--Métis heritage and culture kept alive by celebrating Louis Riel.

***"It was time to feast on goose breast sheppard's pie, tourtière, venison and moose..."***

## MICHIF

### The Métis flag still flies

Northumberland Métis make sure to keep the colours flying on Riel Day

by Kathy Bazley

Although Northumberland County did not have enough Métis citizens run in its September, 2010, election and the Northumberland Métis Council went into abeyance, the flag still flew. In fact, it was the first time a Métis flag was raised in a Northumberland municipal centre ceremony and Louis Riel was remembered.

Past president Wayne Trudeau and past-secretary Kathy Bazley along with Wayne's son William and wife Anna and Kathy's husband Danny kept the Métis in the forefront as long as possible during the months of May to November by being involved in Canada Day parades and demonstrations; making presentations to the mayors and councillors of several municipalities; making presentations to schools; and making their presence known by attending Louis Riel Day celebrations--in particular, the raising of the Métis flag in Brighton, ON.

### Celebrating Student Achievement

Lakehead is well known for the quality of education it provides and the way in which the institution adds value to the lives of its students. Faculty and staff create the best possible learning experiences at campuses in Thunder Bay and Orillia. This academic environment produces graduates who are open, engaged, and inspired.

#### NEVER STOP LEARNING

The best decision Catherine McGuire ever made was to take a Bachelor of Arts in Gerontology at Lakehead. A single mother with three teenage boys, her dream was to become a family physician. Now, as a first-year student at the West Campus of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, she is on her way to achieving her goal.

Born into a Métis family in Nipigon, Ontario, Catherine moved to Thunder Bay at a young age and in her late teens became actively involved with the Métis Nation of Ontario. In fact, it was while she was volunteering with the Thunder Bay Métis Council that she first became aware of the possibilities of studying medicine as a mature student.

Catherine is hoping to practice family medicine with a specialization in geriatrics and promoting Aboriginal health. She wants to stay in the Thunder Bay district and travel regularly to the smaller communities to meet the health needs of Aboriginal people there. "There is so much work to be done in health promotion and the prevention of disease," she says.

Catherine McGuire

EXCERPTED FROM **Lakehead University** Annual Report

## Anishnabe

EDUCATION & TRAINING CIRCLE

helping you reach higher

### Come to Georgian College Aboriginal Studies and feel the Community Spirit!

*In a students words:*  
"I was a typical high school student who returned to school as an adult. I had no computer skills and every assignment seemed like an attack on my self-esteem. I feel that it was through my own determination, and that of all the staff of Aboriginal Studies, that I was a success - an honour student. It is the comfortable community atmosphere and the incredible commitment of the staff to their students that has developed such a great learning environment." ~ Kim Newby

#### Shki-Miikan (New Roads)

One-year certificate program

- Develop a solid academic base for further academic programming.
- Assess education/career options.
- Enhance your knowledge of Aboriginal cultural identity.

#### Aboriginal Education - Community and Social Development

Two-year co-op diploma program

- Focuses on the planning, development, evaluation and administration of social/health care services within the Aboriginal Community.
- This program focuses on business and community development studies with an emphasis on integrating cultural, social and health issues relevant to Aboriginal people in Canada.

#### Aboriginal Student Support Services

Aboriginal Resource Centres are available at the Barrie, Midland, Orillia and Owen Sound Campuses and we offer: Academic and Personal Counselling, Community Liaison, Elders Support, Peer Mentoring, Tutoring and Social/Cultural Events.

#### More Information

Barrie Campus: 705.728.1968  
Program Co-ordinator, ext. 1326  
Community Liaison Worker, ext. 1317  
For further information visit our website:  
[www.georgianc.on.ca/aboriginal](http://www.georgianc.on.ca/aboriginal)

**MARCH 12, 2011**  
Traditional Pow Wow, Barrie Campus

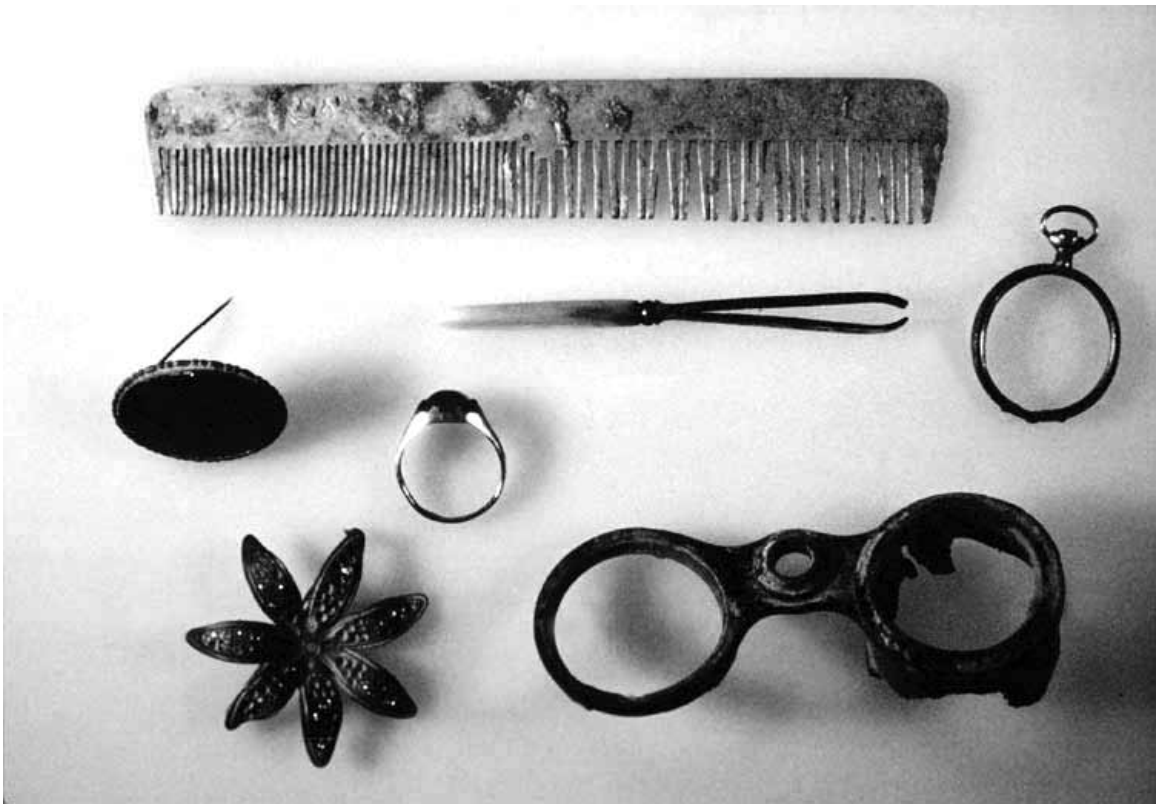
**NEW - Fall 2011**  
Aboriginal Resource Centre, Barrie Campus, will be tripling in size!

**NEW - 2011**  
Aboriginal focused course options in Pre-Health Sciences

## GEORGIAN

YOUR COLLEGE • YOUR FUTURE

Our Stories



An array of possessions that would typically belong to a woman living on a fur trade post: brooches, eye glasses or spectacles, hair comb, tweezers, and a ring.  
Source: Parks Canada

# Women in the Fur Trade

Aboriginal and Métis women were instrumental to the growth of fur trade society

by **MARIANNE VAN BEEK**

Here it is 2010, and yet many still know little about women’s roles in Canadian history, in particular the fur trade society. Some would argue that women are mentioned in our history, and that is true, but details are lacking showing the importance of the Aboriginal and Métis women’s participation in history. They are often seen as victims or harlots. However, women played a much bigger role than what is assumed. Although sexual contact between Aboriginal peoples and Europeans had happened historically, in the west it was unique because there was a co-dependency between the European men and Aboriginal women. The growth of intermarriage between the two nations developed and gave way to diverse family unions, as the marriage rite combined both Indian and European customs known as ‘a la façon du pays’ (after the custom of the country). It is important to note that the Natives saw these marriages as an alliance, and that Native women did not marry out; rather, they integrated their French or English husbands into a Native society of customs and traditions. The marriage of a daughter brought status and security to the Indian families, as well as privileges, such as free access to the posts, and provisions such as pots, pans and guns. A ‘trade’ or ‘marriage’ of a daughter brought benefits for the trader as well. It

assured the traders who married these women of a benefit over their rivals with inclusion as members of indigenous communities; it facilitated access to furs. Because of the mutual dependency between the two people, a unique society emerged that was derived from both Indian and European customs and technology. Despite this, the arrogance of the Europeans was apparent, as they thought that the Aboriginal women had everything to gain by becoming the wife of the trader. This is how it has been depicted in the history books. It was a social and cultural complex as well as an economic structure that was to endure for nearly two centuries. These women were the backbone for many of these traders and expansion of the industry might not have been as swift without their knowledge of different dialects and tongues. Examples of how Native women were useful in building kinship ties are throughout first-hand accounts written at the time. John Rowand’s wife, Louise Umfreville, a Native woman, built ties with the Plains Indians by giving them horses, which in turn gave her husband access to territories to hunt. Other examples show how they were instrumental at times in saving their husbands’ lives, such as how Nor’Wester John Haldane got to keep his scalp because of his wife who had been able to act as mediator with some hostile Aboriginals during an incident at Rat Portage. From these accounts, we see how these women could be resourceful as well as excellent liaisons in times of crisis. As time went on, these Aboriginal women had children who were born as mixed bloods and became known as “Métis”. The boys usually continued in the tra-

dition of their fathers, whereas the girls were sent east to become educated. When these young women returned, they were known to be some of the best interpreters, as they could speak a variety of Native languages, as well as English. These mixed-blood women had ties to the Native people and their customs as well as the European traditions, and assumed the role of intermediaries between the two cultures. It took a lot to be a trader’s wife, as they had to go where their husbands went, which was often into remote areas where the trader needed to rely on his partner for translation and other duties. These other duties included dressing the hides, making the moccasins, pounding the pemmican, netting the snowshoes and acting as porters when no animal power was available. By many accounts the women liked this kind of life, as many had

However, with more European women coming west, and the fur trade industry dying, Native and Métis women’s roles were ending. Missionaries helped speed up the process when they denounced country marriage as being sinful and debased. The words spread by these men on fur trade custom had a damaging effect on Native women. Traders now coming into the post felt no need to adhere to the ‘custom of the country’ and looked at them as objects for temporary sexual gratification, not wives. Ironically, the ties were also broken by women being pitted against each other, race against race. In the Foss-Pelly scandal of 1852 a Métis woman was accused of infidelity and was ostracized by her community and husband. The aftermath of this scandal reverberated throughout the fur trade society because it led to the reinforcement of racial prejudice against Native women.

acknowledge this connection. Were women important in fur trade society? Do they merit better representation in our school books? To this, I say “yes”; their voices need to be heard, and we need to learn, and be reminded that we can work together, despite our different cultural upbringings. Aboriginal and Métis women were instrumental for the growth of this society, as well as for their people. Their marriages insured provisions for themselves as well as their families. Their language, social skills, their knowledge of furs, their Aboriginal family ties, as well as their economic contributions aided their men in the fur trade. Even today, Métis and Aboriginal women play an important part in the Canadian mosaic. Many still work side by side with their trapper husbands. While I have met many of these women, my friend and her husband remind me of my roots. They own a store

“ They had to hide their Aboriginal ancestry, and many were ashamed...” ”

roots in nomadic tribes. Full blood and Métis women were also an essential part of the labour force at the forts. On top of their domestic duties, they made mittens, caps, and leggings, which were useful and essential goods needed to keep the fur trade industry strong. Métis women were recognized for the intricate beadwork and quillwork they fashioned on their husbands’ clothes. They were known for their gathering and hunting skills. Native and Métis women were known also for their generous hearts. They helped each other out, including the European women when they came. After this scandal broke out, intermarriages continued, but with the growth of racial prejudice there was an ever-stronger emphasis on the total emulation of respectable Victorian society. Many ‘half-blood’ women were abandoned by their ‘husbands’, as well as their tribes, leaving them to fend on their own. They were women ‘en milieu’; neither white, nor Aboriginal. The assimilation of Métis children was successful, but not without consequences. They had to hide their Aboriginal ancestry, and many were ashamed. This continues today, as my family is of Métis descent and many barely

located in the north where they also rent canoes and offer guided tours during the spring, summer and fall. In the fall and winter her husband traps. While he is trapping, she is putting the skins in the running river for the winter, skinning hides, making moccasins, leggings, mitts and drums. She is a living reminder of what was and still is today. Marianne van Beek is an MNO citizen from the North Bay area. She is currently working toward obtaining a B.A. in history and her teaching certification. Her daughter, Jessica, is a teacher as is her foster son, Ben.

Remembrance Day

Lest We Forget

Wreaths Lain on Behalf of all MNO Citizens since 2004

Laying Wreath at National Ceremonies a passion for two MNO Citizens

As they have every year since 2004, Senator Reta Gordon and Métis veteran Shaun Redmond participated in national Remembrance Day ceremonies in Ottawa, by laying a wreath at the national cenotaph on behalf of all the citizens of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO). Senator Reta and Shaun have performed this important gesture on behalf of the MNO in good weather and bad because it is very meaningful on a personal level for both of them, and because it is important to recognize our many Métis veterans who gave and continue to give so much in securing and sustaining the rights and freedoms that we all enjoy.

Shaun enlisted in the Canadian Army in 1971 and rose to the rank of Lieutenant prior to joining the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in 1980. Although retired, he still serves as a Captain in the Reserves and trains cadets. “My

father’s brother was killed in action in Italy during World War II,” explained Shaun, “and it [laying the wreath] is a way to remember him.” Shaun also feels that the MNO’s involvement reminds Canadians that the Métis have played a part in conflicts throughout the history of Canada. “We have participated in everything from the War of 1812, to peacekeeping missions, to now in Afghanistan, not just in the two World Wars,” Shaun pointed out. “It is important that the MNO is present at the ceremonies to communicate this fact to all Canadians.”

Each year following protocol, Shaun, as a veteran, presents the MNO wreath to Senator Reta who then lays the wreath on the cenotaph. Senator Reta’s father and her nine uncles all participated in World War II. Then later in the 1950s, her four brothers also served in the military and one of her brothers, George Kelly, even participated in the national Remembrance Day ceremonies this year. “It is good to let everyone know the Métis are here and that we support Remembrance

Day,” explained Senator Reta. The Senator also believes the ceremonies are a great relationship builder with First Nations, who like the MNO, laid wreaths following the Governor-General and the Government of Canada. “While waiting, Shaun and I stand in a little area with the First Nations,” Senator Reta pointed out, “and I think it helps us feel closer to each other.”

Senator Reta and Shaun are also involved in remembrance through Health Canada. Each year Health Canada invites Shaun to lead remembrance activities for the week of Remembrance Day at the Iskatew Lodge at Tunney’s Pasture in Ottawa. The Iskatew (Algonquin meaning “the fire from within”) Lodge highlights different aspects of Aboriginal culture throughout the year and during the week of Remembrance Day focuses on the contributions of Aboriginal veterans. Shaun invites Reta to assist him in leading activities at the Lodge for the week, which helps increase awareness of the many contributions of Métis veterans.



(left) Senator Reta Gordon and Shaun Redmond (right) lay a wreath on behalf of all MNO citizens at the national cenotaph in Ottawa during Remembrance Day Ceremonies.

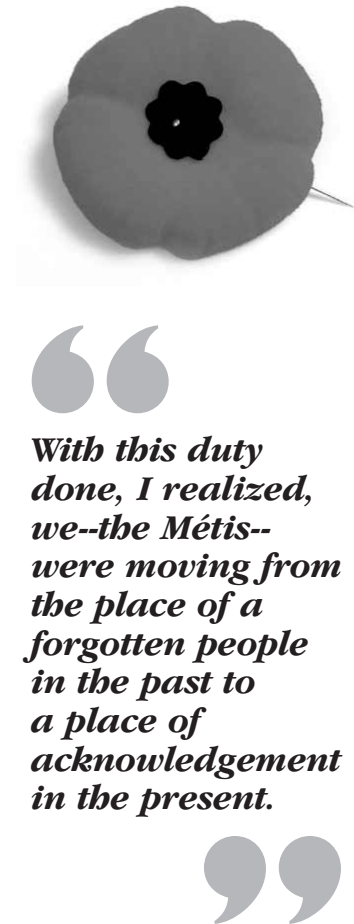
PORT CREDIT | REMEMBRANCE DAY

Another reason to remember on the 11th

by Joseph Paquette

Every year on November 11th, we remember our fallen soldiers and their contributions to this great country, Canada. At war memorials and cenotaphs various veterans’ associations and organizations conduct ceremonies. This year, 2010, November 11th has provided an opportunity that affected me in a very profound way.

Please allow me to explain. I am a veteran; my father was a WWII veteran, and my grandfather was a Merchant Marine Veteran. So being able to participate in any of the November 11th ceremonies is very important to me. This year, I had the wonderful opportunity to participate in the Remembrance Day parade held at the Port Credit Royal Canadian Legion Branch #82. I carried the Métis flag as part of the colour party and it had very special meaning indeed, 2010 being the “Year of the Métis”. This year also commemorates 125 years since the Northwest Rebellion of 1885. This was the first time the Métis flag had flown in a Remembrance Day parade in Port Credit. It may very well be that it is the first time in Peel Region as well. Being Métis gave me a certain pride that I really cannot explain. Recognizing the contributions made by



Aboriginal veterans and in this case, Métis veterans, sent a chill up my spine. My father and grandfather would be proud of this day.

As we marched to the cenotaph, I could not help but remember all those that came before me who fought for peace

and freedom, so that I, on this day, could carry the Métis flag in a Remembrance Day Parade.

This was only the beginning! Little did I know what was to follow this flag carrying experience. Once at the cenotaph, when the colour party was in position, a woman named Julie Morris approached me from the Port Credit Legion. She said, “You’re, Joe, right?” I acknowledged that I was. She went on to say, “We have a wreath for you to lay for the Métis veterans”. At that moment, I became paralysed. I did not know what to say. I remained steadfast and said “thank you”. The wreath for the Métis veterans took its place at the cenotaph, alongside all those veterans remembered, on this day.

With this duty done, I realized, we--the Métis--were moving from the place of a forgotten people in the past to a place of acknowledgement in the present.

Thank you, Marcee, Miigwetch, to Julie and Ron, for making this a very special day for all Métis.

Joseph Paquette (QOR of C, 1st Bat) is an MNO Citizen and Secretary of the Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans Council (MNOVC) and a member of the National Aboriginal Veterans Association (NAVA).

Métis Council takes part in Remembrance Day

by Stephen Quesnelle

Sunday, November the 7th, 2010, the Niagara Region Métis Council, for the first time, was honoured to be involved in the Remembrance Day ceremonies with the Welland Legion, Branch 4. Three of our

citizens, one being a veteran, carried the Métis flags in the colour party. We were greatly privileged to be able to show our respect for the Métis citizens and other military personnel who fought and died for our country and for those who continue to serve in our military.



Pride and Remembrance

by Ted Schinbein

I am just sending you a picture of a wonderful Métis lady, Yvette (whom I married 44 years ago) with our grandson, Devon, laying our annual Métis wreath at the November 11th, ceremony in Mitchell, Ontario. They make

me proud to be so thoughtful of their heritage! Yvette is originally from St. Boniface, Manitoba, (nee Feuillatre, Nault). I moved our family here in 1975 after several years in the Arctic. We now own Schinbeins Music in downtown Mitchell.

# The Warrior Spirit

By **DONN FOWLER**

It seems absolutely incredible that my ancestors—my family—of Otonabee Township, in Peterborough County, and later of Kingston, Ontario, had managed to keep the “aboriginal” part of my family secret, not just from me, but from so many of my cousins and my siblings. In fact, it took me 52 years of genealogical research to make the discovery in 1977 of my first known European immigrant to Canada, in 1790, and also my first known indigenous ancestor, Mary Corrigan (born, c. 1788). She became the beloved country wife of Jacob Corrigan formerly of Evie-Randall Parish, Orkney, Scotland. Jacob’s “Mary” died on 23rd September, 1823, at the age of 35. Jacob, born in 1775, (not in 1772 as the HBC records show) died in 1844 in Cobourg, Canada West (C.W.).

Because we know nothing of the native name of “Mary”, or the young native girl’s aboriginal family, we may only speculate about her life as follows: She was born c. 1788. Jacob was age 15 when he managed to become indentured, for five years, to the HBC on the 17 May, 1790; therefore, Jacob was 24, in 1799, when the young “Mary” was probably age 12. Already Jacob had journeyed as an HBC inland trader in 1774 to Sturgeon Lake from Osnaburgh House and back again; from 1774 to 1799 he was “Master” at Lake St. Ann (now known as Lake Nipigon), and at Martin Falls from

1802 to 1812. It is probable that the huge--relative to Osnaburgh House--Lake St. Ann location was the region where the couple may first have met. That region was likely the site of their natural union from 1794 to 1799, or in 1801. In 1802, when she was 14, Mary gave birth to her first child. The couple named their baby girl, “Ann”, perhaps alluding to Lake St. Ann. Jacob was 27, and from 1802 to 1812 he was the Master of the Martin Falls HBC Post. The couple were again at the Martin Falls HBC post, from 1822 to 1824, but Mary died in September of 1823. Only two daughters ever married; namely, my great-great-aunt, Ann (Corrigan) Nourse who married an HBC commissioned officer named William Nourse, of Edinburgh, Scotland, and my great-great-grandmother, Mary (Corrigan) Scollie, who married Robert Scollie, of Orkney, who was a HBC employee working for Jacob Corrigan at Martin Falls.

More recently we have learned that Jacob’s a la façon de pays (country wife) apparently carried an Anishinabek mtDNA (mitochondrial DNA) of the genetic aboriginal Haplogroup “A” and therefore Mary was a haplotype “A2k1”, which would have been naturally inherited by each of her six Métis children, and subsequently would be passed on to their female offspring.

One of Mary (Corrigan) Scollie’s daughters is my Métis great-grandmother, Margaret Charlotte

(Corrigan, Scollie) Fowler. “Maggie”, as she was known, was born in 1850 just north of the Hiawatha First Nation (Ojibwa-cum-Mississauga) of Otonabee Township. She quietly married Samuel Fowler at Carver Village, Minnesota, in 1862, where my grandfather, their first child, was born in 1872. Maggie, an accomplished organist, died in 1936 when I was age ten. It was she who had prevailed upon my mother in 1925 to give me the Scottish first name, of “Donald”, from which I use the nickname of “Donn”, but for two very personal reasons.

By June of 1940 I was already a trained boy soldier and a military bandsman in a Kingston and Ottawa (Connaught Ranges) Militia, and a trained machine-gunner with the PWOR (Princess of Wales Own Regiment M.G.). I was following in the same footsteps as three other soldiering and ancestral war-experienced Fowlers: my great-grandfather, Samuel Fowler; his son, my grandfather, Alfred Herbert Fowler; and my father, Herbert James Fowler. Warriors all, they fought against the Fenian Incursions; in the Boer War; in WW1; and, in the case of my late father, WW11 (C1004 Herbert James Fowler E.M., enlisted in September 1939, with the quickly mobilised 1st Division’s, Royal Canadian Horse Artillery and arrived in England by December of that same year.)

Following the May, 1945, termination of the six war-years served in the United Kingdom,

and on continental Europe, we overseas war-veterans were made ready and point-processed to return home to our families in Canada on the basis of returning the 1939 volunteers first, followed next by the 1940 volunteers, then the 1941; 1942; 1943 and other remaining overseas troops. But because the war with Japan did not end until the atomic bombs were dropped on Japan, many of us volunteered for the conflict with Japan. Fortunately, that war ended before it was necessary to become engaged against Japan.

Many of us in Europe returned on a brief repatriation leave to the United Kingdom. We had been issued just enough travel-warrants, ration cards, and on-leave passes in order to have reasonable time to journey somewhere in England, Wales, or Scotland, where we were then able to bid farewell to our British friends, and to any known U.K. ancestors. These visits, of course, were for the many friendships that had been established there during the war years from December, 1939 until D-Day, the 6th June, 1944. We Canadians, still in our armed forces uniforms, included thousands of aboriginals.

Accordingly, we entrained from our last location in north-

west Europe to be embarked on one of the ships returning to England. Following our repatriation leaves we were soon cleared for embarkation to Canada on one of the many passenger ships returning all the “warriors” from the war zones, and were not required to become part of the Canadian Occupational Force (COF) Battalion units. These units were made up of many experienced war-volunteers, who wanted to remain in the service, and by other servicemen who did not have enough points to qualify for an earlier repatriation home.

Those special wrap-up forces returned to Canada later, generally, as individual units. My unit, the 1st Battalion Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (SDG) Highlanders, returned, (after a very rough ocean crossing) to New York City, and a day later, to a major welcoming reception in the Cornwall, Ontario, Armoury on the 29th of December 1945. We Glengarrians, known as “Glens” were earliest home because of our higher point scores.

Some Glens still serve in a different and uglier kind of war zone, in Afghanistan, fighting once again toward that often elusive democratic freedom from another tyranny. Our warriors continue to “Bash on!”



Donald (Donn) Fowler enlisted as a 14-year-old in the Canadian army in June, 1940. As a member of the Glengarry Highlanders he landed in Normandy, France with a wave of D-Day reinforcements in 1944.

## FUNDRAISING GOLF TOURNAMENT

BY TONY BELCOURT

I am pleased to announce that plans are now under way for the “1st Annual Tony Belcourt Golf Fundraiser” to be held June 17, 2011 at the beautiful Mississippi Golf Club near Ottawa. Proceeds from the tournament will be to benefit the Dr. Tony Belcourt Endowment Fund for Métis in the Arts at Ontario College of Art & Design University (OCADU) and for the Building Expansion Project of the Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health in Ottawa.

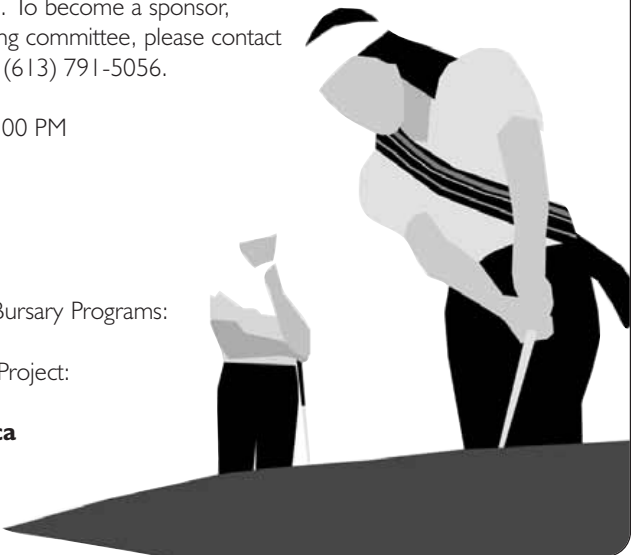
The endowment fund in my name granted to OCADU by the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is a great honor to me personally but it also gives me the opportunity to encourage Métis people to consider a career in the arts, something that I am passionate about. I am equally grateful to the Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health for providing the quality health care and related special programs that are so greatly needed by our people. I am thankful to Wabano for the wonderful care and attention I receive for my own health needs and those of my family. I appreciate the chance to provide my support for both of these most worthy endeavors.

Tournament details will be announced soon. To become a sponsor, donate prizes, or volunteer for the organizing committee, please contact me at [tonyb@tonybelcourt.com](mailto:tonyb@tonybelcourt.com) or call me (613) 791-5056.

Mark your calendars. **June 17, 2011, 1:00 PM**  
Mississippi Golf Club, Appleton, ON

Marci, Meegwich, Qujannamiik  
Tony

For information on MNO Scholarship and Bursary Programs:  
**[www.metisnation.org](http://www.metisnation.org)**  
For information on the Wabano Expansion Project:  
**[www.wabano.com](http://www.wabano.com)**  
For information on OCADU: **[www.ocad.ca](http://www.ocad.ca)**  
For information the Mississippi Golf Club:  
**[www.mississippi-golfclub.com](http://www.mississippi-golfclub.com)**



left to right: **Chief Warrant Officer (CWO) Thibault; Colonel Meloche; Master Warrant Officer (MWO) Patterson; President Allan Vallee; Interim Chair Brenda Laurin and Chief Warrant Officer (CWO) Baillargeon.**

## CF personnel present to GBMC on “Black Bear” program

On November 28, 2010, at our General Assembly, the Georgian Bay Métis Council was pleased to offer the Métis citizens of Georgian Bay, a presentation by Canadian Forces Base Borden. The “Black Bear” program is a Canadian Forces Aboriginal Entry Program.

This is an employment training opportunity for Aboriginal youth from across Canada.

Seven weeks in July and August provide youth with cultural awareness, general military knowledge, self-confidence, self-discipline, teamwork skills, physical fitness and life skills. It is open to Aboriginal youth aged 16 to 29 and there are no obligations attached.

Georgian Bay Métis Council presented the personnel from Base Borden with sashes.

MNO ABORIGINAL RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING:

# Taking a real gamble

**Texas Hold’Em, BINGO, Blackjack, Lotto, Casino, Stock market, Races?  
Make a bet that counts. Invest wisely and join us!**

The Métis Nation of Ontario’s Aboriginal Responsible Gambling Program (ARGP) is generously funded by Ontario Ministry of Health Promotion. This program strives to provide relevant and up-to-date information about gambling and gambling related issues to Métis people that will assist everyone in making healthy choices about gambling. The information is available across the province through the coordination and distribution of gambling-related print materials, partnerships and workshops.

With an exciting new year ahead of us, the MNO will focus on two key areas: Youth Gambling and Internet Gambling. With evolving trends and technologies, these two subjects have been identified at the forefront as main concerns. To keep up with this trend, join our Facebook group, “Métis Nation of Ontario Responsible Gambling”, where we will provide information on responsible gambling, offer discussion forums, and some fun contests.

Did you know youth have the highest risk of developing gambling related problems? The MNO has started to respond to this growing concern with the development of a “Leaders in Training Program” that will empower youth to become role models in their communities and to educate their peers. Upon completion of the program youth leaders can receive credit for their mandatory 40 hours of community service towards their high school diploma with a letter of recommendation from the Métis Nation of Ontario.

We have many exciting new ideas to help spread the word about responsible gambling. We are working with our staff and steering committee across the province to develop new culturally appropriate resources and presentations that can be delivered to our communities. We are also currently working on a reference guide for referrals to treatment programs, family counsellors and credit councillors throughout Ontario.

An educational casino simula-

“**Did you know youth have the highest risk of developing gambling related problems?**

The MNO has started to respond to this growing concern with the development of a “Leaders in Training Program”

tion video has been developed which highlights the ease with which one can become caught up in the “thrill” of gambling. This video implements real life scenarios such as paying bills and unexpected expenses that may have to be addressed after “the thrill is gone”. If your community is interested in hosting an event to assist citizens in your area to embrace healthy gambling practices, please contact a health coordinator in your area or the Provincial Aboriginal Responsible Gambling Coordinator at the MNO head office.

The MNO will also host steering committee meetings. The purpose of our provincial gambling steering committee is to review program goals, develop and review resources, assure citizen engagement, and that our Provincial Coordinator is on track to address the real needs of our citizens and is able to maximize outreach to Métis communities across the province. The role of a steering committee member is to meet at least four times a year by videoconference to

provide input to the Coordinator on the activities of the program and to ensure Métis cultural perspective is carefully minded throughout all activities. This said, we are looking to fill a few vacancies on the steering committee and encourage anyone interested to contact our Provincial Coordinator at the head office.

Take a gamble that is worthwhile. Just a little of your time and participation can play an important role in making a positive impact in our communities. If your community is interested in hosting such events, or you would like to participate in the Leaders in Training Program or be part of our steering committee please contact our Provincial Aboriginal Responsible Gambling Coordinator.

#### CONTACT

**Loma Rowlinson**  
Provincial Aboriginal Responsible  
Gambling Coordinator  
Office: 1-800-722-4225  
Cell: 613-299-2598  
lomar@metisnation.org

THUNDER BAY HEALTH BRANCH | JANUARY to MARCH

## T-Bay’s Best Imaginary Beach

by Joan Panizza  
THUNDER BAY

Winters can be long and cold. They can also be fun and invigorating. It all depends on your point of view. At the Thunder Bay Health Branch we decided to embrace both faces of this season.

On January 14th, we enjoyed a sleigh ride at Centennial Park. We met at the Métis Centre on May Street. From there we took a bus to the park to enjoy one of the city’s best loved winter activities. Later we warmed up with chili and hot chocolate in the chalet before heading back to the centre at the end of the afternoon.

On January 28th, we escaped to an imaginary beach for “Hawaii Day” at the Complex where we enjoyed a swim and a soak in a hot tub.

During February we are looking forward to a partnership with the Ogden Community Centre. This Winter Carnival Celebration on February 11, 12 and 13 will see all kinds of activities for kids of all ages. Be sure to check in with us to find out what’s planned.

By the time March comes around winter does seem to be overstaying its wel-

come. What to do? Try “March Métis Madness” from March 12th to 16th (March Break). We will be planning quite a few outings. Golf, bowling, and swimming are just some of the ideas that have been tossed around.

Do any of these sound like your cup of tea? Would you like to try something else? Please pass on your suggestion. We are always looking for new activities for the family.

If any of these outings sound like something you’d like to attend please call one of the Health Branch coordinators to register:

Tel: **807-624-5010**  
Long Term Care

Tel: **807-624-5012**  
Community Action Program for Children

Tel: **807-624-5013**  
Canadian Pre-Natal Post-Natal Program

Tel: **807-624-5016**  
Aboriginal Healthy Babies / Children

Tel: **807-624-5022**  
Community Wellness

HEALTHY LIVING

## Osteoporosis best treated by prevention

OSTEOPOROSIS CANADA announces new 2010 clinical practice guidelines for the diagnosis and management of osteoporosis in Canada, with focus on identifying fracture risk

There are almost two million Canadians who live with osteoporosis, a disease that causes bones to become thin and weak, resulting in fractures from minimal trauma, such as a simple fall.

Osteoporosis is often not diagnosed until a fracture has occurred, most commonly in the wrist, spine or hip.

Risk factors for osteoporosis and fracture include being 65 or older; a parent having had a hip fracture; having a fracture after age 40; low bone mass; cigarette smoking; excessive alcohol intake; and long-term use of glucocorticoid medication, such as prednisone.

To keep bones healthy, the new guidelines indicate that adults 19 to 50 need 1000 milligrams (mg) of calcium daily, while those over 50 require 1200 milligrams. As much as possible, the calcium

should be from food sources. Dairy products such as milk, yogurt and cheese offer the best sources of calcium, but other foods, such as canned salmon with bones, sardines, fortified beverages (orange juice, soy and rice beverage) and almonds contain calcium too. Supplements are recommended if calcium intake from diet is not enough.

Vitamin D is vital to the absorption of calcium and bone health. Osteoporosis Canada recommends daily supplementation of vitamin D3. For those under 50, 400-1000 International Units (IU) is recommended, over 50, vitamin D3 intake should be in the range of 800-2000 IU.

Another lifestyle factor is to ensure adequate physical activity, both weight-bearing (walking and dancing) and resistance exercise such as lifting weights.

Individuals should check with their healthcare professional before starting any new program. It’s never too early or too late to make healthy choices for your bone health and reduce your risk of osteoporosis and related fractures.

For more information visit:  
**www.osteoporosis.ca**  
or phone **1-800-463-6482**

# Whose History?

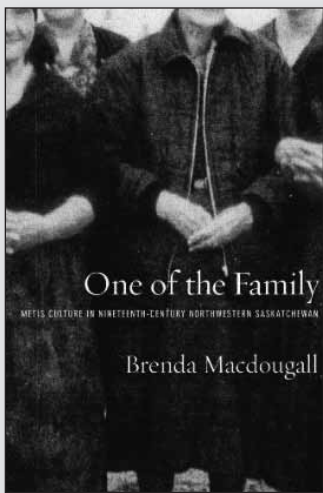
from page 16

Pierre Guillaume Sayer, Louis Riel, Gabriel Dumont, James Ross, and Johnny Grant. The trajectory of this “historiographical” tradition deviates little from Canada’s national narrative and, as a result, within the Canada’s narrative of Métis history we see the battle between civilization and savagery, the advance of the metropole and decline of the frontier, and the tradition of the great man. Several things should appear obviously lacking.

Where are the women and what about the regions inhabited by Métis west of the Rockies, south of the 49th parallel, or east of Lake Winnipeg? What may be less obvious but nonetheless lacking from these interpretive lenses is our perspective. We have to ask whether recreating Métis history in the image of Canadian historiographical traditions indeed tells us anything about the Métis historical experience and if not, why are we continuing to accept this deficiency in the historical tradition?

We can’t expect or wait for anyone else to write our history, our story, from our perspective. Instead, it is us that must take on this responsibility. We need to take seriously the scholarship about us and engage with it in the academy drawing from our rich oral and literary traditions to interpret, analyze and engage with history. It is in the manner that we’ll be able to produce a body of scholarship that is about us—not just what we’ve done—but also an interpretive lens to explain how and why our ancestors acted, behaved, chose, to do what they did in the manner in which they did it.

It’s no longer enough to demand that Canadian historians get it right. We have the opportunities to do this work ourselves and influence wider historiographies that we have impacted and it’s time to begin encouraging our youth to become scholars and not simply pursue professional degrees. Law schools across Canada have been amazing recruiters of our young people and we see the fruits of that effort everywhere we look. We have been less successful at producing humanist and social science scholars with the same passion and commitment to history, literature, political studies, sociology, geography, and other disciplines. I’ve heard our youth say that they don’t like history because it’s boring—really what they are saying is that it



isn’t their story, their narrative, theirs. That’s because right now, it isn’t, but that can and will change.

I want to end with an especially appropriate statement about the state of Métis historiography from two Métis scholars, Bruce Sealy and Antoine Lussier.

The dominant question was how cultures and environment could be modified and this fundamental question was personified in the Métis. To observers at the time [that is the 19th century] it seemed the choices were clear cut. The mixed bloods could become nomads of the woods and the plains or they could become as Europeans and be governed by the pen and the plough. The Métis chose neither one, they pulled both ways incessantly and sought a compromise between European and Indian ways, between paganism and Christianity; between hunting and agriculture.

This idea about the intrinsic quality of Métis history, as first articulated by Sealy and Lussier in their 1975 book, “The Métis: Canada’s Forgotten People”, appears to be stating the obvious to the point that they may indeed be redundant. Yet, perhaps it is because Sealy and Lussier stated the obvious that we haven’t really heard the message. In the thirty-five years since these words first appeared in print, we have neither embraced nor understood who our people were and so our ability to articulate how “Métisness”, that is how Métis identity, was, and is currently, expressed is profoundly lacking in both depth and breadth. The obvious is in fact a sophisticated, highly intellectualized articulation of *Métisness* that most fully expresses the complexity of the 19th century’s “New Nation” and it’s time we listened, wrote, and articulated our own complexity to Canada, to Canadians, and to ourselves.

∞



Dr. Brenda Macdougall holds the Chair of Métis Studies at UOttawa. Dr. Macdougall’s work has been rooted in Métis families and Métis communities. Some of her research to date is captured in her recently released book. Called “One of the Family,” it explores Métis culture in 19th century north-western Saskatchewan.

## MNO HEALTH | ONE STAFF MEMBER’S JOURNEY

# Poverty

“And there I was picking a number and waiting in line at the local food bank...”

By TerryLynn Longpre

There is not one MNO Health Branch Worker I know who would not go the extra mile for our citizens and their community. I have often prided myself and my esteemed colleagues on our due diligence; but is “due diligence” enough?

### Wednesday November 24, 2010

On this particular cold day I received a call from a citizen--a mother of two children, living in subsidized housing. She was in need of food and had no transportation with which to access the food bank. I thought to myself, “this should be simple; I will just go to the food bank and pick it up.” So, with great confidence and bravado I set out on my quest for food!

I entered one of the local food banks only to find, that I was the first one there, great! There were loaves of bread piled on a table; could I just take some? It must not be very fresh. I proceeded to give my business card to the receptionist and explained to her that I was here to pick up food for my client. Immediately, there seemed to be a great deal of confusion surrounding my request. Suddenly, my credentials meant nothing. What I thought was a simple task, became a huge ordeal! I was asked if I had a letter of authorization from the client. I was asked if I had her telephone number. How many children? Why wasn’t the client picking the food up? What is her recent address? How many people does she have registered with us?

What? I am just here to pick up food; I did not even bring the client file with me. Then I thought, “TerryLynn you are so naive”.

After much cajoling, reiterating the circumstances that brought me there and with the promise of a phone call from my client, I was authorized to proceed to the food bank.

When I reached the food bank there was an elderly gentleman (He looked like a soft soul.) standing inside a relatively small room with shelves scantily stocked with canned goods and lots of macaroni. At that precise moment I instinctively knew I was no different from any other person in the community seeking help.

Since I was deemed a “family of three,” I was awarded 14 points. I boldly said to the gentleman, “I thought we just had a food drive?” He explained that the food collected had yet to be distributed to the local food banks, hence, the barely filled shelves. I am embarrassed.

I asked the man: “How does this work?” I now felt somewhat humbled and regretful for my ignorant attitude thus far. He explained that with my 14 points I could shop from the shelves. All goods were marked with designated points.

As I shopped I thought of my client’s needs. Tuna was 1 point,

macaroni was 4 points, and cereal was 3 points. Oh there is the cooking oil. Oh my Gosh, it is 5 points; can’t get that. What can I get that is healthy and yet satiating? I truly felt the burden of the client’s poverty as I tried to pick out the most food I could get for 14 points--never mind now the healthy aspect. This mission was about quantity, not quality! My neck and shoulders were literally aching from the weight of what I so arrogantly thought was a “simple task.”

Upon leaving I had just two bags full. The kind gentleman offered me a small frozen pizza and some frozen cupcakes for the kids. I then picked up my ration of bread. Upon leaving I noticed the room was absolutely full of people in need. I had just learned my first lesson in poverty: Humility.

When I delivered the food that day to the client she was filled with gratitude and expected no more. My second lesson in poverty: Thankfulness.

If those were not enough, there were more lessons to come.

### Journal Part II

#### Thursday November 25, 2010

On this morning I had to complete my task of obtaining food for my client. I had been informed by the first food bank that I could seek out another local bank to fortify the small amount I was allowed.

## Poverty Stats

- Almost four in ten Aboriginal people in Thunder Bay live below the low-income cut-off.
- Nearly one in five Aboriginal people in Kenora lives below the low-income cut-off.
- Too many Aboriginal people live in poverty in Canada. The statistics speak for themselves.\*\*
- Recent Census data shows that 23 per cent of Aboriginal people live in houses in need of major repairs, compared to just 7 per cent of the non-Aboriginal population.\*\*
- The majority of Inuit people in Canada live in remote arctic communities that make it difficult for them to access medical services and consumer goods. A 2005 Statistics Canada report found that 56 per cent of Nunavut respondents stated that their household lacked the money over the past year to buy enough quality food to eat. In the north, junk food is often much cheaper than nutritious food, because it is so much easier to ship.\*\*
- One in four First Nations children lives in poverty.\*\*

\* These data are based on the before tax LICO. (Germain Marie France, 2006 Aboriginal Profile, Statistics Canada).  
\*\* PSAC Fact Sheet National Aboriginal Peoples’ Day, June 21, 2008

“Whew, how does everybody do this?” This takes time and transportation. This is a job in itself! My third lesson in poverty: Obstacles. I was about to once again not only look poverty in the eyes, but feel the poverty in my body, heart and soul as a person in need.

I arrived early and was told to wait 15 minutes until they opened. Okay, now I am feeling a bit irritated yet chastised by those who would be helping me. What is the big deal about 15 minutes? Fifteen minutes later I once again arrived; I was told to pick a number.

And so there I was picking a number and waiting in line. Hence, my fourth lesson in poverty: Patience. At that precise moment I was no different from anybody in the community seeking help.

I saw a table that had different food items on it; this time there was a sign: “Select three at your own risk.” These items were “expired”.

When it was my turn, I went through the same process as the day before even though I had a letter of authorization from the client. I was told that I must also have the client’s statement of earnings, children’s identification and a phone call from the client. I felt raw and vulnerable. Is this what a person in need must go through to ask for help? This is a totally invasive and shameful process. I was then sent downstairs to pick up my food.

This time, I did not have the luxury of picking out my food. My fate rested in the hands of two volunteers. I am quiet, observing. “Wow, I get milk and eggs!” Then I simply asked if they have any meat; whereupon, I was given bacon! Oh, this is too good to be true. I am so happy! I cannot wait to deliver this food to my client, and so I did.

My quest was completed. This worker had learned the lessons well. From this experience I have gained an in depth understanding and a broader perspective about poverty and those in need. For one to even reach out and ask for help is a huge undertaking that involves many personal issues and great disclosure; I applaud each and every one of you!

Métis Citizens and readers I leave you with this:

Mathew 25:35  
*For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger and ye took me in;(36) Naked and ye clothed me; I was sick and ye visited me; I was in prison and ye came unto me.*

Coincidentally, while writing of this experience the local newspaper published a challenge to its readers from the organization “Bridges Community Health Centre.” The challenge: To live on a food bank diet for three days. It is their hope that the challenge will “spur people to become more vocal.” I entered a team on behalf of the MNO and the journey will be told to you in the spring edition of the *Voyageur*.

# A tribute to our Senators

At the start of a powwow it is the job of the grass dancers to flatten the grass of the arena. Now this may be a First Nations’ tradition but I believe it to be an example we can relate to. We in the Métis Nation have our own “grass dancers”. Perhaps it is not an arena they flatten, the grass that our Métis grass dancers beat down is a path for our future generation to follow. It is our Senators I refer to. They have set out our path; flattened down the way, and set our direction. Because of their knowl-



## SENATORS’ SPOTLIGHT

BY **RETA GORDON**  
PCMNO SENATOR

edge, their strength, and sense of community, our political leaders are able to enter the arena and advance our Nation. Our Senators have set the groundwork and laid the foundation.

Over the past few months we have had a number of our Sena-

tors pass over. It is because of their hard work and the hard work of our Senators in our councils, our Honourary Senators, and those on the PCMNO that our strength has increased. Their understandings of our teachings and their tenacity have ensured a firm, sound base for our people to travel. The Métis road is not without bumps, but more important, it has been flattened in a respectful manner in tune with Mother Earth. The

path set by our Senators, past and present, will ensure our position as a proud and strong Aboriginal people within Canada. We mourn the recent death of our Senators, but we celebrate their lives. They will always be with us in spirit; their contributions and achievements will be their lasting tributes to their time with us.

I wish to pay tribute to our Senators: all those who have gone before us and those with us today. If there is one thing I have learned from all those Senators it is a sense of optimism. Our Senators

are like the long grass; they bend, and then they bounce right back up. Sometimes the path must be walked on many times before the direction becomes entrenched. One foot after another our Senators have lead the way and they continue to ensure that we don't stray off the path.

Thank you to all the Senators of our Nation. I am proud to walk alongside of you and I ask the Creator to give us the strength to continue on this journey.

MOON RIVER MÉTIS COUNCIL SENATOR

## Our flag, sash and a little taste of bannock

by **Senator Verna Porter**  
*Moon River Métis Council*

While speaking with Senator Reta Gordon at the AGA in Thunder Bay this past summer we discussed a newsletter which I had done over the past year which included events and things that might interest other Senators and that they, in turn, might want to share some of their stories as well. So here it is.

January 2010 came in with very cold weather. We had about three days of -20 or more. So, if that doesn't give you a jump start nothing will. I also started a New Year with my life as a widow when my husband of 40 years passed away. With the support of family, friends, my Métis family and of course the Creator, I have been able to move on and embrace life each day as Doug and the Creator would have wanted me to.

I have attended many MNO meetings as a Senator of Moon River Council and have always come back home with something I've learned--even if it was using the staff elevator in a Toronto hotel because the regular elevator was full to capacity at all times because of a student conference with over 400 students.

I have made my share of bannock this year. During the annual fish fry at the “Rendezvous” in September I demonstrated cooking the bannock over an open fire. At the AGA in Thunder Bay, Louise Goulding, our Chair, Larry Duval our Council President of Moon River and I held another demonstration with great results. We had people share how they cook bannock with different ingredients to make special desserts or even putting a wiener on a stick and then wrapping your bannock around it. It's great sharing ideas as well as friends made along the way. On Sunday, June 6th, the United Church I belong to had communion Sunday and again I made bannock

which our minister blessed and passed around to three congregations. It was an honour to have participated in this event.

In June, we held a “Soirée” with the Métis Fiddler Quartet in Gravenhurst. I had the privilege of introducing them.

***“My Métis flag which I fly proudly beside my Canadian flag drew a lot of attention. It's surprising how many people still don't know who the Métis are.”***

Of course, I must also mention the G-8 held here in Huntsville. We--my son and daughter and family--were grounded for about 48 hours because of the close proximity of the resort where the VIPs were staying. My Métis flag which I fly proudly beside my Canadian flag drew a lot of attention. It's surprising how many people still don't know who the Métis are. So there was a bit of education going on not far from where the “Big Talks” were taking place.

I have also been a guest speaker at a United Church women group. I have attended three schools this year celebrating National Aboriginal Day. Again, over 400 students in one of the schools, so more bannock was needed--and a wee bit of pure maple syrup. I was also asked for an opening prayer at a symposium put on by our district school board with guest speaker, Joseph Boyden.

As I write this, we are now winding down a very successful year I would say. If we can be present in our communities and share our flag, our sash and a little taste of bannock, we have made a difference.

I wish you all health, happiness, love and blessings in 2011.

### Inspiration

## Sash & feather

And while we're at it—a tribute to Reta

Reta Gordon seems to be everywhere, looking after everyone and everything. Role models are not just to inspire our youth; sometimes those of us who haven't been a “youth” for a long time need a little inspiration. Reta is that inspiration. She was recently presented with an Eagle Feather by Minwashin Lodge. She was also a prominent speaker on Parliament Hill this fall in support of Sisters in Spirit where nearly 400 people gathered for this 5th Annual Sisters in Spirit Vigil.

Even though more than 2% of the over 600 Aboriginal women who have been murdered or are missing in Canada are Métis, this was the first time a Métis Elder had been invited to speak on this terrible situation.

And what else has Reta been doing? She and Métis veteran Shaun Redmond participated in national Remembrance Day ceremonies in Ottawa, by laying a wreath at the national cenotaph on behalf of all the citizens of the MNO.

On Riel Day, Reta was at Queen's Park to lay a wreath.

In September, Reta represented the Métis Nation at the Four Directions Aboriginal Student Centre at Queen's University in Kingston for the 4th Annual Educational Powwow, “Celebrating the Harvest of the Three Sisters”.

During Aboriginal Awareness Week, 2010, Reta performed the opening ceremony for the Métis celebration held by the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat.

We could fill an entire *Voyageur* with Reta's activities, but even that would not do justice to this dynamic woman's heart and spirit.

Thank you Reta for all you do; you do inspire us.

— Linda Lord



## The Solitary Carver

He may not be a Métis citizen, but he has a Métis Heart!

By **TerryLynn Longpre**  
*Community Wellnes Coordinator*  
WELLAND

His name is Joseph Walter Horvat, born September 29, 1937. He is a wood carver, poet, hunter, fisherman, trapper, teacher, chef and above all else, a father.

We must always remember to thank those who helped us along the way. In my humble opinion, this man deserves a great deal of thanks.

When I started with the Métis Nation of Ontario in May, 2009, Joe offered to donate over \$1000. worth of his wood carvings to the Welland office so that we could raise money to upgrade our facilities; doing so would enable us to

provide greater service to those citizens in need.

In the fall 2009, at our Annual Harvest Dinner we raffled off Joe's carvings. We made enough money to buy a new fridge, microwave stand, cutlery and other small items to furnish our kitchen. I cannot tell you the difference it has made to the staff, citizens and all the services we offer!

Please take a look at Joe's beautiful carving and join me in thanking him for helping us along the way.

Joe, on behalf of the Métis Nation of Ontario I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your great contributions and help along the way!

### Solitary Carver

By *Joseph Walter Horvat*

A carver's knife, I hold in my hand,  
Carving things both humble and grand.  
Seeing what they want, people look a while,  
Some pieces are comical and make them smile.  
Others stand out with appearance so bold,  
While others are too beautiful to behold.  
But the time will come when my life's work is done;  
I will finally carve my last setting sun.  
But if you look closely in the sky,  
I will be carving the clouds as they drift by.  
I will always be learning and training my hand,  
Because I was taught by the master who first carved man.

Arts & Culture

Fresh Tracks

Audio recording is an important Métis resource

By CHRIS PACI

Dr. Annette Chrétien has recorded a brilliant CD called “Fresh Tracks”. The CD has seven rich tracks made up of sound recordings from a one-hour radio programme. Each is a deeply researched mix of Métis music samples, interviews with Métis, and story-telling. After one hour I was personally left wanting more and if you are like me, then

you too can go to Dr Chrétien’s thesis, completed in 2005, to read a bit more. National Library of Canada has her thesis on line, just search “Fresh Tracks in Dead Air: Mediating Contemporary Métis Identities through Music and Storytelling.” In her liner notes, Dr Chrétien stated that “Fresh Tracks is about the wanderings of a lonely spirit who returns to earth to find his lost song. It is the spirit of a Métis

trapper called Black Sam”. Black Sam is the first cut on the CD and as listeners we follow his tracks back into the past to find the origins of an important part of the Ontario Métis community. The francophone and Michif tracks are some of the most compelling features of this attractive and compelling CD. Some people may find Dr. Chrétien’s political history a bit challenging. But don’t think of

her in the same way as John Ralston Saul, who erroneously paints Canada as a Métis civilization. Chrétien’s knowledge is more personal and much better informed than Mr Saul’s. This history will appeal to those who have a broad and inclusive vision of Métis, one which continues to cross the imaginary boundaries, cultural and linguistic divides, established by Canada. In the end we hear “Sam’s

“Fresh Tracks is about the wanderings of a lonely spirit who returns to earth to find his lost song.”

Favourite Song”. Give it a listen and I hope you will agree with me when I say three cheers for Annette Chrétien, a strong Métis woman, a fine Métis scholar, and a valuable member of the Métis community in Ontario.

Finding our way

“The medicine wheel is a full circle of teachings that encompasses personal wisdom, knowledge and power. All this serves to provide us with a peaceful way of understanding the whole of life perfectly framed in a circle, to illustrate the need for us to be in harmony with the greater whole.”

— Tim Yearington

By LINDA LORD

A quick look at Google will reveal more than a million hits for “medicine wheel teachings”. So the potential reader is certainly justified in asking: “what makes this book different?” The answer is that this is a book that will resonate with many Métis. It is a philosophical account of a man looking for his identity, and most of us have been down that road. An old Native proverb states, “If you find fear in your heart, go into the mountains. Stand high on the peak and watch the storm come from the horizon. See the lightning, hear the thunder, and know that all this power is small in comparison to the power the Great Spirit has to protect you.” So, finding fear in his own heart, Tim Yearington, a self-identified Métis man living in Muskoka, did just that. From what he found in the mountains of Ontario’s Madawaska Highlands he wrote a book in order to share what he had learned about Native



teachings. Tim’s new 146 page book, *THAT NATIVE THING – Exploring the Medicine Wheel* is published by Borealis Press in Ottawa (ISBN 978-0-88887-411-5) and sells for \$19.95. Tim says: “...As I was scouting out routes for the creation of new hiking trails in the mountains, I began to see how the land, its plants, trees, animals and birds were teaching me about myself. It

was profound. Nature was talking to my spirit. “Guided by my own trails in the wilderness, I found myself upon a sacred path that led me to the wisdom of the medicine wheel. And along the way I found my own true colours and that lost ‘red’ part of me that had been missing for so long.” “The medicine wheel is a compass that helps us find our way using the four directions of east, south, west and north.” Tim explains: “At a deeper level, the four directions hold ‘medicine’ that teaches us about the four parts we all have: the emotional, physical, spiritual and mental parts of ourselves. The teachings of the medicine wheel help us balance our four parts in order to bring harmony to our ‘earth walk’ so we can make peace with ourselves in life.” Illuminated by Tim’s own paintings, artwork, photos and diagrams, this is a little book with a big message.

THE 12th ANNUAL NATIVE AMERICAN MUSIC AWARDS:

Canadians win at NAMA

The awards were held November 12, 2010, at the Seneca Niagara Hotel and Casino in Niagara Falls, New York. Canadians in the winners’ circle included Shane Yellowbird, Digging Roots, and Segweh. Shane Yellowbird won Best Country Recording for his second album, *It’s about Time*, which was released on November 17, 2009, and features the single, “Bare Feet on the Blacktop”. Yellowbird’s past accomplishments include: Best New Artist, Single of the Year (“Beautiful Concept”) and Best Video (“Beautiful Concept”) at the 2006 Aboriginal People’s Choice Music Awards; Aboriginal Entertainer of the Year, Best Country CD (“Life Is Calling My Name”) and Best Music Video (“Pickup Truck”) at the 2007 Abo-

original People’s Choice Music Awards; Best Male Artist, Best Country Album and Best Album of the Year (“Life Is Calling My Name”) at the 2007 Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards. Yellowbird was also nominated for the 2008 Juno Award for Country Recording of the Year, for “Life Is Calling My Name”. Digging Roots won a Native American Music Award for Best Pop Album and had previously won an Aboriginal Peoples Choice Music Award for Best Blues Album and a 2010 Juno for Aboriginal Album of the Year. The Winnipeg Aboriginal rock band, Segweh, took home the NAMA for Best Rock Recording. The

five-piece band won for its self-titled debut CD, beating out Manitoba veteran rockers Eagle & Hawk (“The Great Unknown”) and Barrie, Ontario, Digging Roots (“We Are”). The well-known Métis Fiddler Quartet was nominated for Best Instrumental Recording for their “Tribute to Walter Flett” but lost out to “Hitchin’ a Ride” by Nokie Edwards.



Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards handed out in Hamilton

In 2010, the Canadian Aboriginal Festival moved to the Copps Coliseum in Hamilton, where nearly 1000 native dancers and drum singing groups from across North America joined together for three spectacular Grand Entries. The 12th Annual Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards gala was staged at the Hamilton Place Theatre on November 26th, 2010. More than 300 entrants were judged by 90 jurors drawn from the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal music industry, and the winners are:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| BEST ALBUM COVER DESIGN<br>Chippewa Travellers<br><i>All My Relations: Kina naag dawen daagnak</i> | BEST MALE ARTIST<br>Wayne Lavallee - <i>Trail of Tears</i>  |
| BEST ALBUM OF THE YEAR<br>Eagle and Hawk<br><i>The Great Unknown</i>                               | BEST MUSIC VIDEO<br>Digging Roots - <i>Spring to Come</i>   |
| BEST BLUES ALBUM<br>Joel Johnson<br><i>Joel Johnson Blues Joose Vol. 1</i>                         | BEST ORIGINAL SCORE<br>Red Sky (Sandra Laronde)<br><i>Tono</i>  |
| BEST COUNTRY ALBUM<br>Desiree Dorion<br><i>Soul Back Jack</i>                                      | BEST POW WOW CONTEMPORARY ALBUM<br>Cree Confederation<br><i>Pakosiyimitan</i>                             |
| BEST FEMALE ARTIST<br>Leela Gilday<br><i>Calling All Warriors</i>                                  | BEST POW WOW ALBUM TRADITIONAL<br>Chippewa Travellers<br><i>All My Relations: Kina naag dawen daagnak</i> |
| BEST FIDDLE ALBUM<br>Brad Moggie - <i>All Fired Up</i>   | BEST PRODUCER ENGINEER<br>Red Sky (Sandra Laronde)<br><i>Tono</i>   |
| BEST FOLK ACOUSTIC ALBUM<br>Wayne Lavallee<br><i>Trail of Tears</i>                                | Best Rap or Hip Hop Album<br>FEENIX (Shawn Bernard)<br><i>Collabanation</i>                               |
| BEST GROUP OR DUO<br>Eagle and Hawk<br><i>The Great Unknown</i>                                    | BEST RAP OR HIP HOP VIDEO<br>FEENIX (Shawn Bernard)<br><i>Strong</i>                                      |
| BEST HAND DRUM ALBUM<br>Northern Cree - <i>Temptations</i>   | BEST ROCK ALBUM<br>Wayne Lavallee - <i>Trail of Tears</i>   |
| BEST INSTRUMENTAL ALBUM<br>Arvel Bird - <i>Red River Jig</i>                                       | BEST SONG SINGLE<br>Joel Johnson<br><i>Joel Johnson Blues Joose Vol. 1</i>                                |
| BEST INTERNATIONAL ALBUM<br>Gabriel Ayala - <i>Remembrance</i>                                     | BEST SONG WRITER<br>CerAmomy - <i>CerAmomy</i>  |



Opening Ceremonies of the Canadian Aboriginal Festival in Hamilton at Copps Coliseum.

UNIVERSITY OF SUDBURY

# MNO and University of Sudbury sign historic agreement

MNO welcomes creation of Centre Louis-Riel at Collège Boréal in Sudbury

On November 18, 2010, the University of Sudbury and the Métis Nation of Ontario signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). MNO Chair, France Picotte, represented the MNO and Dr. Pierre Zundel, President and Vice-chancellor represented the University of Sudbury. Chair Picotte also joined in celebrations for the opening of the new Centre Louis-Riel within Collège Boréal in Sudbury.

The MOU with the University of Sudbury will help to address the labour needs of Métis people in Ontario by increasing participation in, and access to University of Sudbury programs and services.



**MNO Chair, France Picotte and Dr. Pierre Zundel, President of the University of Sudbury (right), join others in celebrations for the opening of the new Centre Louis-Riel within Collège Boréal in Sudbury.**

"The University of Sudbury is the eighth post-secondary institution in the province to recognize and address the unique needs of Métis and to agree to work in partnership to ensure that pro-

gramming offered at the university addresses those unique needs," explained MNO President Gary Lipinski.

"We are proud to have established this relationship with the

MNO in order to better identify and operationalize educational opportunities for the Métis of this province" said Dr. Zundel. He further stipulated that "our tri-cultural and bilingual environment continues to influence our overall approach and makes this partnership a logical step forward."

The MOU with the University of Sudbury is part of a process of building bilateral partnerships with post-secondary institutions that began with an earlier MOU signed between the MNO and the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. According to President Lipinski, "this MOU is a significant achievement for the Métis people in Ontario because it demonstrates a commitment to forge a lasting relationship between post-secondary institutions and the MNO Education and

Training branch. Like all past MOUs, the agreement with the University of Sudbury builds on the *MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement*, which the province signed with the MNO two years ago."

The occasion also marks the establishment of a new Métis bursary for all Métis students meeting the requirements as set out by the University of Sudbury and the MNO.

Both the MOU and the opening of Centre Louis-Riel are a testament to the hard work going on to improve post-secondary education for Métis across Ontario. They represent great strides made by the Sudbury Métis Council in cooperation with the MNO Education and Training Branch.

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## Centre Louis-Riel opens doors to Métis students at Collège Boréal

by Clement Benoit

SUDBURY -- Collège Boréal held an official opening at its Centre Louis-Riel on November 18, 2010. This new centre, located in the heart of the college's main campus in Sudbury, provides Métis students a vast array of services in a culturally responsive environment conducive to their academic success.

The Centre Louis-Riel facilities include mainly work stations, a seminar room and a relaxation space. The Centre Louis-Riel also offers tutoring, help with career placement and the application process for student financial assistance.

In addition to government officials, Collège Boréal also received France Picotte, Vice-Chair of the Métis Nation of Ontario. "I am particularly pleased and honoured to be here for the official opening of the Centre Louis-Riel", she said. "This resource centre is tangible proof of the work being done by Collège Boréal and its commitment to ensuring that the culture and heritage of the Métis Nation can be fully supported and appreciated."

In August of 2009, Collège Boréal and the Métis Nation of Ontario signed a first memorandum of understanding whereby the partners would work together to better meet the specific needs of the Métis people in Ontario. Denis Hubert, President of Collège Boréal, said that over and above supporting aboriginal and Métis persons, he appreciates the value-added benefit of this cultural heritage to the programs of study at the college. "The contribution of the Aboriginal and Métis peoples to the development of



**PCMNO Councillor, Maurice Sarrazin; MNO Chair, France Picotte; Region 5 Captain of the Hunt, Richard Sarrazin; President of the University of Sudbury, Dr. Pierre Zundel, and others at the opening of the Centre Louis-Riel.**

Ontario and Canada is immeasurable. More than ever, Collège Boréal wants to preserve the history of these founding peoples, while at the same time contributing to the realization of the aspirations of their descendants."

Collège Boréal also took the opportunity to unveil two new programs at this official opening which are dedicated to Aboriginal and Métis students: Electrician and Carpentry. A number of programs at Collège Boréal have options geared to the First Nations, such as Police Foundations. Métis student, Sean Marcotte who is enrolled in Police Foundations is thrilled to see the Centre Louis-Riel open: "Thanks to Collège Boréal, I can really benefit from the services that are suited to my needs and which respect my ancestry. I am proud

to be studying at a College which acknowledges my Métis origin and my Franco-Ontarian identity."

Collège Boréal has often distinguished itself by implementing programs and services aimed at Métis and Aboriginal populations. Among these is the collaboration with the Métis Council of Sudbury for the protection of the fish habitat at Richard Lake and Daisy Lake; in Nipissing, a number of programs are offered, among them Carpentry, at the Garden Village reserve; as well as a number of contract training programs for Aboriginal and Métis students offered on demand at Attawapiskat, Constance Lake, Sudbury and Timmins.

The official opening of the Centre Louis-Riel began with a spiritual ceremony, then the invited guests and dignitaries

were on hand for the presentation of a handmade traditional canoe, symbol of the great expeditions undertaken by the Métis voyageurs.

2010 is a very special year for the Métis as both the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada have declared this year the *Year of the Métis*. As well, the 16th of November commemorated the 125th anniversary of Louis Riel's execution.

*"Promoting knowledge and a vibrant culture": This is Collège Boréal's vision, a French-language institution of post-secondary and skills training, established in 1995, which contributes to the growth and development of communities in northern and central-south-western Ontario.*

### MNO BURSARIES

## Assisting Métis learners

MNO has always placed and continues to place a high emphasis on ensuring educational opportunities for Métis

by Gary Lipinski  
President, MNO

As you know, MNO has always placed and will continue to place a high emphasis on ensuring the best possible education for our students and citizens. As well, MNO has and will continue to make significant investments in post-secondary education, including scholarships and bursaries at some 32 institutions across Ontario. Each year, these institutions provide scholarships to eligible Métis students based on endowments MNO has established.

Helping Métis individuals, families and communities has and will continue to be one of our highest priorities. It is rewarding to see how the work that so many of you do within your respective regions and communities all comes together to assist Métis learners. Each of you should take pride as I do in seeing young people benefit from MNO programs and services that offer them the opportunity to reach their fullest potential.

I congratulate them and wish them all the best.

# Partnering for student success

Power Workers' Union, Sault College and MNO bring bursary opportunities to Métis students in Electrical Studies

by **Bonny Cann**

Implementing MNO's *Statement of Prime Purpose*, "to encourage academic and skills development and to enable citizens of the Métis Nation to attain their educational aspirations", is a tall order. Métis face a number of barriers because we

do not have the same access to federal funding for post-secondary students as First Nations and Inuit. Because of this, MNO has found innovative ways to support Métis students in pursuit of higher education. The Education and Training Branch is always looking for opportunities to expand on our current Métis bursary program.

This year, the Power Workers' Union generously donated \$25,000 to a bursary for Métis students pursuing careers in the electrical sector. Through careful planning and research, the MNO identified a partner in Sault College



and we were able to secure additional funding opportunities for this bursary. Sault College secured three matching donors, which enabled our bursary to grow to \$100,000. This is a great endowment and will serve Métis students training for electricity sector careers at Sault for years to come.

The MNO would like to thank the Power Workers' Union for their generous support. We

would also like to thank Sault College for the effort they put forth to secure matching funds.

MNO will continue this important work, bringing together funders and institutions, in order to better serve all Métis students' post-secondary needs. We know we have a lot of work to do together to ensure Métis students have access to post-secondary pathways, as well as the support and funding in place to succeed. If you are interested in learning more about our endowment programs email or call Bonny Cann, Provincial Education Initiatives Coordinator.

We invite corporations and industry partners to join us in continuing the growth of our Métis bursary program. Please contact Jennifer St. Germain, Director of Education and Training to discuss how you can work with MNO to ensure Métis citizens can pursue their career aspirations long into the future.

Bonny Cann  
bonnyc@metisnation.org  
Tel: 416-977-9881

Jennifer St. Germain  
jennifers@metisnation.org  
Tel: 1-800-263-4889

## POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

### Improving Post-secondary Education recruitment, retention and graduation rates for Métis

by **Chris Paci**

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is in the process of hiring a new person to work with all post-secondary stakeholders including the provincial and federal governments, to improve Métis post-secondary education in Ontario. Initiatives, such as the recent opening of the Métis Centre at College Boreal, are examples of the kinds of investments taking place today.

The MNO has signed several Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with colleges and universities. MOUs establish a relationship between the MNO and institutions to increase Métis capacity and will lead to improvements in the PSE sector in the province. The seventh agreement signed in November between the University of Sudbury and by MNO Chair France Picotte, is an important part of the work the Education and Training Branch is doing to advance Métis interests in Ontario related to post-secondary education.

Building positive relations by

***"Student fees, tuition and books can be a very expensive proposition."***

signing MOUs with both Ministries was the first step in our efforts to narrowing the student achievement gap for Métis in the province.

Across Canada, federal funds are used to support research, to support capital projects such as new college and university buildings, and to support students. Ideally, there should be regional, accessible, high quality post-secondary education in all parts of Ontario.

Student fees, tuition and books can be a very expensive proposition. Both federal and provincial governments subsidize, to some degree, the actual cost of education. In addition, each year Métis students can apply at many, but not all, col-

leges and universities, for the Métis bursary.

MNO understands that post-secondary education is expensive and our work with the federal and provincial governments is aimed at identifying barriers in Ontario and finding support for Métis in Ontario to improve access to college, university, or apprenticeship. Over time, our work will look at costs in other provinces and the problems that come when Métis students want to study abroad.

The financial reality facing most students and their families in Ontario is: raising costs of tuition, fees, books and the cost of living out pacing the minimal support available to them. Going into debt and being a poor student is something all too common. Statistics show, however, that students who decide to pursue the post-secondary path and complete their schooling do see a significant return on their investments over the long run. It is for this reason that MNO continues to work to improve PSE recruitment, retention and graduation rates for all Métis.



### Consulting on Métis education

Regional education meetings are coming to a school board near you

Regional outreach meetings began in late December, 2010. Chris McLeod, MNO Education Officer and Analyst organized a series of regional community meetings with school boards and schools. These meetings are taking place throughout the nine MNO regions. According to Manager of Education and Training, Chris Paci, "the meetings are a result of some hard work by a lot of staff, community councils, and PCMNO, that began two years ago when MNO signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Education."

One of the key projects within the larger work MNO is initiating is collaboration with the Ministry, involving building relationships between Métis community councils and school boards across Ontario. Many school boards have been working independently and others in collaboration with community councils to develop programming for First Nation, Métis and Inuit students. By building relationships between school boards and Métis Community Councils, MNO is looking to increase community awareness and capacity to improve educational outcomes for Métis students. Important topics, such as self-identification, student achievement, and student retention will be discussed during these regional meetings.

According to Jennifer St. Germain, Director of Education and Training, Education and Training Branch staff attended several

"leads" meetings in preparation for regional discussions, "in order to better engage with the Ministry and to educate superintendents to know a bit more about our community in their areas." Meeting with school board representatives to share and discuss best practices, programs and policies, is a way to improve the implementation of Métis education at the board and classroom level. Through these meetings the MNO has been invited to collaborate more closely with many school boards in the province and to review, with the help of community councils, their programs and policies.

These first meetings have set the stage for additional collaboration and future connections for every community council in Ontario. The Region 2 meeting took place on December 7, 2010, and included the Thunder Bay Métis Council and Lakehead Public School Board. The Region 1 meeting happened on December 13, 2010 (Sunset Métis Council & Rainy River District School Board).

*Upcoming Meetings:*  
**Region 8:** Feb. 2011  
(date tbd)  
Toronto/York Region Métis Council and the Toronto District School Board

Stay tuned for other meetings near you. For more contact: **Chris McLeod, Education Officer**  
**chrism@metisnation.org**

### ARE YOU A MÉTIS CULTURAL PRESENTER?

The MNO Education and Training Branch would like to hear from you! We have produced some resource materials and will soon have the Métis Education Kit to assist Métis presenters. The kit provides you with up-to-date Ontario focused cultural material to use in the classroom or when presenting to school boards.

The MNO has also put in place a process to track the number of presentations that are taking place across the province. If you are representing in your Métis community or if you sit on a committee for the MNO or a community council, we would also like to hear from you. There is a great deal of wonderful work being done out there and we want to be able to share this good work with one another. We want to hear from you about what we can do to support your good work.

**CONTACT**  
Bonny Cann, *Provincial Education Initiatives Coordinator*  
**bonnyc@metisnation.org**  
Dr. Chris Paci, *Manager of Education and Training,*  
**chrisp@metisnation.org**

### ABORIGINAL WRITING CHALLENGE

Are you an Aboriginal Canadian between the ages of 14 and 29? Now you can showcase your talent and creativity and have your work reviewed by the foremost Aboriginal storytellers. You could win cash and prizes and even have your work published in a national magazine. Now in its seventh year, the Canadian Aboriginal Writing Challenge, presented by Enbridge Inc., has expanded to include Arts submissions.

The deadline is March 31, 2011. For details visit: **www.our-story.ca**

# The Métis Way

Is the complexity of past and contemporary Métis society lost in the retelling of our history?

by **CHRIS PACI**

Fifty years ago, schools taught history written by the literate classes, those who had the leisure and money to spend time with words, those who were motivated to tell a particular story. There continues to be a rich oral history; however, in the past it was marginalized by schools. Sad was the Métis child whose pride and health was hurt by the teachers who mocked his Michif as broken French, forbade moccasins, and turned their noses up at rabbit stew. Sometime in the 1960s, change began to take hold as people began to tell their stories about wars, why certain people were rich and powerful, that Métis have always been here, maybe not entirely since time immemorial, but with roots that go back that far. Nowadays, after fifty years of social history, the constituency of nations that is Canada includes learning about the many peoples and places we all are.

Pearson Publishing is close to completing two new Grade 10 and 11 text books which will be used in Ontario classrooms in 2012. In order to better reflect Métis perspectives, they invited the MNO to advise them and over the past two years we have seen a whirlwind of activity to include Métis content. It was a great learning and sharing experience, but one of the biggest challenges continues to be finding reliable and accessible Métis histories, published accounts for the

most part, to include on topics that range from spirituality to residential schools. Métis stories in Canada, in particular those from Ontario, remain largely unwritten.

As *Voyageur* readers and Métis throughout the Homeland know, there are only a handful of public stories available about being Métis. Maria Campbell's "Half Breed" and other stories of Saskatchewan and Manitoba are probably the most recognizable. Every Métis family in Ontario has a rich story of what it means to be Métis, and these personal, family, community and national stories continue to sustain Métis culture, but more often than not they remain hidden from outsiders.

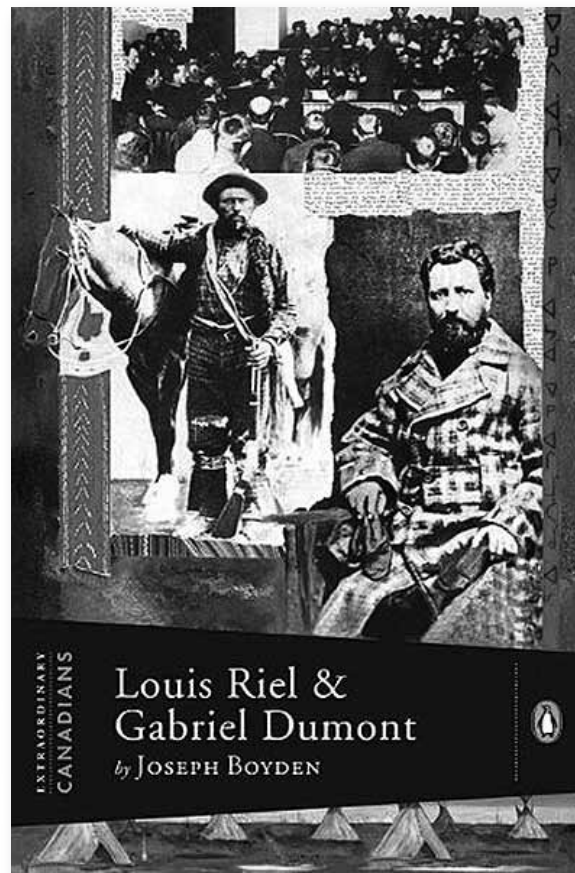
The interest in Métis issues continues to grow. Recently, Ontario Métis writer, Raymond Tremblay, whose book I reviewed a couple of editions back in the *Voyageur*, asked me about a good book on Louis Riel. At the time I suggested Maggie Siggins' book, which Senator Roland St. Germain gave me as a gift when I first started at the MNO (marcee Senator). Around the same time I got an email asking me about Joseph Boyden's new work on Gabriel Dumont and Louis Riel. I hadn't read the book and was sceptical—after all what could a fiction writer say that hadn't already been written by historians? Boyden is an acclaimed young writer and a Métis from Ontario so I was interested to see what a fresh set of eyes would bring to these important men. Now that I have read Boyden, I

would include his book on the list as a nice short read.

Boyden's book is one of 20 books in Penguin's *Extraordinary Canadians* series edited by John Raulston Saul who begins by asking: "How do civilizations imagine themselves?" According to Saul (xiii), "the tragedy of the Canadian internal war of 1885 showed how badly we could go wrong as a country, how easily and deeply we could scar ourselves, both the victims and the victimizers. But the power of the Riel-Dumont story has turned the tragedy into a lesson." For Saul's statement to be true we have to accept that things have changed; we need to know about the scars; who carries them and how they have impacted multiple generations. The reality is that Métis continue to improve Canadian society. Not every Canadian commemorates November 16, but it represents the on-going tragedy, and marks the on-going active resistance movement.

The strength of Boyden's telling comes from the character and creativity he imbues the established story, while restraining himself from completely crossing over into fiction. Readers will find his book, at fewer than 200 pages, an easy read. It is an attractive compact book, beautifully bound, and stylishly modern in its type set. Penguin has put some money into this project; one needs only visit their website to see their investment in promoting these books.

Boyden (183-184) obviously



cares about his subjects and he ends the book by retracing personal visits to the spots where Riel was hung in Regina and Dumont's home around Batoche, noting, "they represent the two worlds of the Métis experience: the open freedom they continually sought as they pushed farther and farther west and the fences that Canadian authorities never stopped building to try to contain a people who were too free, too "Indian" in their outlook. These two places encompass both the promise and the near destruction of a people. They also speak of the two opposing forces that have always made up this country: the wilderness and the desire to constrain it." Boyden's journey is telling. He isn't from the west; the people are still there—not in the same numbers or in the same

communities, but there are many Métis who were not cast out of Eden. Métis continue to construct "open freedom" throughout the country in the north, east, south, and west. The myth writ large throughout this version of the story of Dumont and Riel is that many who participated and opposed continue to play a minor role. The complexity of Métis society is lost in the retelling. As readers we are given a romantic dichotomy. Métis still punch above their weight in search for the middle way within the Canadian system.

On November 16th we must all pause, reflect, and stand together. Ontario schools need to include more stories from Ontario Métis and the artists who inspire the Nation.

MÉTIS POST-SECONDARY ROLE MODEL / MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

## New program supports Métis students entering first year of post-secondary education

by **Benny Michaud**

A recent publication by Statistics Canada found that only 35% of Aboriginal people obtained a Post-Secondary Education (PSE) accreditation (degree, diploma or certificate) compared with 51% of the non-Aboriginal population. Whereas 23% of non-Aboriginal people had university degrees, only 9% of Métis people had graduated from university. These findings indicate the need for programming designed to enhance the recruitment and retention of Métis post-secondary students.

In response to this information the Métis Nation of Ontario Education and Training Branch is working to develop a Post-Secondary Education Role Model/Mentorship Program that would provide support for students entering their first year of post-

secondary education. This support is intended to ease the transition of incoming PSE students by partnering them with an upper year mentor who can assist them during their adjustment to post-secondary studies. The program would also provide incoming students with a culturally appropriate support system that encourages the maintenance of traditional Métis values and practices.

Throughout Métis history the survival of our culture relied on the ability of community members with specific knowledge in trading, food preparation, hunting, languages and medicines to pass these skills on to those less experienced. Today, the future of the Métis Nation relies on the same principles of mentorship that have always been a part of our culture.

While there are a number of

mentorship programs available at colleges and universities throughout the province, there is currently no program designed with the specific intent of partnering current Métis PSE students with incoming or potential Métis students in a mentorship framework.

If you have any questions or would like to know more about the development process of this program contact:

**Benny Michaud**  
Post-Secondary Education Officer  
Ottawa, ON  
(613) 798-1488 ext. 137  
[bennym@metisnation.org](mailto:bennym@metisnation.org)

## New MNO Education staff working to increase recruitment/retention rates of Métis in post-secondary institutions

by **Benny Michaud**

I have recently been hired as the new Post-Secondary Education Officer/Analyst at the Métis Nation of Ontario head office in Ottawa. Over the past eight years I have been involved with the MNO in a variety of capacities. I have attended four Annual General Assemblies; served on the MNO Youth Council as a Region 7 Youth representative, and been part of the Cross Cultural Exchange where I and eight other Métis youth travelled to Ecuador in 2006.

I owe much of my academic success to the constant support of the MNO Education and Training Branch and the Georgian Bay Métis Council. By accessing bursaries and scholarships made available to me through my community council I was able to attain a B.A. from Carleton University and a B.Ed

from Queen's University. I am currently completing an M.A. in Indigenous Studies at Trent University. My research focuses on Métis narrative traditions as a resistance strategy against externally imposed notions of Métis identity. I intend to defend in early March.

I am very excited about my new role within the MNO and will be working on a number of education initiatives. Currently, we are in the beginning stages of developing a Métis Post-Secondary Education Role Model Mentorship Program. This program will be designed to provide support for first year Métis students at colleges and universities throughout the province. We hope that this support will help increase recruitment and retention rates of Métis students in post-secondary institutions.

I look forward to hearing from you!

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# MNO

## ONLINE



**NEWS**  
Links to the most recent MNO news are posted on the home page with a picture gallery highlighting major stories! If you would like activities featured on the MNO website send the story with pictures to Mike Fedyk at [mikef@metisnation.org](mailto:mikef@metisnation.org).



**AROUND THE MNO**  
Updated at least monthly, Around the MNO is a photo gallery spotlighting Métis people and events throughout the homeland! Local, provincial and national events and activities can all be found here. If you would like your community included in the photo gallery send a picture with a 30 word or less caption to Mike Fedyk at [mikef@metisnation.org](mailto:mikef@metisnation.org).



**FEATURES**  
All the latest information on community council elections, branch programming, downloadable copies of key MNO documents including branch reports, the annual report and Voyageur back copies.  
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### First Solar Projects in Ontario



First Solar Inc., one of the world's largest solar panel manufacturers, is working to develop five large solar farms in Southwestern Ontario in 2011. These projects are contracted under the Ontario Power Authority's Renewable Energy Standard Offer Program (RESOP) and, when completed, will generate up to 90MW of emission free energy.

First Solar Inc. has been working to develop a relationship with the Metis Nation of Ontario on these projects in order to meet the requirements of the Renewable Energy Approval and the Duty to Consult and Accommodate, and to facilitate opportunities for Metis community members to participate in the construction process. First Solar's procurement policy encourages contractors to seek out and employ Metis and First Nations community members as part of the contract bids. Working with the MNO Lands, Resources, and Consultation Branch, as well as the Education and Training Branch, First Solar will explore opportunities to increase Metis employment on all projects.

First Solar's projects are Amherstburg, Belmont, Walpole (near Hagersville), St. Clair Moore and St. Clair Sombra. With the exception of Amherstburg, which will be 10MW, all the projects will be

20MW projects. These projects will produce enough energy to power more than 12,500 homes year round, and will reduce CO2 emissions by almost 25,000 metric tonnes, or the equivalent of taking more than 6000 cars off the road.

At the peak construction period, as many as 250 workers will be on each site. There will be 1,485,000 individual panels that will need to be installed and connected on these projects. Approximately 100 person years of employment will result from the engineering and construction activity from each project. As much as half of the work will require electricians or electrical apprentices, with the remainder requiring equipment operators and construction labour. If you are interested in learning more, contact the Métis Nation of Ontario for more details.

Preliminary Project Construction Schedule		
Project	Estimated Start	Estimated Completion
Amherstburg Solar	11-May	11-Oct
Belmont Solar	11-Apr	11-Oct
St Clair Moore Solar	11-Feb	11-Jul
St Clair Sombra Solar	11-Feb	11-Jul
Walpole Solar	11-Jun	11-Nov



For more information about First Solar Inc. visit [www.firstsolar.com](http://www.firstsolar.com).  
For more information about the Ontario projects, visit [canada.firstsolar.com](http://canada.firstsolar.com)  
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