



MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

ELECTIONS YIELD RECORD VOTER TURNOUT

President Lipinski Re-elected

MNO President Lipinski re-elected with strong mandate across Province

A record number of MNO citizens participated in the 2012 Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) leadership elections at the regional and provincial levels. With a total vote count of 2,286 ballots, three times as many MNO citizens voted in comparison to the 2008 MNO Elections.

Gary Lipinski was re-elected as MNO President with an impressive 87.2% of the total vote. He also had a majority of votes at every polling station, signifying a strong mandate from MNO citizens and communities province-wide.

"I am honoured and humbled to receive this mandate," stated President Lipinski. "It is gratifying to know that MNO citizens across the province support the results and momentum we have achieved together over the last four years. I am anxious to keep this momentum going!"

President Lipinski added: "This election has also given me, along with all of the MNO's regional and provincial leadership, a strong mandate to continue to push forward on our Métis rights agenda. In my campaign, I stressed that progress needs to be made on this front, and this record voter turnout shows that our people are commit-

ted to a united MNO with a strong rights-based agenda."

All the executive positions on the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) were contested during the election as well as three Regional Councillor positions and the Postsecondary Student Representative position. "Everyone who ran as a candidate in this election, and those who voted in this election, contributed to making the MNO stronger," commented President Lipinski. "I want to thank everyone who was part of our democratic process, including all the candidates, our electoral officials and staff, and especially the many volunteers who assisted the various campaigns, worked at polling stations, and assisted in the election in many ways."

President Lipinski concluded: "I am looking forward to working with the new PCMNO and I want to congratulate everyone who was elected and re-elected in this election. We have a lot of work ahead of us, but I believe we are well placed to make even more progress and history over the next four years."

READ OUR COMPLETE
ELECTION COVERAGE
ON PAGES 4, 5, 24 and 25



▲ Left to right: The Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs; MNO President, Gary Lipinski; MNO Chair, France Picotte; and the Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario.

MNO leadership meets with Premier and Ministers

Only a few days after receiving a strong mandate in the 2012 Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Election, MNO President, Gary Lipinski, and MNO Chair, France Picotte, were already meeting with Premier Dalton McGuinty and Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, Kathleen Wynne, to discuss issues of importance to the Métis Nation. During the meeting, held on May 17 at Queen's Park in Toronto, Premier McGuinty and Minister Wynne congratulated President Lipinski and Chair Picotte on their re-election and indicated the government looks forward to continuing its positive relationship with the MNO.

President Lipinski emphasized the progress the MNO has made since signing the *MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement* in 2008. "MNO communities and people have achieved success after success in all areas right across the board: the Métis Voyageur Development Fund; Memorandums of Understanding with government ministries, universities and colleges; the renewal of the Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Strategy; and the many Duty to Consult and Accommodate engagements across the province--to name only a few items. We have achieved a great deal working with the Government of Ontario," President Lipinski asserted

that it is an MNO priority to renew the MNO-Ontario Framework and continue building on the successes already achieved.

The value of the New Relationship Fund (NRF) to Métis in Ontario was another major area of discussion at the meeting. President Lipinski and Chair Picotte provided a long list of accomplishments that the MNO has realized with NRF funding both at provincial and local levels. The MNO stressed the importance of renewing the NRF so that the momentum already established is maintained.

continued on page 2



RESPECTING THE EARTH

MNO Captain of the Hunt concerned about local environment

Page 22



INDUSTRY PARTNERS

Osisko and MNO sign agreement on gold development in northwest

Page 3



INFINITE REACH

MNO's Student Solidarity Network facilitators gather in Thunder Bay

Page 14 & 15



ABORIGINAL KING LEAR

MNO citizens take part in all-Aboriginal staging of Shakespeare's King Lear

Page 6



AROUND THE MNO

CONGRATULATIONS



▲ Barbaranne Wright.

Graduation with distinction

The Wright Family is proud to announce the successful graduation with distinction, of Barbaranne Wright, U.E., PLCGS, from the University of Toronto, St. Michael's Campus with Certification in Canadian Genealogical Studies.

Barbaranne is the Charter President, and current Women's Representative for the Niagara Region Métis Council.



▲ Louise Logue (left).

Métis woman named Personality of the Year

Congratulations to Louise Logue who was recently named "Personality of the Year" by CBC. "I share this story with you," she said, "because I am so proud of being Métis and I want the experience to serve to make us all proud of our individual accomplishments. Our ancestors worked hard so that we can have such a wonderful life despite any challenges or crosses we bear. In life, I sure feel blessed with more than enough."

Read the story at: <http://goo.gl/Alja4>

OUR MÉTIS ARTISTS

Métis artist's design selected for windows on Parliament Hill

On June 11, 2012, it was announced that Métis Nation of Ontario citizen, artist, Christi Belcourt's design will be used to create stained glass windows for Parliament Hill. The windows will commemorate the lives of Aboriginal people who experienced the Indian residential school system.

The installation of the windows on Parliament Hill is part of the Government of Canada's 2008 apology to former students of Indian residential schools. A five member selection committee of Aboriginal art experts was established to oversee the artist selection process and ultimately selected the design submitted by Christi Belcourt, the daughter of MNO founding President Tony Belcourt.

"This design depicts healing and reconciliation between Aboriginal people and all Canadians," explained selection committee Chair, Stephen Inglis. "The design, entitled 'Giniigaaniimenaaning', which means 'Looking Ahead', tells a story of Aboriginal peoples, cultures and languages through dark times and reflects the healing and resiliency of Aboriginal traditions and languages. This is a story that is an important part of Canadian history, one which needs to be better known."

"We cannot forget that for over 100 years Aboriginal children were forcibly removed from their families to attend residential schools. The effects of the residential schools era are still felt deeply within our communities; however, our peoples are healing and regaining our strength," said Christi Belcourt. "This stained glass window is important as it commemorates a significant point in history, when, in 2008 the Prime Minister of Canada apologized to the Aboriginal peoples, and it will forever serve as a reminder to all of Canada and future generations."

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President, Gary Lipinski stated: "Being selected for this historic honour is a testament to Christi's talent and her vision. It is fitting that a Métis artist be selected as many of our people suffered in residential schools; a fact that is not as widely known and recognized as it should be. Christi is a wonderful role model for Métis youth. She shows us all what Métis people can accomplish."

To view more images of Belcourt's design along with her description of the work visit the link: www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1339417945383



▲ Part of Christi Belcourt's design that will become a stained glass window in the Centre Block of Parliament Hill in Ottawa.

THE
MÉTIS
VOYAGEUR

SUMMER 2012, No. 71

editor

Linda Lord

designer

Marc St. Germain

contributors

Amanda Dale
Andrea Desroches
Art Henry
Barbaranne Wright
Christine Skura
Chris Paci
Deneige Taylor
Gary Lipinski
Ginny Gonneau
Jessie Dolan
Mike Fedyk
Pauline Saulnier
Raymond Tremblay
Richard Cuddy
Sam Baynham
Tamara Sheppard
Theresa Hendricks

contact

Linda Lord, editor
RRI Hartington, ON
K0H 1W0
llord@kingston.net
Tel: 613-374-2305

If undeliverable return to:
Métis Nation of Ontario
500 Old St. Patrick St, Unit D
Ottawa, ON, K1N 9G4
PH: 613-798-1488
www.metisnation.org

The next
Voyageur deadline:
July 31st, 2012

PUBLICATION #:
PM 40025265

MNO leadership meets with Premier and Ministers

continued from page 1

The MNO leadership demonstrated that the NRF and the Framework Agreement have both played significant roles in allowing the MNO to build relationships with industry and resource proponents to promote economic development in Ontario. "We want to encourage economic development in Ontario," explained President Lipinski, "but it is very important that Métis people benefit from economic development along with all Ontario citizens."

For their part, Premier McGuinty and Minister Wynne indicated they are proud of what the MNO and the Ontario Government have achieved together and feel that the MNO's priorities work very well with the province's priorities.

Prior to meeting with Premier McGuinty and Minister Wynne, President Lipinski and

Chair Picotte met with the Honourable Laurel Broten, Minister of Education for the Province of Ontario. Chair Picotte is Provincial Secretary for Education on the PCMNO. Minister Broten congratulated President Lipinski and Chair Picotte on their recent re-elections and indicated she looks forward to continuing to work with them.

President Lipinski and Chair Picotte highlighted the achievements made since the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the MNO and the Ministry of Education in 2009. The desirability of building on the foundation of the MOU to develop a five-year plan to improve Métis engagement in the education system was discussed.

The MNO leadership shared information from several recent reports about Métis engagement in the education system in



We want to encourage economic development in Ontario, but it is very important that Métis people benefit from economic development along with all Ontario citizens. — Gary Lipinski, MNO President

Ontario. One of these reports showed a disappointing amount of Métis content in the training of teachers in Ontario. The Minister indicated that the province was preparing to refresh teacher education in the province and this was a great opportunity for the Métis to make sure that they are meaningfully included in the new curricula that will be developed.

An important theme that emerged from the meeting was the need to plant the seeds of interest in acquiring a postsecondary education in Métis students at a young age. It was agreed that education offers the surest way to improve the lives of Métis children and getting Métis youth to start thinking about their futures, even at the grade school level, is important.

MÉTIS NATION NEWS



Osisko and MNO sign Memorandum of Understanding

Osisko Hammond Reef Gold Ltd and the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) have formally signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to guide their working relationship in regard to the development of the Hammond Reef gold project in northwestern Ontario.

The MOU sets out the way in which the local Métis community, as represented by MNO's Treaty #3/ Lake of the Woods/ Lac Seul/ Rainy River/ Rainy Lake Consultation Committee and the community councils that are a part of the committee, will be consulted regarding the develop-

ment of the project and commits the parties to working together to address any potential impacts the project may have on Métis rights, interests and "way of life". The consultation committee is made up of Joel Henley, President, Kenora Métis Council; Alvina Cimon, President, Northwest Métis Nation of Ontario Council; Marlene Davidson, President, Atikokan and Surrounding Area Métis Council; Clint Calder, President, Sunset Country Métis Council; Dean McMahon, Region One Captain of the Hunt; and, Theresa Stenlund, PCMNO Region 1 Councillor, as Chair.

"This agreement is an important step in building a mutually respectful and sustainable relationship between the Métis community and Osisko Hammond Reef Gold Ltd in relation to the Hammond Reef gold project. It sets out a consultation process through which Osisko Hammond Reef Gold Ltd can engage with the Métis community at the local and regional levels in order to better understand Métis rights and interests that may be impacted in the local area around the project, through, amongst other things, completing a traditional knowledge study and a technical review of the

▲ Top row: **Bud Dickson; Martin Griffin, Osisko Manager of Aboriginal Affairs; Melanie Paradis, former MNO Director of Lands, Resources and Consultations (LRC); Joe Daze, MNO LRC Coordinator.** Bottom row: **Jerome Girard, Osisko Project Director; Robert Mailhot, Osisko Vice-president of Human Resources; Gary Lipinski, MNO President; Marlene Davidson, President of MNO Atikokan and Area Métis Council.**

project," said MNO President, Gary Lipinski.

Sean Roosen, President and Chief Executive Officer of Osisko added: "The signing of this MOU is the result of a respectful consultation process between the signatories. This agreement represents a milestone in our continuing working relationship with all the local communities in the region and underscores Osisko's commitment to continue developing a strong relationship with Aboriginal people".

MNO Regional Councillor, Theresa Stenlund, commented: "Our community looks forward to

continuing to work with Osisko Hammond Reef Gold Ltd in a positive and productive manner. The MNO has worked hard with Osisko Hammond Reef Gold Ltd. and we are happy to move forward and are proud of our positive relationship and successful negotiations. There is a real need for economic development in the northwest, and we see MNO's involvement with Osisko Hammond Reef Gold Ltd. as an opportunity to foster opportunities for Métis businesses and citizens, while protecting our traditional values and way of life."

MNO Business Forum shares resources with Métis entrepreneurs

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) held a Métis business forum on March 30 in Toronto. The *Forum* attracted over 30 business owners, entrepreneurs, and officials from the Office of the Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-status Indians and the Aboriginal Business Development Program.

"The MNO wants to help provide Métis businesses with tools that will help them succeed," explained MNO President, Gary Lipinski, "because encouraging the entrepreneurial spirit of our people is a priority." Each participant attending the business forum received a copy of a "Métis Business Tool Kit" including information that every entrepreneur needs to establish and maintain a

business. Participants heard from Steven Morse, the Chief Executive Officer of the Métis Voyageur Development Fund; Fizul Sima, with the Aboriginal Business Development Program; and, Jason Li, with City of Toronto Economic Development. Each described how their organizations could assist Métis businesses.

Bill Zakarow, Director of Procurement for the 2015 Toronto Pan/Para PanAm Summer Games, spoke about procurement opportunities and how Métis businesses can benefit by supplying goods and services to these multi-million dollar

games. Peter Smith, President of the Commerce Assessment Group, provided training in sales and marketing, and Leslie Roberts, the President of the GoForth Institute, presented on the importance of business people having strong mentors.

Presentations from two successful Métis business owners were highlights of the event. Roger Lauzon, owner of Techno Metal Post, and Claude and Rick Seguin, of SRC Mining, shared their insights and experience. Both businesses exemplify success for Métis people looking to start their own businesses.

*The MNO has recently posted a **Métis business directory** on the MNO website. An electronic version of the **Métis Business Tool Kit** is also available on the website. Both can be accessed at: www.metisnation.org/programs/economic-development*



▲ **MNO President Gary Lipinski, MNO Chair France Picotte and Senator Ray Bergie at the MNO Business Forum on March 30.**

2012 MNO ELECTIONS

THE PROVISIONAL COUNCIL OF THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO 2012-16

On May 7, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizens went to the polls to elect a new Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO). Mail-in ballots were added to the votes cast on May 7 and counted on May 14. The four senators who serve on the PCMNO will continue in that capacity until the 2012 Annual General Assembly (AGA), when these positions will be selected by their fellow senators representing the Chartered MNO Community Councils. The following candidates were elected, re-elected or acclaimed.

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

GARY LIPINSKI
Re-elected
MNO President

MNO President, Gary Lipinski, hails from Fort Frances, Ontario, where he was born, raised and still resides with his wife Dianne, and daughter Rachel. President Lipinski's Métis roots go deep; his ancestors were part of the group of Métis who negotiated the "half-breed" adhesion to Treaty No. 3, which covers much of northwestern Ontario. President Lipinski comes from a long line of Métis commercial fishermen and traditional resource users and continues today to practice the Métis traditional way of life, hunting, fishing and camping with his family and friends.

President Lipinski holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Lakehead University, a Bachelor of Education from Queen's University and, Honours in Technological Studies from the University of Western Ontario. He started teaching at Fort Frances High School in 1987 and became actively involved in the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) in 1993. Gary Lipinski was first elected councillor for the MNO Sunset Country Métis Community Council and then the next year to the first Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) as the Regional Councillor for Region 1 (northwestern Ontario). As a PCMNO member, he was an instrumental part of the leadership team that advanced R. v. Powley--the ground breaking Métis rights litigation initiated in 1993 that would eventually go to the Supreme Court of Canada. In 1999, Lipinski was elected MNO Chair and with his ever-increasing involvement in the MNO, he left his teaching position to focus his full attention on the pursuit of Métis rights.

Gary Lipinski was re-elected MNO Chair several times, and when in 2003, the Supreme Court in R. v. Powley affirmed that Métis are a fully-fledged rights-bearing people with constitutionally-protected rights, he was already working as "chief negotiator" for the MNO with the Ontario Government, in order to implement the Powley decision. These negotiations resulted in an agreement on Métis harvesting rights between the MNO and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources in July 2004. Today, this remains the only agreement of its kind in Canada.

Shortly after being elected presi-



▲ MNO President Gary Lipinski.

dent in 2008, President Lipinski successfully negotiated the Ontario - MNO Framework Agreement. This agreement represented a notable turning point in Ontario-Métis relations because it recognizes the unique identity, history, culture and rights of Ontario Métis communities, in stark contrast to generations of government policy that denied the very existence of Ontario Métis. The Framework Agreement led to similar agreements with other government ministries, agencies and postsecondary institutions.

Among other highlights of President Lipinski's first term was progress in the area of the "Duty of the Crown to Consult and Accommodate". This led to regional protocols being signed that permitted the consultation of regional rights-bearing Métis communities on projects and plans that impact their collective rights and interests. It also led to agreements with private sector companies such as Detour Gold, Osisko and Union Gas.

Under President Lipinski, the MNO secured funding through the

"Ontario New Relationship Fund", which allowed the MNO to advance projects on both the provincial and local levels.

In 2011, President Lipinski secured a 30 million dollar commitment from the Ontario Government for the "Métis Voyageur Development Fund" (MVDF). Ontario will provide three million dollars a year for ten years through the MVDF to Métis entrepreneurs and businesses.

During President Lipinski's tenure, the MNO's profile has increased. As a result, the Ontario Legislature declared 2010 "the year of the Métis" and President Lipinski was invited to speak at international, national and provincial conferences and to participate in panels with such renowned speakers as Don Drummond and to appear on television programs such as The Agenda with Steve Paikin.

In May of 2012, President Lipinski was re-elected with 87.2% of the vote, and carried the majority in every polling station.

PCMNO Executive continued on page 5

MNO ELECTION RESULTS - 2012

The following are the results of the 2012 MNO elections. As Chief Electoral Officer I hereby declare the candidates who received the largest number of votes for each office elected. — Paul DeVillers, Chief Electoral Officer

Name of successful candidate in **bold**

POSITION	CANDIDATE	VOTE COUNT
President	Chretien, Annette	292
	Lipinski, Gary	1994
Chair	Picotte, France	1279
	Rowlinson, Hank	915
Vice-chair	McBride, Sharon	1175
	O'Connor, Lawrence	924
Secretary-Treasurer	Giroux, Roger	682
	Pile, Tim	819
	Sarrazin, Richard	650
Post-Secondary Representative	Henry, Jennifer	1360
	Mandry, Phoebe	683
Councillor for Region 5*	Denis, Juliette	211
	Sarrazin, Maurice	210
Councillor for Region 6	Lavigne, Chris	64
	Wass, JoAnne	96
Councillor for Region 7	Saulnier, Pauline	303
	Vallee, Allan	110

* A recount was completed for this position on Friday, May 18, 2012, and the vote total was unchanged. Therefore, Juliette Denis is confirmed elected as Councillor for Region 5.

ACCLAIMED CANDIDATES

Pursuant to Section 8.1 of Electoral Code of the Métis Nation of Ontario, I declare the following candidates acclaimed to office. — Paul DeVillers, Chief Electoral Officer

PROVISIONAL COUNCIL OF THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

Councillor Region 1 Stenlund, Theresa	Councillor Region 9 Rivers, Peter
Councillor Region 2 Burgess, Cameron	Youth Representative Case, Mitchell
Councillor Region 4 Gatien, Ernest	Councillor Region 3 Lafrance, Marcel
Councillor Region 8 Tucker, Anita	

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO VETERANS COUNCIL

President Paquette, Joseph	Sergeant at Arms Garratt, Greg
Chair Mandeville, Guy	Treasurer Plummer, Christopher

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO YOUTH COUNCIL

Representative Region 2 Landry, Janine	Representative Region 9 Young, Alexander
Representative Region 3 Gosselin, Brianne	Representative Region 8 Delbaere-Sawchuk, Nicholas

UNCONTESTED POSITIONS

The following positions remain vacant

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO VETERANS COUNCIL

- Secretary
- Women's Representative
- Senator

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO YOUTH COUNCIL

- Representative Region 1
- Representative Region 4
- Representative Region 6
- Representative Region 7
- Representative Region 5

2012 MNO ELECTIONS



FRANCE PICOTTE
Re-elected **MNO Chair**

France succeeded President Lipinski as the Chair of the MNO in 2008. Chair Picotte first got involved in Métis politics in Ontario when she served as President of the MNO Timmins Métis Community Council; she then became PCMNO Vice-chair and later PCMNO Chair.

France is a strong woman and proud Métis citizen fluent in Michif, English and French. Currently, she is the PCMNO Provincial Secretary for Education and Training, as well as Healing and Wellness. Besides taking an active role in over-seeing these branches, France travels across the country and throughout the province raising awareness about the Métis and Métis culture in Ontario. In January, 2010, Chair Picotte told the 5th Annual Ontario Aboriginal Women

in Leadership Forum in Ottawa—one of the many events at which she represented the MNO—that success lies in “having confidence in who you are, confidence in your ability, and not being stopped at not knowing something. You have to ask; you have to know, and you have to move forward.” France, a lab technician, has also been instrumental in promoting and advancing health issues in the Métis community. Her passion for the preservation of Métis culture was

recognized when she received the “Ontario Heritage Trust Award” for her dedication to preserving the Michif language and the traditional finger weaving practice of the Métis people. Her effort to record more Métis stories is now taking her into the area of research and she is instrumental in establishing relationships with research bodies and institutions that can shine light on the often untold stories of the Métis in Ontario. ∞



SHARON McBRIDE
Re-elected **MNO Vice-Chair**

Sharon McBride is a municipal law enforcement officer and has served as Vice-chair and spokesperson for the Métis Nation of Ontario Women’s Secretariat (WSMNO) since 2008. She became

actively involved in Métis politics in 1999 when she first learned of her Métis ancestry. She was Founding President of the Credit River Métis Council based in Brampton and has served as PCMNO Councillor for Region Eight. Her work on behalf of the Women’s Secretariat for the MNO is focused on securing the funding required to carry out the important advocacy and public awareness role of the Women’s Secretariat.

Vice-chair McBride, whose Métis roots have been traced to Penetanguishene, was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and has lived in Germany, Nova Scotia and Ontario. Her contributions to the Métis community include work on several different boards and committees, and she is committed to ensuring the voice of the Métis Nation is heard throughout the province. Sharon received the “Ontario Heritage Trust Award” in

recognition of her work with Mississauga Heritage and the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation. She has also earned one of the highest honours that her community can bestow—two eagle feathers. ∞



TIM PILE
Re-elected **MNO Secretary-Treasurer**

Tim Pile lives in Thunder Bay and has served as Secretary/Treasurer of the PCMNO since 2001. Tim is Chair of the Finance Committee, Provincial Secretary for Housing and assumes

some responsibilities in MNO Healing and Wellness, as well as Education and Training portfolios. Born in the northwestern Ontario gold-mining town of Geraldton, Tim traces his Aboriginal roots to Peace River, Alberta, where his paternal great-grandmother, Ida Cameron, was raised.

Tim has been active in his role representing the MNO as a member of the Aboriginal Management Council and the Aboriginal Refer-

ence Group for the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) at Lakehead University. He and other MNO representatives have been active in supporting one of the more unique aspects of the NOSM—a one month community placement for students. This program helps to ensure that the annual placements include two students in Métis communities. This promotes student engagement in Métis culture and community

health issues. The students return to the NOSM as “ambassadors” of the Métis in Ontario. Student presentations to classmates about their experience in the community raise additional awareness of the unique culture of the Métis in Ontario. ∞

REGIONAL COUNCILLORS



THERESA STENLUND
Acclaimed • **Region 1**

Theresa Stenlund has been acclaimed to serve a second term as Region 1 Councillor. Theresa, who is also the Chair of the Region 1 Consultation Committee, first joined the PCMNO in 2008 and served as a councillor on the MNO Kenora Métis Council from 2001-08.

She received a Social Services Diploma (Honour Roll) in 1996 and has worked in Child and Family Services ever since. Recently, Theresa completed an Honours Bachelor of Social Work degree at Laurentian University, graduating in June 2012.

Married with two children, Theresa believes it is very important that Métis children know their identity at an early age. She tries to make sure that Métis children are immersed in their culture. Theresa has a strong interest in the MNO’s work in child and family services, Métis culture and heritage, children with disabilities and Métis rights. ∞



CAMERON BURGESS
Acclaimed • **Region 2**

Cam Burgess lives in Thunder Bay and has been Region 2 Councillor since 2003. Cam serves on the PCMNO Finance and Economic Development Committees and represents the MNO at environmental

meetings at both the federal and provincial levels. He chairs the Consultation Committee in Region 2. In Thunder Bay, Cam sits on four different boards or committees and every May for the last six years has been the local coordinator for two first year medical students. He is involved with them at both the clinical and Métis cultural levels.

Cam’s first PCMNO meeting was in Ottawa just prior to the Supreme Court’s handing down the historic Powley Decision in 2003. After meeting with Steve Powley, the PCMNO and MNO staff, Cam was hooked and is very grateful for the extended family he now has in the MNO. He considers it a privilege to work with the three community councils in Region 2 as well as MNO citizens and the PCMNO. ∞



MARCEL LAFRANCE
Acclaimed • **Region 3**

Marcel Lafrance has been acclaimed to serve a second term as Regional Councillor for Region 3. He was first elected in 2008, and is also the Chair for the Region 3 Consultation Committee. Prior to his election to the PCMNO he was a community council councillor and president.

Marcel lives in Kirkland Lake, has been married for 37 years and has two children. He is very keen on involving and educating youth in the Métis way of life and wants youth to

learn from Métis knowledge holders. Marcel looks forward to seeing all of his friends at the Annual General Assembly this year. ∞



ERNEST GATIEN
Acclaimed • **Region 4**

Ernest Gatien is a new member of the PCMNO who has been acclaimed as Regional Councillor for Region 4. He is a former president and councillor for the MNO North Channel Community Council and has been a resource person for the Historic Sault Ste. Marie Consultation Committee. Ernest lives in Blind River and is retired after serving 35 years with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. He holds an Arts degree from Laurentian University and a Diploma in Resource Management from Sault College.

While with the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ernest worked at various times as a forest fire fighter, a lands and waters technical specialist, and a member of First Nations’ land claims negotiating teams. He was also involved with the Elliot Lake uranium mines decommissioning and did contract management including road and dam construction. As well, he was a member of the Town of Blind River Planning Board.

Ernest has been active for years attending local council meetings and several AGAs and plans to continue working to keep the MNO moving forward in its struggle to attain for

Métis citizens what is their heritage and birth right in practice and in law.



JULIETTE DENIS
Elected • **Region 5**

Juliette Denis is a new member of the PCMNO, elected for the first time as Regional Councillor for Region 5. Juliette is a registered nurse with 35 years experience and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Laurentian University. She is the owner of a management, consulting and translation firm and has served as a deputy reeve, Executive Director of Centre de santé communautaire de Sudbury, and Director of Nursing for the West Nipissing General Hospital.

Juliette has been very involved in her community and as the Women’s Representative on the MNO Sudbury Métis Council. She was a Métis representative for the Northern Ontario Economic Development Pilot Project and recently was appointed a “Métis elder” at the Sudbury Campus of Laurentian University. ∞



JOANNE WASS
Re-Elected • **Region 6**

First elected in 2004, JoAnne Wass has been re-elected to serve as Regional Councillor for Region 6. JoAnne lives in Ottawa where she works in customer service. She was Secretary/Treasurer of the MNO

Ottawa Métis Council for ten years before becoming Region 6 Councillor. JoAnne is particularly interested in preserving the Michif language and working with knowledge holders to pass on Métis traditions and way of life. She is very proud of her sons Mike and Cameron, and her miracle grandson Kyler. ∞



PAULINE SAULNIER
Re-Elected • **Region 7**

Pauline Saulnier has been re-elected to serve another term as Regional Councillor for Region 7. Pauline was first elected to the PCMNO in 2005 and is a former president of the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council. She is a member of the PCMNO Finance Committee, Secretary of the MNO Development Corporation, Chair of the Georgian Bay Traditional Territory Consultation Committee and a member of the Michif Committee.

Pauline lives in Penetanguishene and is an Ontario Disability Support Program caseworker with the Ministry of Community and Social Services. She was the 2010 recipient of the MNO Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award and the 2012 recipient of the Ontario Public Servant Employee Union, Tim Brown Award. ∞

ARTS & CULTURE



▲ The Hendricks family in costume for the first all-Aboriginal production of Shakespeare's *King Lear*. (Left to right) Marissa, Theresa, Keith and Jordyn Hendricks.

Rain, Wind and Thunder



MNO citizens take part in all-Aboriginal *King Lear* at National Arts Centre

By **Theresa Hendricks**
MNO Finance Officer
OTTAWA

The National Arts Centre (NAC) in Ottawa recently staged the first-ever all-Aboriginal production of Shakespeare's *King Lear*. The play ran from May 8-31 and was set in 17th century Canada, amidst the pressure of early contact and confrontation, with a cast of Aboriginal actors from across the country, including the renowned August Schellenberg as "Lear". In this powerful family conflict, an aging father—dividing his kingdom—demands proof of love from his daughters, thereby unleashing a tempestuous tragedy that even a king can't control.

The NAC made a call for Aboriginal people to volunteer to play non-speaking roles in the performance and MNO Finance Officer Theresa Hendricks and her family responded to the call and were selected to participate.

On November 24, 2011, the Métis Nation of Ontario forwarded an email to all staff indicating that the National Arts Centre (NAC) was reaching out to the Aboriginal community here in Ottawa. They were looking for volunteers to participate in the upcoming production of Shakespeare's *King Lear*.

After I read the e-mail I forwarded it to my husband saying this would be a great opportunity for our girls, especially since our eldest daughter would be taking drama in high school next fall. We decided to go to the information session to see what it was all about.

The training sessions began on January 8, 2012. The group of volunteers was called the "Four Nations Exchange". To try to put into words what our experience was like would not

do it justice. We worked closely with Suzanne Keptwo, Aboriginal Advisor and Community Liaison, and Peter Hinton, Director. Getting together every Sunday was something the four of us looked forward to every week. Many hours were spent getting to know each other and Suzanne always brought traditional teachings to our workshops.

Before we knew it we moved on to phase two of our training. We were now meeting on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings. Getting together with the Four Nations Exchange was wonderful. What an excellent group of people we had the pleasure of meeting. Each and every one of them became part of our family.

On April 2, we met the entire cast! We sat through the first script reading. What an incredible experience! I tried to read the script when we were first sent it. I couldn't imagine having to memorize all those lines. The words didn't even make sense. When the actors read their lines I was in awe of their talent. I was also terrified, knowing we would be sharing the stage with such an amazing group of professional actors. I did not feel worthy.

Many hours were spent in rehearsal. There were a few very long days. I remember how exciting it was the first time we had a live audience! WOW...the rush quickly became addictive!

"Talk backs" were held after some of the performances. That's when the actors volunteer to stay after the show and answer questions from the audience. One question that kept coming up was, "Where is the play going next?" I was so disappointed to hear that the only theatre that picked up this production was the NAC. As a Canadian I was embarrassed; as an Aboriginal person I was hurt.

The first performances started at the beginning of May. The month flew by in a blur and it was quickly time for our last show--the twenty-first performance. Just before our very last show the entire cast and crew were asked to gather onstage. Lorne Cardinal, who played the Duke of Albany, led us in a final smudge to celebrate our last performance together. Once Meegwun Fairbrother, who played the Duke of Burgundy, began to sing and drum I could not hold back any longer. Almost the entire circle was in tears. It was such a moving experience. I was so incredibly sad and was not ready to say "good bye" to my new friends.

The vision of doing an all Aboriginal *King Lear* has been a dream of August Shellenberg for over 40 years. It felt great to be part of history in the making. Kevin Loring, who played Edmond, wrote this amazing blog post that says it all!



▲ Theresa Hendricks and actor August Schellenberg as *King Lear*.

Hoka Heh!

We would like to thank actor **Kevin Loring** for sharing this excerpt from his blog:
<http://hokaheh.blogspot.ca>

Augie's Dream

By **Kevin Loring**

When the *Ecstasy of Rita Joe* opened at the Vancouver Playhouse in 1967, after a pregnant pause, Canadian theatre was born. It was at this time that, Actor/Director/Producer John Juliani approached his dear friend August "Augie" Schellenberg about how wonderful Chief Dan George would be as *King Lear*; and the idea of an all-Aboriginal *Lear* was born.



They asked Chief Dan George if he'd do it.

But Dan George said "No".

We asked him, why not?

It's a good part.

Dan laughed and shook his head: "Too many lines, too many lines."

- August Schellenberg



August vowed that one day he would play *Lear* with a cast of Aboriginal actors, and for the next four decades he and John tried to piece that dream together. The most immediate and obvious obstacle at the time was the lack of professional Aboriginal actors with the chops to pull off such an ambitious production.

I first heard about the "Native *Lear*" in 2009 while working with August on the Western Canada Theatre / National Arts Centre co-production of *The Ecstasy of Rita Joe*. Directed by Yvette Nolan, this production of *Rita Joe*, billed as the 50th anniversary production, is the first and only production directed by an Aboriginal director ever to be featured on the main stage of the National Arts Centre, Theatre Hall.

During the run Augie would tell us stories about his dream of doing an all-Native *Lear*. A lot has changed since 1967. Today we certainly have the actors to pull it off. What we needed was a director brave enough to take it on, and more important, a producer with the resources to accomplish such a bold and ambitious production. It was clear to us that if anyone were going to do Aboriginal *Lear*, it would be Peter Hinton at the National Arts Centre of Canada. We just had to convince him that it was as good an idea as we all thought it was.

continued on page 25

A Research Rendezvous at Lakehead University

The Métis Nation of Ontario recently partnered with Lakehead University to hold a *Research Rendezvous*. Highlighted research included the key areas of education, healing and wellness, Métis way of life, as well as Métis rights

As part of its ongoing effort to build partnerships with postsecondary institutions, on April 17, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) partnered with Lakehead University's Office of Aboriginal Initiatives to hold a Research Rendezvous at Lakehead's Thunder Bay Campus. The Research Rendezvous featured presentations from three MNO staff heavily involved in research in key areas of education, healing and wellness and Métis way of life, as well as a Métis rights panel that included leading Métis lawyers and academics.

MNO President, Gary Lipinski, delivered opening remarks prior to the Métis rights panel and commented: "The relationship started in September between Lakehead University and the MNO with signing the Memorandum of Understanding. Today's research rendezvous and the panel on Métis rights are a step forward. Métis are beginning to take our rightful place in Canada."

The MNO staff who made presentations during the Research Rendezvous were Dr. Chris Paci, Manager of Education; Dr. Storm Russell, Senior Policy Analyst, Healing and Wellness Branch; and Dr. Brian Tucker, Manager of Métis Traditional Knowledge and Land Use.

Dr. Paci presented on research the MNO Education and Training Branch has engaged in recently. This included a 2010 report sponsored by the Ministry of Education that looked at opportunities and barriers facing Métis students in the K-12 education system. Findings from this research indicated that there is little formal Métis engagement with school boards. Dr. Paci also reviewed research into the postsecondary education system in Ontario sponsored by the Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities. This report identified a number of barriers facing Métis students including lack of dedicated Métis postsecondary funding and an absence of culturally relevant course content and safe places on campus for them. Finally, Paci referenced the research

on faculties of education in Ontario universities that suggested they are not providing information about Métis to teacher candidates.

Dr. Russell described the research activities of the MNO Healing and Wellness Branch and its partners. She emphasized the critical need for accurate, Métis-specific data and research, and highlighted the importance of multi-sectoral, multidisciplinary partnerships in carrying out culturally-relevant research to address the priority health needs of the Métis people of Ontario.

Dr. Tucker provided an introduction to the Métis Way of Life and the Métis Nation of Ontario's work in conducting traditional knowledge and land use studies. He also provided information on the MNO's Duty to Consult initiatives, including Regional Consultation Committees and the Lands, Resources and Consultations Branch.

The Métis rights panel presented an overview of the current state of Métis law in Canada. The panel included Métis lawyers Jean Teillet and Jason Madden, as well as Chair of Métis Research at the University of Ottawa, Dr. Brenda Macdougall. A complete video of the Métis rights panel session can be viewed on the MNO website in the news section.



▲ MNO President Gary Lipinski with Dr. Rui Wang, Vice-President of Research, Economic Development and Innovation with Lakehead University.



▲ Jean Teillet



▲ Jason Madden



▲ Dr. Brenda MacDougall

“
Today's research rendezvous and the panel on Métis rights are a step forward. Métis are beginning to take our rightful place in Canada.

— Gary Lipinski
MNO President

WOMEN OF THE MÉTIS NATION | LES FEMMES MICHIF OTIPEMISIWAK

MNO represented at annual meeting of Women of the Métis Nation

The Women of the Métis Nation, Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak, held their National Assembly in Edmonton on March 30-31, 2012.

Led by Sharon McBride, the spokesperson for the Women's Secretariat of the MNO (WSMNO), the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) sent a contingent of ten women: Alvina Cimon, Juliette Dennis, Pat Taylor, Barbaranne Wright, Lisa Pigeau, Brenda Powley, Pearl Gabona, Joanne Hamlin, and Chris Action. Delegates were also present from British Columbia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan.

Three women were presented with the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal by the WSMNO's newly elected president, Melanie Omeniho. One of the medals went to Jean Teillet. Ms. Teillet is not only the lawyer for the MNO, she was instrumental in leading the historic Powley case to the Supreme Court where she received a unanimous judgment in favour of the Powleys.

Sharon McBride reports that, "we started working on strategic planning and priorities, with one of



them being communications--a new website, new logo and brochure....The website will be linked to both the MNO and MNC websites....I will keep you updated when it goes live."

▲ (Front, left to right) Alvina Cimon, President of the MNO Northwest Métis Council; Juliette Dennis, MNO Sudbury Métis Council; Pat Taylor, MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council. (Standing, left to right) Barbaranne Wright, MNO Niagara Region Métis Council; Lisa Pigeau, MNO Healing and Wellness; Brenda Powley, Senator, MNO Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council; Sharon McBride, MNO Vice-chair and spokesperson for the WSMNO; Pearl Gabona, MNO Oshawa and Durham Region Métis Council; Joanne Hamlin, MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council; Chris Action, MNO Temiskaming Métis Council.



Senators' Spotlight

By **Reta Gordon**, Executive Senator

Our Senators may walk quietly in their moccasins

But they leave a big footprint

The Senators of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) are steeped in our traditions and teachings and act as a grounding force within the Métis Nation where they are called upon, not only for their traditional knowledge, but for their spiritual awareness, common sense and grass root connections. They may walk quietly in their moccasins but they leave a big footprint.

At this year's AGA the senators will select, from among their ranks four senators to represent them on the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO). One of the four senators will then be chosen to form part of the Executive of the PCMNO.

It has been an honour to have been selected to serve as one of our senators and to represent our Nation's senators on the PCMNO. I have learned so much from our senators past and present. Having been involved in the affairs of the Métis Nation of Ontario since its inception in 1993, I have gained valuable insight into the affairs of the Nation, volunteering over the years at our offices in Ottawa, at our AGAs and at the community level. Our numbers have grown and we have adapted to the ever changing needs and times. Our ability to gather, interact and communicate has greatly enhanced our opportunities to guide and nourish our community councils.

I would like to thank the senators, for their friendship, continued support, and their encouragement. As I reflect on the many accomplishments and great strides we have made over the years I am comforted in the knowledge that we senators have remained true to our responsibilities and stood firm as beacons in the sometimes troubled waters. I am more confident than ever of the Nation's bright future.

In constant communication with our senators I am humbled by their kindness and words of support. With their encouragement I wish to advise that I will seek to continue my service on their behalf and to work diligently to further our presence within the Nation.

OUR MÉTIS LANGUAGE | TIMMINS MEETING

Michif speakers gather

In the last edition of the Métis Voyageur, on page 6, the picture which accompanied the following article was not taken in Timmins. We apologize for this error.

By **France Picotte**, MNO Chair and **Dr. Chris Paci**, Manager, MNO Education & Training

Michif continues to be one of the languages spoken in Ontario today. Thanks to funding from the Aboriginal Languages Initiative, Canadian Heritage, and the Ministry of Education, Michif speakers from across Ontario gathered for a day of sharing and discussion. The state of the Michif language spoken in Ontario is largely unknown outside of the Michif Committee. The committee has been around a number of years, function-



▲ Michif Committee meeting, February 27, 2012.

ing as a key group of dedicated volunteers with passion for the language. The day long gathering was an opportunity to share and celebrate Michif as a language for today and tomorrow.

Historically, many of the Michif speakers were reluctant to speak in public. "We are pretty sure that we have more than two dialects but how

many is still unknown. This gathering of speakers is but a minute example of what I suspect to be in existence in Ontario," said France Picotte, Chair of the Métis Nation of Ontario. The Michif language is a language of survival and of necessity. In the early days, before the formation of Canada, Michif facilitated communication between diverse

peoples, aided Métis mobility (across different cultural and linguistic landscapes) and contributed to the survival of our ancestors.

There are many questions about the state of Aboriginal languages: What do we need to do to ensure these languages are not lost with the current generation of speakers? What were those things that contributed to the development of the languages? As the Métis Nation continues to grow in Ontario what do we need to do to ensure the viability of Michif? Métis peoples' ability to communicate with diverse peoples continues to be instrumental in the development of Ontario and Canada; the same values that were important in the past are of importance today and in the future. The Métis Nation of Ontario is committed to supporting Michif--gathering, preserving and propagating all the languages spoken by Métis.



The FIMUR Assisted Homeownership Program

Designed to help move renters and affordable housing tenants into market housing

Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services (OAHS) is pleased to announce the launch of the new "First Nation, Inuit, Métis Urban and Rural" (FIMUR) 2012-15 Housing Program as part of the "Investment in Affordable Housing for Ontario Program".

The FIMUR Assisted Homeownership Program is designed to help move renters and affordable housing tenants into market housing. Across Ontario (excluding the Greater Toronto Area), OAHS has helped 731 people move into 261 homes. These new homeowners now have stable housing and are able to better focus on contributing to their communities and strengthening their families; this includes 182 people who have moved out of social housing, and 53 who have escaped situations of violence.

OAHS will administer a three-year (2012-13 to 2014-15) funding allocation totalling \$19.8 million at \$6.6 million per year.

FIMUR 2012-15 Housing Program funds will be targeted to three program components:

Assisted Homeownership Program
www.ontarioaboriginalhousing.ca

Rental Housing component
<http://goo.gl/wEzzG>

Homeowner Repair component
<http://goo.gl/ICDW0>

Further inquiries may be directed to FIMUR Program staff at **(866) 391-1061**



▲ Chef Jon Garratt in a screen capture from a video produced by the Kelowna Foodbank.

It begins with a single tomato plant

Here is another example of a fine Métis citizen making a difference. Jonathon Garratt began his career path with the help of the Métis Nation of Ontario Training and Education Branch's Midland office. He went on to become a chef at the Vancouver Olympics.

Jon's passion for feeding people has taken him beyond the kitchen. He is a supporter of the Kelowna Foodbank. Moved by the plight of low income families, Jon Garratt believes that people need to change the way they think about food.

This year, with the help of The Greenery Garden Centre in Kelowna, Garratt plans to teach 50 at risk families to grow their own food, beginning with a tomato plant. "I'll teach them how to grow a tomato plant in a bucket in their own backyard," he says. His aim is to get children to eat real foods, as opposed to processed, by teaching them where their food comes from. The single tomato plant is just the beginning. Jon points out that, "in a two foot by four foot box you can

grow 100 pounds of potatoes."

Last year, Jon Garratt led a growing campaign which donated 22,000 pounds of fresh vegetables to the foodbank. This year, he hopes to double that, by encouraging people to take part in the "Plant a Row - Grow a Row" campaign. To that end, he produced a video to educate people about the program and how it helps the Kelowna Foodbank.

"It's time to start educating people and using some of the people in our community, like gardeners, landscapers and chefs to beat this problem."

Garratt also plans to eventually create a cooking program targeting low income families. "We're going to try and create a test kitchen idea at the foodbank where we can bring in some at risk youth and we can teach them how to cook on a low budget and use what they get in their food hampers."

Jon Garratt is the nephew of MNO citizen Greg Garratt, who was recently acclaimed as the "Sgt. at Arms" for the MNO Veterans' Council. (See page 24)

COMMUNITY COUNCILS



▲ **Members of the MNO Credit River Métis Council Executive:** (left to right) **Bill Morrison (Chair), Talitha Tolles (Youth Representative), Joyce Tolles (Treasurer), Ray Bergie (Senator) and Richard Cuddy (President).**

A Strong Métis Nation

Credit River Métis Council holds first Annual Meeting

By **Richard Cuddy**, *President*
CREDIT RIVER MÉTIS COUNCIL

I am very proud and pleased to inform the citizens of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) that the MNO Credit River Métis Council held its first Annual General Meeting (AGM) on March 30, 2012. The successful afternoon was well attended by many dignitaries and staff from the MNO, as well as citizens and guests.

The council was honoured to have MNO President, Gary Lipinski, who provided inspiring opening remarks. We also acknowledged the presence of the Chair of the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO), France Picotte; the Captain of the Hunt for Region 8, Gerry Bedford; and MNO Veterans' Council Secretary, Joe Paquette.

Two MNO branches set up displays and provided guests with updates and information. Simon Bain represented the Healing and Wellness Branch while Lands, Resources and Consultation (LRC) was represented by Hank Rowlinson and Gary Lipinski. Updates were delivered during the meeting and representatives were available after the meeting to answer questions from the citizens.

Other special guests included former Credit River Councillor, Jim Tolles; Grand River Métis Council Senator, Ed Hass; and Vice President, Jennifer Parkinson; PCMNO Post-secondary representative, Anita Tucker; and former Mayor of Brock Township, Larry O'Connor.

I had the honour and pleasure of introducing the Credit River Council publically, for the first time. Vice President and Chair, Bill Morrison;

Secretary and Treasurer, Joyce Tolles; Senator, Ray Bergie; Women's Representative, Karen Derocher; Youth Representative, Talitha Tolles; and myself, President, Richard Cuddy.

At the 2011 MNO Annual General Assembly (AGA) council presidents received a plaque of the MNO's *Statement of Prime Purpose*. During my address, I presented this plaque to the Credit River Council; it will accompany every council meeting and function. A picture of the plaque will become a permanent feature on the Credit River Council website in

Tolles, and I would like to acknowledge his contribution to our heritage. The trailer was a hit at all of last year's events, such as Brampton's Carabram (multi-cultural festival) Canadian Pavilion and Joe Paquette's medicine walk. The Consultation Trailer was used again as a community outreach tool at the Métis youth day in May.

Creation of a Report of Events Attended by Council (RABC): Simply, when councillors attend an event they are responsible to the citizens to fill out a report detailing the event.

original education committee in Peel; he is my alternate on the Region 8 Consultation Committee; leads the planning committee for the Louis Riel Day gathering; and, is the chair at council meetings. Our secretary-treasurer has taken on two important portfolios while volunteering at every event that has been held as well as committing to all future events. She has been instrumental in putting our council's written records and bookkeeping in order and is committed to keeping them that way.

and honourable representative of the MNO's community councils. I am dedicated to representing the citizens of Credit River as a responsible and honourable president. I am dedicated to healing our community. I want every one of our citizens to feel proud to be a Credit River Métis citizen. I have a family of five and work full time but I try to attend every event, training seminar, workshop and conference I possibly can to learn and share. I am trying to learn and understand as much as I can so I can use that knowledge to aid my Métis brothers and sisters.

On March 28 and 29 I attended the Métis National Council's Métis Residential Schools Conference in Saskatoon. My heart was broken and it has changed me forever. I heard my people's account of the brutal atrocities inflicted upon them as Métis children in the name of colonization. Nobody spoke without tears and I was humbled by their strength and pride to be Métis. All of the challenges the Métis have faced don't make us weaker, they make us stronger. I want to do my part to make sure the Métis culture and people survive, not just for generations but forever.

Please remember, we are your council, but we need your help. Typically, we meet the first Tuesday of every month and information is posted on the website. Connect with us; give us your input, your suggestions, your harvesting information, and if you can, volunteer with us. Help us strengthen the Métis Nation of Ontario.

“ **I want to do my part to make sure the Métis culture and people survive, not just for generations but forever.** ”

the near future.

I was proud to share some of the important achievements the council has made over the past year.

Signing of the Region 8 Consultation Protocol: The Protocol gives the council access to and assistance from the MNO and its resources to deal with consultations. The Protocol also gives the council a seat on the Region 8 Consultation Committee.

New website: The council recently launched a new, user-friendly website and we encourage you to check it out and check back frequently for important information, news and events.

Acquisition of a trailer that we call the “Consultation Trailer”: It contains a display of furs, traps, hunting and fishing gear as well as historical information. The trailer was assembled through the tireless efforts of former councillor, Jim

They share that report with the rest of council and the reports are filed in the RABC binder which is held by the secretary. The purpose of the binder is to provide a record for the citizens and information to pass on to succeeding councils. Louis Riel said, “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.” The RABC binder was shared with our guests at the meeting.

Attendance at moccasin camps, governance, financial and consultation training: Our youth and women's representatives have attended seminars and workshops that enhance their knowledge and portfolios. Our Senator has represented us at the MNO AGA and is always available to offer wisdom and guidance to council and citizens. Our Vice-President sits on an Abo-

And finally, me and the projects I have been working on: I am collaborating on a project with Sheridan College to create a “Sheridan College Aboriginal Education Committee” comprised of First Nations, Métis and Inuit. The council will have a seat, possibly two, representing the MNO on this committee. I represent the council on the Region 8 Consultation Committee and work with the guidance of the MNO and LRC branch. I assist and support the councillors and committees to ensure their success.

I am a proud Métis; I love my culture; I love my people and I love my nation. The councillors and I are dedicated to making the Credit River Métis Council a responsible

COMMUNITY COUNCILS



▲ The Great Lakes Métis Council marks Earth Day with the opening of a community garden at the Métis Centre in Owen Sound.

Tobacco & elderberry

MNO Council celebrates Earth Day

By **Susan Schank**
MNO Great Lakes Métis Council
OWEN SOUND

On April 22nd the MNO Great Lakes Métis Council, citizens and friends, along with susanna suchak from MNO's Healing and Wellness Branch celebrated Earth Day and the opening of our community garden with prayer and ceremony at the Métis Centre in Owen Sound.

President Peter Coture, 30 council members and guests braved the wind and cold air to

join Senator Malcolm Dixon, susanna suchak and the Piyak Ootihi (One Heart) Drummers and Singers, Susan Schank and Ellen Brown.

Senator Malcolm Dixon said prayers of gratitude to the Creator and smudged the garden laying tobacco in the four directions. Piyak Ootihī sang and drummed to the heart beat of Mother Earth celebrating the four essential elements of life: Air, Fire, Water, Earth, and the fifth element, Spirit.

Susanna expressed our commitments to Mother Earth and her

waters while the changing of the four directional colours took place by members of Piyak Ootih, Susan Schank and Ellen Brown.

Senator Malcolm Dixon planted an elderberry tree and high bush cranberry in the Medicine Garden.

Afterwards, we all went into the Métis Centre for our Annual General Meeting and Pot Luck.

What an enjoyable day with visitors from as far away as Mount Forest, Midland and Tobermory. Chii Miigwech to all for celebrating Earth Day 2012 with us!

Midland Métis Motivators raise funds for MS research

The “Midland Métis Motivators” wearing shirts printed with “Métis Making Moves”, raised \$400. for multiple sclerosis on April 22, 2012. The majority of the group of 12

walked five kilometres in about one hour, while the team captain made it to the halfway point in about two hours returning via the “weary wanderers’ bus”.

Thanks to all participants.



▲ **The Midland Métis Motivators prior to the MS Walk.**

Lakehead Supports Aboriginal Learners

Lakehead University is committed to helping Aboriginal peoples further their educational aspirations. Aboriginal programs at Lakehead offer academic, research, and cultural support services tailored to Aboriginal needs.

Office of Aboriginal Initiatives
aboriginalinitiatives.lakeheadu.ca

1-807-766-7219 or toll free 1-888-558-3388

Specialization & Access Programs

Department of Indigenous Learning
Native Nurses Entry Program
Native Access Program

Aboriginal Education

Honours Bachelor of Education (Aboriginal) P/J
Native Teacher Education Program
Native Language Instructors' Program

Administrative & Support Services

Office of Aboriginal Initiatives
Aboriginal Cultural & Support Services
Lakehead University Native Students Association
Nanabijou Aboriginal Graduate Enhancement
Lakehead University Aboriginal Alumni Chapter
Elders Program

Lakehead
UNIVERSITY

$\frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) \delta(x-a) dx = f(a)$

Métis culture prominent at Aboriginal Heritage Festival

By **Cora Bunn**
MNO Grand River Métis Council
President

The Second Annual Aboriginal Heritage Festival was held on April 20-21, 2012, at the Wellington County Museum and Archives. The MNO Grand River Métis Council was asked to be a member of the organizing committee of this event. The festival is the brainchild of Centre Wellington District High School (CWDHS) teacher, Jack Frimeth, and Native artisan Naomi Smith. Jack has a special affinity for all things aboriginal and has worked hard to let the school community know of the special place aboriginal people have.

Last year, three aboriginal artists painted columns in the CWDHS cafetorium. Métis artist, Jason Baerg, painted two columns. Inuk artist, Nijanani Novalenga and First Nation artist, Michael Cywink painted the other columns. There is a medicine wheel on the school's front lawn along with an inukshuk, iron Métis sash and a metal medicine wheel.

Last year's Native Awareness Day held at CWDHS grew to be a two-day Aboriginal Heritage Festival held at the county museum. Friday was devoted to students only, with Saturday open to the community. The name change also signalled a more inclusive nature with the Métis taking a prominent role.

Virginia Barter, a Métis historical writer, storyteller, musician and filmmaker spoke about her Métis ancestors and showed her movie, "Hearne."

Musicians, Dr. Kim Anderson and her son Rajan Anderson-Dornan, played the keyboard and fiddle respectively. Dr. Anderson explained that the music they would be playing was "party music" and encouraged the students on Education Day to do what they would typically do



▲ Students dancing to Métis fiddle music.



▲ Rajan Anderson-Dornan fiddling. Photos by Cora Bunn and Jack Frimeth

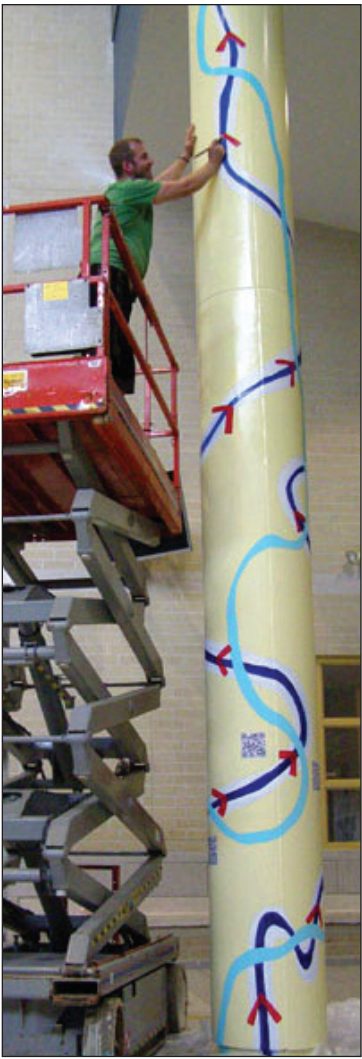
at a party--talk to their friends and get up and dance. The students didn't need much coaxing and were happy to get up and jig on the museum grounds.

Three aboriginal students from CWDHS did a presentation about their cultures. Hannah Wallace-Lund, a Mohawk and Annie McLeod, a Cree spoke about reserves and shared delicious bannock. Heather Bunn, Youth Rep for the Grand River Métis Council, spoke about Métis history and had a hands-on presentation with furs, beading and other articles

passed around among the students. The Good Hearted Singers, a women's drumming group that includes a number of Métis musicians, also performed.

Narcisse Blood, a Blood filmmaker, was the keynote speaker both days. Some topics covered by presenters included residential schools, soapstone carving, bow making, drumming, dancing, aboriginal art, and Métis history and symbols.

The Grand River Métis Council had a large display that focused on the articles found in the "Métis Cul-



▲ Métis artist Jason Baerg painting a column in the CWDHS cafetorium.

ture Kit" and the "Métis Education Kit". The students loved the furs; were intrigued by the traps; and amazed at the capote coat that was made by thirteen-year-old Connor Cozens, grandson of Senator Ed Hass. The council also had a vendors' table where we were able to fundraise by selling crafts.

For the two days of the festival we proudly flew the Métis flag and played the music of the Métis Fiddler Quartet.

Admission was by donation with the proceeds of \$1,080 going to



▲ Grand River Métis Council Youth Rep Heather Bunn gives a presentation.



▲ The Grand River Métis Council display and volunteers.

Southern Ontario Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative (SOADI).

During this event, we not only met with council citizens, but interest was expressed by a cub pack to have us do a presentation so the boys could earn their Aboriginal Awareness Badge. It was a wonderful opportunity for our council to increase awareness of the Métis in our area, and share our history and culture with the community in Wellington County. We're looking forward to next year's festival.

GREAT LAKES MÉTIS COUNCIL | INFRASTRUCTURE

Trillium Grant allows MNO Métis Council to plan for the future

By **Susan Schank**
Great Lakes Métis Council
OWEN SOUND

The MNO Great Lakes Métis Council is pleased to announce that we were successful with our Ontario Trillium Grant proposal. The Great Lakes Métis Council will receive \$35,000.

A strategic planner will be contracted to conduct a strategic review and create action, resourcing and strategic plans for the next five to ten years. A part-time office administrator will be hired to assist the council with this process. The office

administrator will help out with the daily business of the Great Lakes Métis Council, *duty to consult* correspondence, events, programs and publications.

Chii miigwech to all those who supported and helped us achieve our goals. It is greatly appreciated

Susan Schank
Office Coordinator
Great Lakes Métis Council
380 9th Street East
Owen Sound, ON
tel: 519 370 0435
greatlakesmetis@gmail.com
www.greatlakesvoyageurs.com

GREAT LAKES MÉTIS COUNCIL | APPRECIATION DINNER FOR FORMER COUNCILLORS

Former Councillors honoured

By **Senator Malcolm Dixon**
Great Lakes Métis Council
OWEN SOUND

On April 12th, a special dinner was held to honour two members of our council who retired this year: Peter Gendron and Wilma Lindsay. A traditional bison stew dinner was served--not even a drop of gravy was left in the pot. Dinner rolls sponged up the plates so clean that we could not identify the unused from the used. Mango flavoured ice cream was served for dessert which was also finished off in short order. The dinner ended with a short speech by President Peter Couture who presented Peter Gendron with a beautiful illustrated book, "We Were so Far Away", the Inuit experience of residential



▲ (Left to right) Jim McLay, Jim Lindsay, Wilma Lindsay, Peter Gendron, President Peter Couture, Tony Couture, Nora Burns, Jamie Couture and Senator Malcolm Dixon.

school, published by the Legacy of Hope Foundation. It happens that Peter Gendron had spent a good portion of his professional life in the north, working with the Inuit.

Without the dedication of hard

workers and the insight of dedicated workers like our Great Lakes Métis Council the success that we now enjoy would not have happened.

Chii miigwech from all of us.

Lunching with the Capote sisters

Feast and fashion meet in Thunder Bay as a group of interested crafters learn the art of making capotes

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

On April 18th, the “Capote Sisters” hosted a luncheon to celebrate the completion of their capotes. Staff members of the Thunder Bay Métis Centre were invited to a traditional feast that included deer stew, moose, wild rice pilaf, baked maple beans, and blueberry tarts. This “Feast and Fashion” lunch was well attended and enjoyed by all.

Special mention must be made of Michelle Pringnetz, a Thunder Bay Métis lady who was the driving force behind the success of the afternoon and the project itself. Michelle approached MNO Community Wellness Coordinator, Joan Panizza, in the winter of 2011 with the idea of teaching a group of interested crafters

the art of making capotes. She is a skilled capote maker and has completed many projects for herself and family members. Michelle came equipped with blankets, capote patterns, thread, and yarn. Numerous Wednesday afternoons saw the group hand sewing their projects under Michelle’s generous guidance. We were able to complete nine coats, each with its own unique look. Michelle even gifted each of the participants with a sash to wear with the capote. She also donated and cooked the majority of the afternoon’s menu.

To say that the Métis are a sharing community is an understatement in Michelle’s case. Her commitment and enjoyment in sharing her resources, skills, and know-how is truly appreciated. We will be warmed my more than our capotes while we wear them for many years to come.



▲ The “Capote Sisters” show off their Hudson’s Bay blanket capotes at the Thunder Bay Métis Centre.

Ancestral Voices

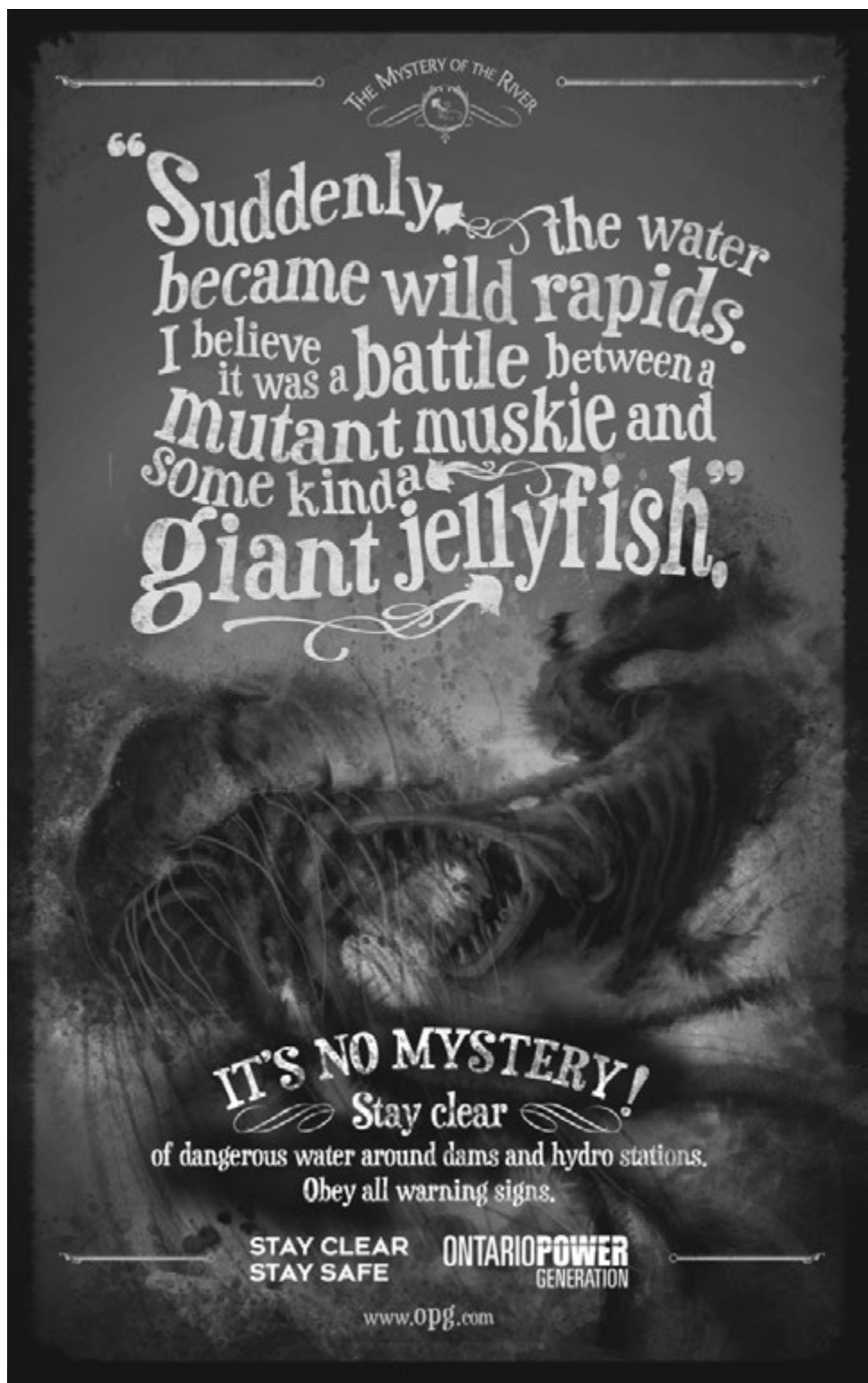
By **Raymond D. Tremblay**
OTTAWA

As I listened to the wind’s incessant howling, my heart skipped a few beats. No, I didn’t collapse! I was fully fascinated by its hypnotizing acrobatics. “Cheer us on! It’s your aboriginal ancestors making their voices heard! Enjoy your heritage to the fullest. You’re the son of the Thunderbird. Seek no more! Sit still and silently listen to the sound of your drum. Trust your instincts. Let your drum speak to you. Peace will come! Richness will come forth to you in the form of patience and love. Accept your aboriginal identity! You’ll fly with the White Dove. Let yourself be inspired by your ancestors. They are heroes!”

Visions were no longer necessary! My drum kept me on my toes. One sacred beat at a time, my new friend reminded me of my destiny. I finally discovered what my ancestors tried to tell me: “Son, you are Métis! Cherish your traditions and heritage. Your drum is the soul of your Métis being.” Each time I picked up my drum, I did so with respect. It actually gave my life meaning. Surely, Wapiti willingly sacrificed his hide so that my Métis ancestors’ voices could be heard.



▲ Raymond Tremblay was inspired to write the poem below upon his receipt of a wonderful Wapiti/Elk Drum made by Pamela Tremblay and John Hayes of Kilworthy, Ontario.



Infinite∞Reach
Métis Student Solidarity Network

First Year Métis Students

YOUR MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO
INFINITE REACH FACILITATOR
CAN HELP YOU!

- Connect with other Métis students at your school
- Help you find bursaries and scholarships
- Access student support services
- Stay informed about Métis Cultural Events
- Meet the local Métis Community Council



Contact an Infinite Reach Facilitator today!

the Métis
Nation of
Ontario

613-798-1488
www.metisnation.org
infinitereach@metisnation.org



“...I am happy I had the chance to do something like this. The historical activities were so much fun. The best part was bonding as a group. Thanks to everyone who gave me this opportunity!”

- Katelyn Merling

Infinite ∞ Reach

Métis Student Solidarity Network

Métis high school students from all over the province came together for the first annual Infinite Reach March Break Camp. This camp was organized after the successful launch of the *Infinite Reach: Métis Student Solidarity Network* in September, 2011....



02



03



06



04



07

INFINITE REACH March Break Camp

This past March, Métis high school students from all over the province came together for the first annual Infinite Reach March Break Camp. This camp was organized after the successful launch of the *Infinite Reach: Métis Student Solidarity Network* in September, 2011. The Infinite Reach Network was created as a support program for Métis high school students entering their first year of postsecondary education. In 2011, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Education and Training Branch had 16 Infinite Reach facilitators at 14 different universities and colleges throughout the province. Infinite Reach facilitators are responsible for engaging incoming Métis students at their institution and providing support by connecting students to available student services, Métis cultural events and MNO community council events. First year Métis students can contact Infinite Reach facilitators at their university or college throughout the year with questions or concerns they might have.

Late in 2011, it was decided that in order to fully engage Métis high school students there needed to be an opportunity for facilitators and students to connect with one another to learn about the program and the many opportunities available in postsecondary education. By January, 2012, the Infinite Reach March Break Camp was being organized by MNO staff and facilitators. In February, the MNO Education and Training Branch invited applications from Métis high school students to attend the camp during March break.

The Infinite Reach March Break Camp took place from March 10-14, 2012, at Fort William Historical Park in Thunder Bay. The camp was intended to inspire Métis high school students to consider postsecondary education and to learn about exciting opportunities available to them throughout their chosen program. Fifteen Métis high school students and six Infinite Reach facilitators spent four nights at historic Bell House and participated in a variety of educational and cultural activities. Some of the most popular activities among students included snowshoeing, beaded medicine pouch-making, forging handmade nails, and finger weaving. Another highlight of the camp was the traditional teachings about medicines and

storytelling by MNO Senators and Fort William Historical staff.

Those involved in organizing and implementing the camp were proud of the students' positive response to the opportunity to connect with one another and learn more about postsecondary education. Phoebe Mandry, an Infinite Reach facilitator from the University of Ottawa, believes the camp was an opportunity for high school students to give voice to their preconceived and often misguided perceptions of university and college. According to Mandry, "The camp was a great opportunity for students to get to know other Métis students from across the province and to learn from experienced students what opportunities are available for them and what to expect in postsecondary."

For many of the high school students attending the Infinite Reach March Break Camp this was also their first occasion to travel by plane—one of the many aspects of the camp that prepared students for the possibility of travelling outside of their home community for postsecondary education. Complemented by this experience was a tour of Lakehead University campus provided by Lakehead's Infinite Reach facilitator Janine Landry. Landry ensured that students were made aware of all of the support services available to help ensure their success.

This coming December we will be putting out another call for applications from Métis high school students wishing to attend the 2012/2013 Infinite Reach March Break Camp. The camp is an opportunity for high school students so keep this in mind during the coming months. Support the Infinite Reach Network by supporting our young Métis students. We hope to see your applications in December!

The Infinite Reach program and this year's March Break Camp received funding assistance through both the Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities and the Ministry of Education.



05



09

I enjoyed the camp because I learned many new and exciting things about both my identity and my culture. The facilitators and staff helped us bond as a group and focus on building a community of strong, proud Métis youth. I am glad I went and got to experience this camp. It has inspired me to do bigger and better things.

- Skyra Robertson



08

- 02. Students trek through the bush on handmade snowshoes.
- 03. Kaitlyn Reil and Taylor Briere work together to learn finger weaving.
- 04. Infinite Reach facilitators Nikki Doucette and Phoebe Mandry were among those chosen to assist with running the camp.
- 05. Ben Meek makes fried bannock over a fire at Fort William while Nicole Williamson looks on.
- 06. Students show off their newly forged nails. Back Row L to R: Devon Emerson, Ben Meek, Xavier Tous, Quenten Lundie. Front Row L to R: Maggie Williamson, Sylvie Forest, Nicole Williamson.
- 07. Senator Roland St. Germain and Infinite Reach facilitator Mitch Case examine a beaver skull.
- 08. High school student Matthew Lindsay leads his group in a traditional storytelling workshop.
- 09. Concentration counts as Nicole Williamson practices floral beadwork patterns on a medicine pouch.

If you're a postsecondary student sign up for our infinite reach distribution list now! Go to:

www.metisnation.org

Infinite Reach Facilitator Spotlight!

The Infinite Reach March Break Camp is an integral part of the Infinite Reach: Métis Student Network because it lets students know about the presence of facilitators at their institutions who can assist them during their first year of study. Facilitators are ambitious upper year students who know the ropes of the institution they attend and can help connect new students with support services or just get together with them in the Aboriginal

resource lounge for coffee. This year our facilitators hosted over 35 Infinite Reach events across the province in universities and colleges. These events helped to raise awareness about Métis people and Métis culture, while engaging and supporting incoming students.

If you know a student who will be attending university or college this September, contact us to connect them with an Infinite Reach facilitator at their school.

Contact Us

Benny Michaud
Postsecondary Education Analyst
Métis Nation of Ontario
613-798-1488 ext. 137
infinitereach@metisnation.org





Attention Métis Students

The Métis Nation of Ontario is looking for
INFINITE REACH FACILITATORS

INFINITE REACH FACILITATORS are outgoing students interested in Métis culture who want to assist on their campuses by:

- Connecting with other Métis students
- Assisting new students adjust to postsecondary life
- Getting involved in Métis cultural events
- Connecting with Métis Community Councils



Infinite∞Reach
Métis Student Solidarity Network



For more information on how to apply visit: www.metisnation.org
or e-mail: infinitereach@metisnation.org

the Métis
Nation of
Ontario

MÉTIS YOUTH

Infinite Outreach

Métis student network holds community gathering and celebration

By **Tera Beaulieu,**
Christine Skura and
Ginny Gonneau
Infinite Reach facilitators
TORONTO

The “Infinite Reach Métis Student Solidarity Network” is a Métis Nation of Ontario program that is comprised of incoming and upper year post-secondary students who have the common goal of working together to enrich and enhance the postsecondary education experience of Métis students.

Members form a community of Métis learners within their college or university and support each other in their academic pursuits. Infinite Reach facilitators are upper year students who can offer assistance to incoming students by helping them adjust to university life. Infinite Reach facilitators also work to create and maintain a sense of community among Métis students. Throughout the year facilitators host cultural and informative events to connect students to the local Métis Nation of Ontario community councils and other programs, services and events of the MNO. Tera Beaulieu (doctoral student in Counselling Psychology) at the University of Toronto, Christine Skura (nursing student at Ryerson University), and Ginny Gonneau (massage therapy student at Sutherland-Chan School) acted as three of the facilitators for the inaugural year of the Infinite Reach Network.

As facilitators of the Infinite Reach Network at the University of Toronto and Ryerson University, we felt that it was important to work collaboratively over the course of the year to host various events for our Métis students, faculty and staff within our universities. Our intention with co-hosting events was to broaden and strengthen our network across the two universities, because many of our students often discuss feeling isolated as Métis students within educational institutions. The

events included a teaching circle on Métis culture and history facilitated by Elder Joe Paquette, a lecture on Métis identity delivered by Métis author and playwright Maria Campbell, and a sharing circle on Métis role models with Senator Jerry St.Germain.

As a result of the Infinite Reach Network, many students, faculty and staff were able to find a welcoming space in which to discuss Métis culture and issues, as well as establish friendships and working relationships with one another. The success of our events within the universities led us to believe that there might be many more Métis people throughout the City of Toronto who would be interested in networking and celebrating our rich culture and traditions. We therefore decided that for our final end of year celebration, we would partner with the MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council to reach out to the Métis community of Toronto at large to join in an evening of socializing and festivities.

On April 26th, 2012, at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, at the University of Toronto, the Infinite Reach Network and the MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council hosted a Métis social

and feast. The first part of the evening included dance instruction in Métis jigging, provided by Infinite Reach facilitator and jig instructor Ginny Gonneau. Elder Joe Paquette offered an opening prayer and teachings, and opening remarks were made by Tera Beaulieu and Robert Bird (President of the MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council). Individuals in attendance contributed food items to what turned out to be an amazing potluck feast!

We were also fortunate to be joined by Alyssa and Danton Delbaere-Sawchuk of the Métis Fiddler Quartet who played some pieces from their newly released album, while Ginny Gonneau and others jigged along to their performance. As you looked around the room, you could see individuals from all four directions, from both the academy and community, joining in laughter, dancing and celebration.

We felt the evening was a great success, and hope to continue with these social activities in the future. We are so grateful to have had the opportunity to work in our capacity as facilitators for the Infinite Reach Network of the Métis Nation of Ontario and look forward to continuing to enrich our thriving Métis communities.



▲ left to right: **Tera Beaulieu, Christine Skura, and Ginny Gonneau.**



▲ **Ginny Gonneau teaches the belt dance to Danton Delbaere-Sawchuk.**



▲ **Métis caterer Julia Durocher.**
photos by Kyle Burton



▲ **Joe Paquette kicks up his heels.**



YOUTH PROFILE: **GINNY GONNEAU**

Ginny is a southern city girl with the roots of a northern town--born in Thunder Bay, raised in Barrie, Ontario. She is an enthusiastic Métis workshop facilitator and performer. Her love for jigging began as a young girl at fiddle festivals. She began to jig at Métis youth conferences learning from Bruce Dumont and Beverley Lambert. In 2009, she began performing with Yvonne Chartrand's Louis Riel Métis Dancers. She now lives and works in Toronto and facilitates jigging workshops for schools, communities and organizations. Ginny loves to perform and is actively recruiting for her Toronto Métis community jigging circle.

CONTACT: **416-316-5804** or **ggonneau@gmail.com**

Student draws on Métis heritage for award-winning painting

Grade 12 student, Kelly Duquette, is the proud recipient of an Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF) Student Achievement Award. The theme of this year's prose, poetry, visual arts, and audio/visual animation competition was, “The right to speak, the responsibility to listen”.

The federation accepts student entries that are sponsored by their teachers. Kelly chose to depict the “seven sacred teachings” (love, respect, courage, honesty, wisdom, humility and truth) in acrylics. Her painting is titled,



Kelly Duquette

“Disconnected” and shows an Elder passing the teachings to a youth; each of the teachings is represented by a different animal. However, the “disconnected” youth, lost in the world of his laptop, does not realize what is going on.

Drawing people and working in acrylics were a big change for Kelly who usually painted animals and scenery in water-colours. Her change of medium was inspired by her mother, artist Kristy Cameron.

Since her success, Kelly has completed two other acrylic paintings in the “Aboriginal style” as part of her portfolio

for university applications. She has applied to various visual arts programs, but as a high school student who has never taken an art class, because art programs were cut from the curriculum, she finds herself with no graded projects, and assembling a portfolio has been an intimidating task. The fact remains that Duquette won in the Rainy River school board district, and then at the northwestern Ontario regional level and she is one of only four senior students across the province recognized in the “Senior Visual Arts” category of the 27th annual awards.

Kelly Duquette's award-winning painting titled, “Disconnected”.



The Métis: Then-Now-Tomorrow

Credit River Council partners with school boards for Métis youth conference

By **Richard Cuddy**
President • Credit River Métis Council

On May 24, 2012, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Credit River Métis Council, the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) and the Peel District School Board (PDSB) with financial assistance from the Ministry of Education held a Métis Youth Conference for students from the Region of Peel. The title of the conference was “The Métis: Then-Now-Tomorrow”. The conference was hosted by Principal Jeanne Gray and the PDSB’s newest secondary school, David Suzuki Secondary School (DSSS), in Brampton. One hundred and thirty students from grades seven through ten (representing 13 schools from across the Region of Peel) were offered the opportunity to learn, explore and celebrate Métis heritage, culture and identity.

Ian Pettigrew is the Instructional Coordinator for the PDSB and the conference was the realization of a two year dream for him. Ian had approached the CRMC in late 2011 to discuss the conference project and was offered the full support of council. Talitha Tolles, the CRMC Youth Rep., immediately began collaborations with the conference partners. The amount of passionate, hard work

Talitha and Ian had put into the conference was evident on May 24th.

The day began with opening remarks from Principal Jeanne Gray, DSSS; Ian Pettigrew, PDSB; Richard Cuddy, MNO Credit River Council President and Talitha Tolles. Ian asked the students for a show of hands. “How many people in this room know someone who is Métis? Look around; about a half a dozen or so.” (The Métis are the largest segment of the Aboriginal population in Peel.)

The keynote speaker was well-known Métis birch bark canoe builder, Marcel Labelle (Mahigan). Mahigan is also a traditional story teller who never fails to captivate an audience with stories from his “backyard” and with his canoe display. The story of Marcel’s journey may make you laugh and cry, but it will always make you feel honoured to have listened and proud to be Métis.

After Marcel’s address, students chose two break-out sessions from the six offered during the day.

“Proud to be Métis” was facilitated by Joyce Tolles (CRMC Secretary Treasurer) and Jim Tolles who offered a hands-on presentation about trapping, hunting and fire starting.

“Voyageurs” was presented by Chris McLeod (MNO Education and Training Branch) who gave students the historical background of the Métis

people. Chris was wearing traditional Métis clothing and at one point, dressed a volunteer in a capote and sash. “It was a fantastic event,” Chris remarked.

“The Métis: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow” was offered by Joe Paquette (President of the MNO Veterans’ Council) who involved the students in role playing to illustrate his stories of Métis culture. “Thank you to all of you for the great day. It was a great success and we should do it again,” Joe enthused.

“My Life as a Métis Woman”, was facilitated by Talitha Tolles who offered a woman’s perspective on growing up Métis. She illustrated her story with a PowerPoint production and CRMC Vice-president, Bill Morrison, led a walkthrough of the MNO Credit River Council Consultation Trailer set up outside the school.

“Health and Healing: Past and Present” was a discussion about traditional Métis health concerns lead by Simon Bain (MNO Community Healing and Wellness Coordinator).

“Getting Jiggy with It!” was a history of Métis dance and the opportunity to step to the fiddle music with Ginny Gonneau (Métis youth ISPAYIN Project Rep.). “The students really loved the jigging workshop. Even the teachers participated!” Ginny said.

continued on page 24



▲ Chris McLeod (MNOET) gives students the historical background of the Métis people.



▲ CRMC President, Richard Cuddy, CRMC Youth Rep., Talitha Tolles and David Suzuki Secondary School Principal, Jeanne Gray.



▲ Joe Paquette with David Suzuki Secondary School students.

YOUTH | GENERATION INNOVATION

Métis youth in the dragon’s den

Métis entrepreneurs impress business leaders at MNO’s Generation Innovation Challenge

In November, 2011, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), in partnership with the Ministry of Economic Development and Innovation and its sponsors launched a new and exciting program for Métis youth in Ontario! “Generation Innovation: Métis Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge” is a project designed to provide Métis youth (aged 13-29) with confidence, motivation, and above all, concrete business skills and mentoring. “Métis are among the fastest-growing and youngest demographic in Canada,” explained MNO President, Gary Lipinski. “Generation Innovation represents one of the exciting ways the MNO is encouraging our young citizens to build on the Métis tradition of entrepreneurship.”

Modeled after the popular CBC TV program, “Dragon’s Den”, Métis youth across Ontario were invited to submit applications describing their business or innovation in order to receive business training and compete for prizes in a Dragon’s Den-style competition where they would pitch their business ideas to business leaders who would act as judges. Fourteen business applications were received from young Métis people to

participate in the Generation Innovation Challenge with three selected to compete in the final for cash and prizes for the best pitch.

In addition to the chance to compete, the finalists also received online business training from the GoForth Institute, attended pitch training with Dr. Leslie Roberts and were coached by Ryan Foley, who was a contestant on the Dragon’s Den and who got a deal with Brett Wilson. As well, the finalists attended the Métis Business Forum in Toronto on March 30. On March 31, the competition took place and was recorded at a television production studio in Toronto. The program will be posted on the MNO website; used by the provincial and federal governments to promote Métis youth entrepreneurship; and, will be promoted to TV stations to gain support for the Generation Innovation Challenge and Métis youth entrepreneurship.

The young people made their pitches to a panel of four judges, each a well-respected business leader. They were: Lisa Diamond, President and CEO of Youth in Motion; Chinyere Eni, National Director of Public Sector and Aboriginal Markets for the Royal Bank of



▲ Finalists in MNO’s Generation Innovation Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge: (left to right) Kyle Burton, Nicholas Delbaere-Sawchuk, Robert Bates and David Bates.

an inspiring group of young entrepreneurs taking on the challenge of building our future,” said Eni.

“As a judge,” stated Alameddine, “I was extremely heartened to see the talent, passion and enthusiasm of these young contestants first-hand. I’m confident they will make great contributions.”

The contestants were: Nicolas Delbaere-Sawchuk, a member of the Métis Fiddler Quartet, who promoted a Métis music ensemble; Robert and David Bates, who

pitched their business, “Bates Brothers Magic”; and, Kyle Burton, of Burton Photography, who wants to build his talents into a business. Although all the contestants made strong pitches and showed great promise, ultimately, the judges selected Nicholas as the first place winner, Robert and David won second place, and Kyle won third place. After the success of the Generation Innovation Challenge this year, plans are already starting for another competition in 2013!

EDUCATION & TRAINING

JOB OPPORTUNITIES | MÉTIS MINING STRATEGY

Métis Mining in Ontario

More than a hole in the ground

By **Jennifer St.Germain**
Director of Education and Training
and **Chris Paci**
MNO Manager of Education
and **Scott Carpenter**
MNO Manager of Education

Mining activity across Ontario is growing at a rapid pace and bringing new job opportunities with it. In order to take advantage of these initiatives the MNO has been

engaged with industry, government and educational partners to explore the emerging labour market needs. Through the development of a “Métis mining strategy”, the MNO hopes to make mining companies more aware of the many talented potential Métis employees, as well as to alert our community to the career opportunities in mining in Ontario.

The MNO is exploring opportunities to support Métis students

taking mining relevant training at colleges and universities and to match them with work experience in mining companies. Support for mining careers will be directed at Aboriginal students interested in pursuing employment in mining focused careers. Starting in September, the MNO plans to offer training support in a wide range of areas to increase participation of Métis in the mining sector.

For more information about this exciting opportunity contact a Regional Training Employment Officer near you or visit the *Education and Training* page at the MNO website: www.metisnation.org.

STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES

MNO's Education Bursary gives student competitive edge

By **Michael Folz**

Iwould like to personally thank the Métis Nation of Ontario for donating \$500 to me; this has assisted me with my education.

I found it quite difficult in my course to fully understand certain concepts, the difference between theory and application (lab). With the money that you have given me I was able to buy myself the tools I need which allows me to build, test, and do the lab work at home. The tools allowed me to better prepare for my exams as they assisted me to better understand the circuits.

I am appreciative of the assis-

tance you have given me. If it weren't for the \$500 grant I wouldn't have been able to purchase the Tektronix oscilloscope which has allowed me to spend most of my holiday proactively studying.

With the use of the oscilloscope I have designed several different circuits which I will present to employers in February. I have successfully designed and created two separate function generators which use different integrated circuits.

With the money that you donated to me, I have been given an opportunity to enhance my competitive edge. I would like to thank you for assisting me.

Single mother and student gets leg up from MNO's Education Bursary

By **Charlotte Martin**

Iwould like to take this opportunity to thank you for your sponsorship through the “Métis Nation of Ontario Bursary”. My name is Charlotte Martin and I am the recipient of this award. I am a fourth generation Métis and I am extremely proud to be Aboriginal.

I am a single mother to a wonderful four year old boy named “Joshua”. I had my son at 19 and I truly believe he is my inspiration and it is because of him that I have succeeded this far.

I am currently enrolled in the “Early Childhood Education Fast

Track” program and I am really enjoying it. I have recently graduated from the University of Waterloo where I was enrolled in “Social Development” studies and “Social Work”.

My future plans are to mix my social work education and background with my early childhood education. I am aiming toward working with low income families and children with special needs.

This bursary has helped me out tremendously, and even though I receive OSAP, the amount I get is not enough to cover my expenses and debt. My thanks again for your support; I greatly appreciate it.

MOCCASIN CAMPS | NORTH BAY



▲ (Left to right) **Senator Eugene Contant; Jessica Brunne; Paul Rondeau; Yolande Longpré; Christian Pilon; Linda Krause; Jessica Contant; Jean-Pierre Pilon; Nicole Charron; Melanie Smits; Marcel Labelle Joanne Labelle; Guylaine Morin-Cleroux; MNO Chair, France Picotte; MNO North Bay Métis Council President, Marc Laurin; Louise Vien; Senator Micheline Boisvert; Leon Fleury; Senator Alis Kennedy; Chantal Cote; Claude Boisvert; and MNO Regional Councillor, Pauline Saulnier.**

MNO holds first French language Moccasin Camp

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) held its fifth “Moccasin Camp” the weekend of March 17-18 in North Bay. For the first time, the Moccasin Camp was conducted entirely in French. Moccasin camps build a community of learners within the Métis Nation. Métis presenters are in high demand from schools, governments and among the general public who are interested in learning more about Métis in Ontario. The camps assist the Métis community by building presentation skills, increasing awareness and instilling pride about our Métis identity. At each camp, community members share what they know about Métis history and culture.

Moccasin camps provide Métis educators and community leaders, including senators, elders, youth, community councillors, and other active community members with effective ways of making presentations to different audiences and using various presentation tools

“**Moccasin Camps continue to be an important aspect of the MNO's programs to expand the Métis presence in Ontario's schools.**”

such as the “Métis Education Kit”.

The highlight for many of the participants was a presentation by renowned Métis canoe maker, Marcel Labelle. Marcel was assisted by his apprentice, Christian Pilon, and together they demonstrated how they use the canoe as the basis for teaching traditional Métis knowledge. Marcel brought a full-size canoe with him to help with his teaching. Other presenters included Melanie Smits, a Métis student at the University of Sudbury, who has

received many academic awards and served in numerous leadership capacities at the university. Melanie related her experience of being Métis in a post-secondary environment. Louise Vien, a Métis finger-weaving artist, demonstrated her craft and presented on the history of the Métis sash and the variations in sash design.

MNO Chair, France Picotte, and Provisional Council of the MNO Councillor, Pauline Saulnier, were among the over 20 participants. MNO Education and Training staff, including Chantal Cote, Guylaine Morin-Cleroux, Linda Krause and Jessica Brunne, also attended and led sessions on such topics as public speaking, presenting Métis material culture, and how to promote Métis education. The participants were provided with tools they can adapt for their own presentations.

MNO Moccasin Camps continue to be an important aspect of the MNO's programs to expand the Métis presence in Ontario's schools.

MÉTIS HISTORY

KENORA | RESILIENCE/RESISTANCE: MÉTIS ART, 1880-2011

Kenora Museum artefact a part of Métis history

Based on an article published in the Kenora Daily Miner and News

The Lake of the Woods Museum in Kenora recently hosted a series of speakers. Among these was Dr. Sherry Racette, an associate professor at the University of Manitoba, and the curator of the art exhibit in Batoche Saskatchewan in 2011. Titled, “Resilience/Resistance: Métis Art, 1880-2011”, the exhibit featured a jacket that had been donated to the museum by the Beacham family of Kenora. It was this jacket that Dr. Racette spoke about.

The coat had belonged to Arthur Beacham (1889-1938), and was created by his mother, Maria Crate Beacham, and sister Eleanor in 1907. Mr. Beacham was among the famed northern “runners” who travelled in two-man dog sled teams to deliver the mail. While one man broke trail by snowshoe, the other ran beside the sled--up



◀ Dr. Sherry Racette (left) examines a jacket worn by Métis northern runner Arthur Beacham with two of his descendants: granddaughter Linda Beachman and great-granddaughter Chamain Romaniuk.

the frozen Red River to Lake Winnipeg and on to Norway House, a 1000 km journey that took eight days. Arrival at their destination was cause for celebration.

The runners were known to be flashy dressers, but the jacket is also practical. The fringe deflects moisture and sheds snow. The

seams are sandwiched with leather trim to keep the stitches dry for strength and wind proofing. The ornamental mink and caribou hide chest plate provides ventilation while preventing drafts. Rather than using coloured beads for decoration, which would transmit cold to the wearer, the intricate

designs are ‘button’ stitch embroidery in silk thread.

According to Dr. Racette, “The embroidery style is unique to the region and specific area but unlike bead and quill work, a revival of the craft has yet to occur. It’s very fine work....”



▲ A Métis man, circa the 19th century, sporting the colourful dress for which the Métis were well known.

LES DIPLÔMÉS DU COLLÈGE BORÉAL SONT LES PLUS SATISFAITS DE LA PROVINCE!



Collège Boréal

COLLÈGE BORÉAL

N°1 de tous les collèges en Ontario avec...

- ✓ le plus haut taux de satisfaction des diplômés!
- ✓ le plus haut taux d'obtention de diplômes!

* Parmi les 24 collèges communautaires anglophones et francophones de l'Ontario et selon les indicateurs de rendement reconnus par le ministère de la Formation et des Collèges et Universités, le Collège Boréal atteint un taux d'obtention de diplôme de 74,2 %, un taux de satisfaction des étudiants 76,3 %, un taux d'emploi de 80,3 %, un taux de satisfaction des diplômés de 86,6 % et un taux de satisfaction des employeurs de 92,7 %.



COLLEGE BOREAL.CA

LANDS & RESOURCES

Métis youth go out on the land for Traditional Knowledge training

Working in challenging outdoor conditions, youth use video to document the Métis way of life

By **Dr. Brian Tucker**
MNO Manager of Métis Traditional Knowledge and Land Use

On March 23rd and 24th, Métis youth from across Ontario participated in immersive “Advanced Traditional Knowledge Collection Training” near Thunder Bay. Hosted by the MNO Lands, Resources and Consultations Branch, the session was intended to further train youth in the collection of traditional knowledge.

Working in challenging outdoor conditions, the young people documented and participated in “way of life” activities throughout the day. This training specifically introduced

the use of video to document the Métis way of life, and the youth questioned the facilitators and each other as the session unfolded to augment the video record. They also recorded their own thoughts on the Métis way of life by interviewing each other in small groups.

The importance of land use mapping was also discussed. During the day, the youth worked in teams to build fires; encountered spring ice conditions; and, observed and took part in cleaning fish. They also experienced a trapping demonstration from a Métis trapper. The session was concluded in the evening as the youth shared their thoughts on the day during a fireside meal of whitefish.



▲ Scenes from the MNO advanced Traditional Knowledge training event.

ENVIRONMENT | NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT

All My Relations

MNO continues learning about Canada’s plan for the safe long-term management of used nuclear fuel

By **Melanie Hamilton**
Nuclear Waste Liaison
MNO LRC Branch

We share relationships with, and have an impact on, everything with which we come into contact. These impacts could even influence the livelihoods of people or things that appear unrelated. We are all connected.

A subtle influence on an abundant species may have dramatic repercussions on the surrounding environment. The Environmental Impact Statement released by Ontario Power Generation (OPG) for the proposed Deep Geologic Repository (DGR) located at Bruce Power states that there will be a removal of vegetation including the common eastern white cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*) and the widespread cattail (*Typha latifolia*). If you were to consider each species a separate entity unto itself and not connected through an extensive network of ecosystems, the impact of removing

them might be minimal.

Cattails along lake margins are considered a nuisance by many. However, they perform a vital role in keeping our lakes healthy. They filter runoff as it flows into the lake; they prevent shoreline erosion and provide valued habitat for wildlife and birds. Redwing blackbirds and many ducks and geese nest in them, and some animals such as muskrats, eat them. Even upland songbirds use fluff from the flowers to line their nests¹. Both the waterway and animals would be affected by the removal of cattails, and so the impact shouldn’t be considered minimal. The effects would be felt for an indefinite distance.

The Métis connection with the eastern white cedar, known as the “tree of life”, cannot be disputed. It, along with other species, links us to the natural world. Before science had the ability to analyze the properties of the cedar tree, we were able to recognize its cleansing capabilities, and often relied on it for medical purposes, transportation, hous-

ing, spiritual healing and as a food source. The healing attributes of the cedar also benefit wildlife. Métis knowledge holders have seen white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) ingest cedar bows in the winter months to ward off viral infections. Small mammals, like snowshoe hares, porcupines and red squirrels, also rely on cedar for food and shelter. Many species of birds use white cedar groves in the summer. Among them are white-throated sparrows, hermit thrushes and several warblers, including the yellow-rumped, the black-throated green, the black and white and the Nashville warblers. Pileated woodpeckers create cavities in mature white cedar trees to feed on carpenter ants. Mature white cedars provide seeds for birds and squirrels.²

Studies have shown that plants have the ability to recognize one another through constant commu-

nication either through root interactions, subtle changes in light or chemical detection. Research performed at McMaster University indicates that plants actually sprout more roots to compete for soil nutrients when growing beside unrelated neighbours¹. Their research illustrates that some plants are more willing to cooperate with plants of their own family as opposed to foreign plants deemed “competitors”³. Our intersection with everything has an impact that is far greater than the limit of our understanding. After all, we are all connected.

CONTACT:
Melanie S. Hamilton
Nuclear Waste Liaison
380 9th Street East
Owen Sound, Ont., N4K 1P1
Tel: 519.370.0435

1. <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/plants/native/cattail.html>
2. www.lrconline.com/Extension_Notes_English/pdf/cdr.pdf
3. <http://theintentionexperiment.com/the-secret-social-life-of-plants.htm>

Métis Traditional Knowledge

Traditional Knowledge holders meet across province

Transmission and preservation of Métis “Way of Life” discussed

During the month of March, Métis traditional knowledge holders from across the province met to share their knowledge and stories pertaining to the Métis “way of life”. Whether in Fort Frances, Kenora, or Thunder Bay, they shared their thoughts on traditional plant use; the best way to share knowledge with youth; the preservation and sharing of Métis traditional knowledge; and, the importance of Métis traditional knowledge.

The thoughtful contributions and discussion offered by the knowledge holders during these events will be used to help guide the preparation of upcoming elder-youth traditional knowledge sessions being planned by the MNO Lands, Resources and Consultations Branch within the Way of Life Framework (WOLF).

The LRC Branch, working with MNO communities and knowledge holders, continues to actively collect, preserve and share Métis traditional knowledge in order to protect and promote the way of life for the benefit of all Métis.

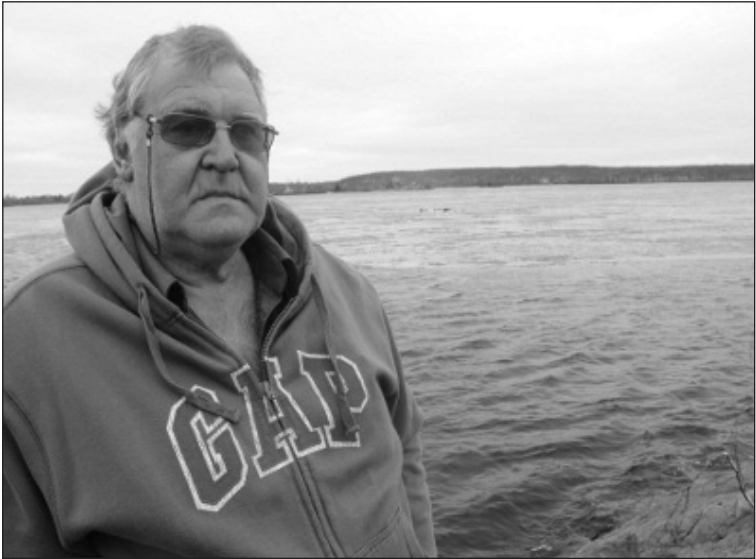
MNO Captain of the Hunt concerned about local environment

Based on an article posted on Sudbury Northern Life website by **Heidi Ulrichsen**

As Captain of the Hunt for the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) in Region 5, Richard Sarrazin ensures MNO harvesters respect the environment while they're out hunting and fishing in their traditional territories. Among other things, he teaches young people they should never leave garbage behind in the wilderness. That's why he was so upset when he saw numerous piles of garbage left out on the ice during a recent visit to Whitson Lake.

Sarrazin said the debris was likely left on the Val Caron-area lake by the "little village" of ice fishers who occupy it during the winter. "There's no reason for it, neither," he said. "If you can carry it out there, you can take it back." Sarrazin said he's spotted blocks of wood which were used as bases for ice huts, garbage bags and other debris out on the ice.

Because he only noticed the garbage March 24, when the ice was already unsafe to walk on, there was no possibility of picking it up. He said the garbage is going to end up in the water, where it will become a



▲ **MNO Captain of the Hunt for Region 5, Richard Sarrazin,** (above) **was upset when he found numerous piles of garbage left on Whitson Lake.** PHOTO BY Marg Seregelyi

hazard to boats, planes and swimmers using the lake during the summer, not to mention wildlife such as birds and fish.

Sarrazin said his wife's uncle even found a can of kerosene floating near the lake shore last year. "Those cans of kerosene are going to bust eventually; then they'll be leaking all over the place, right into the lake," he

said. Sarrazin said he's phoned the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) about the garbage, and officials said they'd investigate and find the people who left the debris behind. People probably figure "it's no big deal" to leave garbage on the lake, a move which he said is "selfish". "There's no

“ **There's no reason to leave tarps and garbage bags and whatever else on the ice.** ”

reason to leave tarps and garbage bags and whatever else on the ice," Sarrazin said.

Even if they need to remove a block of wood frozen into the ice, they should take 10 or 20 minutes to cut it out with a chainsaw, he said. Steve Masse, an MNR intelligence and investigations officer in the Sudbury area, said his office can write tickets if they find out who dumped garbage on the lake. The fine for such an offence is around \$150, although, people are sometimes brought to court for dumping a substantial amount of material, he said. "Unfortunately, this happens quite often, that people leave their garbage around the huts," he said. "I don't want to taint the 90% of people, who are law-abiding and do everything well, but there are a few out there who give it all a bad name. It hap-

pens every year."

He said he's not really sure why people would want to leave garbage on lakes. "It's something I haven't quite grasped either, why people do this," Masse said. "They want to enjoy the outdoors." Once in a while, somebody even leaves an ice hut out on the ice, and it sinks into the lake once the ice melts, he said, although this is rare. Ice fishers are required to put ministry-issued numbers on their ice huts so they can be tracked. They're usually required to remove their ice huts from lakes by March 31st in this area, although the date was earlier this year because of the unseasonably warm temperatures.

If anyone knows of someone responsible for leaving garbage on the ice, Masse encourages them to tell the MNR.

Original story can be viewed at: www.northernlife.ca/news/localNews/2012/03/30-garbage-whitson-lake-sudbury.aspx

OBITUARIES

Giséle Lavallée — 1938-2012 —

Hello Joe!
Hello Bill!
Hello Nancy!
What a thrill!
Haven't seen you guys in years
When we shared laughter and tears.
Wish these were better circumstances,
When we'd go to parties and dances.
They are standing at my side,
Because my poor wife has died.
When we go to a wedding we are so

happy to see relatives and friends we have not seen for a long time. At a funeral, we see friends and relatives we did not see for a long time, but we are sad that we lost a loved one.

A wedding is a celebration of two loving people joining together--a happy celebration. At a funeral, it is a sad occasion, but we are celebrating that person's life.

— Réal Lavallée, Guelph, ON

Formal notice found here: www.lifenews.ca/guelphmercury/profile/275264--lavallee-gisele

Margaret Olive Christensen July 6, 1924 – December 27, 2011

Margaret went home to be with her Lord and Saviour on Tuesday, December 27, 2011, at Heritage House in St. Jacobs at the age of 87.

She was the devoted mother of Marilyn Hew (Ron) of Toronto, and Janice Bennett-Cleary (Joe) of Waterloo, and loving Nana to Jonathan, Gloria and Angela of Waterloo. Margaret is lovingly remembered by former husband Elwood V. Christensen of Toronto, also survived by her sisters Joyce McLellan (Bernie) of Barrie, and Dorothy Darnley of Toronto, and her brother, Norman of Elliott Lake. She was predeceased by her brother, Fred Bovair (Mary).

Margaret discovered her Métis roots about 15 years ago. They stem from her father, Kerbel Michael Bovair, originally "Boisvert" from Georgina Township, ON.



Margaret warmly pursued her heritage and immediately became a citizen of the Métis Nation of Ontario. Her children and grandchildren also have become MNO citizens. Her daughter, Marilyn Hew is the Secretary / Treasurer of the Toronto and York Region Métis Council.

Celebrations of Margaret's life and faith were held with her family and friends in Waterloo at Erb & Good Family Funeral Home with her Pastor Robert Snell of First Baptist Church officiating and also in Toronto at Bethany Baptist Church with Pastor Jim Parker officiating.

Expressions of sympathy and/or donations may be made to The Kidney Foundation and Alzheimer Society of Canada.

"... I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." Psalm 23:6

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

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

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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

If you are interested in this position or would like to know more please contact:

Guylaine Morin Cleroux
guylainem@metisnation.org
1-800-263-4889

A WONDERFUL WAY TO
PROVIDE VALUABLE
FEEDBACK TO OUR
COMMUNITIES

MÉTIS VETERANS



▲ Women invited by the Canadian Forces to attend a recruiting information tour for women in Halifax.



MNOVC President-elect, Joe Paquette (with Eagle Staff), and **Métis veteran, Senator Alis Kennedy** (right) at ceremony honouring **Bertie Nakogee**.

Unknown Aboriginal soldier laid to rest

MNO Veterans' Council participates in ceremony for Private Bertie Nakogee

Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans' Council (MNOVC) members participated in a special ceremony held in Toronto on April 28 honouring Aboriginal veteran, Private Bertie Nakogee. Nakogee is a World War I veteran who has been buried in an unmarked grave since 1916. In a ceremony at a Toronto cemetery, Nakogee received a proper Canada War Graves Commission Tombstone.

“
Private Bertie Nakogee is a World War I veteran who has been buried in an unmarked grave since 1916.
”

The MNOVC was represented at the ceremony by MNOVC President-elect, Joe Paquette, and Senator Alis Kennedy of the MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council. President-elect Paquette carried the Eagle Staff during the ceremony. The staff is wrapped in beaver skin and holds 11 eagle feathers, representing the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. It is topped with deer antler; tied to the antler is a circle woven of sweetgrass; within the circle are bundles holding tobacco, cedar, sage and sweetgrass.

For more information, follow the link below to a *Toronto Star* story about Nakogee:
<http://goo.gl/S0Qnx>

See the Global News video at this link:
<http://goo.gl/V6QTK>

Back in the Forces

MNO Senator and Canadian Forces veteran Alis Kennedy was recently asked to be part of a recruiting information tour for women considering the possibility of a career in the Regular Force or Reserve

By **Senator Alis Kennedy, C.D.**

Last March, I had the honour of being invited by the Canadian Forces (CF) to attend a recruiting information tour for women in Halifax; I was amongst 100 women selected from various leadership backgrounds. Our mission was to be ambassadors for women, chatting with them to consider the possibility of a career in the Regular Force or Reserve and the opportunity to attend one of the military colleges or other universities approved by the CF.

I joined the military as a naval reservist in 1970, with some regular forces time. In one of the pictures I was a slim Petty Officer Second Class (PO2/Sgt), sitting on the grass, at CFB Cornwallis; I was instructing basic military training to recruits. I retired in 1983, with the rank of Petty Officer First Class (PO1/WO), due to the increasing demand of my university studies and part-time jobs. I served again in 2004 with the Air Cadets but left a few months later because of the extensive travelling required by my job, hence my “final” rank of Officer Cadet Vs Petty Officer First Class. However, my heart

never left the CF.

This recent trip down memory lane started on Saturday March 3, when we left Toronto to travel to CFB Stadacona (Halifax); we resided on the base at the Juno Tower, a hotel-style building.

On Sunday, because we had free time until 6:00 PM, a friend and I went to downtown Halifax; the last time I was in that city was 1982! We saw the docks and the downtown area, including the famous city clock and the renowned Maritime Museum of the Atlantic. Amongst other very interesting sections, the museum devoted a large part to the Titanic, with various artefacts from the ship, including a portion of the grand stair case made famous in the latest Titanic movie, and a deck chair; we were allowed to take pictures.

After dinner, we had our first information session, “Canadian Forces 101 Briefing” about women in the military. At present, approximately 15% of the Canadian Forces are women; the Forces would like to increase that number to 25%. The CF has surely changed a lot since “my” time! After the 20 minute presentation, I asked to speak; I stated that when I joined in 1970, women had basically two trades and both

were confined to office-type duties. The officers had more professional classifications (physician, nurse, pharmacist, etc.), but still “office-type” positions. I also highlighted other major differences including a pension for the reservists and women serving on-board ships. Back in the 70's women were not allowed to be on board after sundown!

On Monday, we spent most of the day at sea; we were aboard a frigate named “HMCS St. John's”. This type of vessel is the fastest and the most manoeuvrable of the CF War Ship Fleet; it can attain a top speed of 30 knots (56 km/h) and come to a full stop in one length and a half. We did it; it is true! We took a group picture at the end of the day even though it snowed most of the day and we were wet and cold. Still, most of us enjoyed the day at sea and in the Belford Basin. We were back at the base for dinner; we had a great dinner and very interesting guest speakers. What a day!

On Tuesday, we had more information sessions in the morning including, “The History of Women in the Canadian Forces”, and, “Paid Education Opportunities”. Not only are recruits paid to attend university

but the whole cost is covered by the CF and the time that you spend in school counts towards your pension!

We spent the afternoon touring the Damage Control School, witnessing various exercises including the extinguishing of a helicopter on fire and the rescue of the pilot. We had our last dinner at the base listening to two more very eloquent speakers.

Before returning home we again hit downtown and did a bit of shopping and had a delicious lobster lunch, Maritime-style, no butter! Then we returned to the base and were bused to the airport.

It was a wonderful experience to be back in the military for a few days, if only as a civilian. I served mostly in the Navy. It was great to see women in command positions, for example the Officer of the Watch on the Bridge was a female Lieutenant (N) in charge of an all-male crew.

By adopting a “no exclusion policy,” the CF has become one of the only militaries in the world to remove all barriers to full and equal service for its women members--all but one classification. Thus far, no woman has been accepted as a Catholic priest!



▲ The writer as a naval reservist in 1970 (Petty Officer Second Class) at CFB Cornwallis.

OUR STORIES

Bride on the loose

Can you believe it? I went grocery shopping on Saturday in a wedding gown!

Carol Levis is the Treasurer of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Grand River Métis Council and a long-term volunteer. In addition to donating her time to the local Métis council, she also volunteers with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Marillac Place (a shelter for homeless young mothers), and the Children's Wish Foundation of Canada. However, it was a trip to the grocery store dressed as a bride that got her on the front page of *The Record* and encouraged her to share her story.

On May 26th, close to one hundred women from western Ontario--all dressed as brides--descended upon Niagara Falls to attract public attention and donations to their favourite charity, the Children's Wish Foundation of Canada. The "brides" are in teams of 20-25 women--married or unmarried; it doesn't matter. The only stipulation is that participants must wear a wedding gown, their own, a friend's, or maybe a second hand dress.



▲ Carol Levis

The Children's Wish Foundation of Canada grants sick children an exceptional wish such as a trip to Disney World or a meeting with a favourite celebrity. Each wish can cost as much as \$10,000 and the group's goal this year is \$40,000.

Carol admits that she has worn her Value Village wedding gown five times, but never to the altar. However, soon she may need to invest in a "new" dress. Carol has lost 170 pounds over the last year which might necessitate more than a tuck or two in her gown. "I've been huge all my life," she said. "I got tired of being huge." In March, 2011, Carol underwent bariatric surgery (stomach stapling). She had physically recovered in a month's time, but says that changing her eating habits is a life-long project.

Amazed by the change in her health, Levis commented, "You know, the energy level is just unbelievable!" This is from a woman with a full-time job and a string of volunteer activities. "It's the feeling of loving to give back; I enjoy giving back," she explained. "That's what God wants me to do." So with all of this new-found energy, what's next?

If you would like to donate or become a "bride", visit the web site: www.bridesontheloose.com.

Teacher upgrades skills with help from MNOET

By **Tamarra Shepherd**
*Regional Employment and Training
Intake Officer*
TORONTO

Zachary Deschatelets had been working successfully in the competitive field of teaching when he decided he wanted to expand his opportunities for advancement. Not one to rest on his laurels, Deschatelets decided the best way to achieve the most from his chosen career would be to upgrade his skills. With assistance from the Métis Nation of Ontario Education and Training (MNOET) Branch, he enrolled in an accredited course at Laurentian College, realising that once he had successfully completed the program, he would be qualified to teach at all levels.

While the experience was not without challenges, as Deschatelets notes, "[The] main challenge was to juggle the course with my work. I

took it during the last two months of work. I needed to make sure to be organized." He secured his own success by staying ahead of his course work, often completing projects well before due dates, so as not to fall behind in his teaching. With the financial support of the Métis Nation of Ontario, many of the would-be economic worries that come with being both a part-time student and full-time employee were alleviated.

Now, Deschatelets finds himself in a position he loves, doing work he knows is meaningful: "I always knew I wanted to be in this field of work so I can make a difference amongst others and pass down my knowledge to help and guide the students in achieving their goals and surpass their abilities. The most rewarding aspect of my occupation is when a student demonstrates that he or she can apply what they learned to their everyday life."

YOUTH

Credit River Métis Council partners with school boards for Métis youth conference

continued from page 18

Closing remarks were provided by Ian Pettigrew who again asked the audience for a show of hands. "How many people in this room now are certain that they know someone who is Métis? Look around; we all do."

Richard Cuddy and Talitha Tolles wound up the session with the presentation of a book accepted by DSSS Principal, Jeanne Gray. Richard said: "In March of this year, I attended a conference in Saskatchewan called 'Nobody's Children – A Métis Nation Residential Schools Conference'. I received a copy of the book *Métis Memories of Residential Schools*. On behalf of the MNO Credit River Council and our Youth Rep. Talitha Tolles, we would like to donate this book to the school and would be honoured to have it used as a resource in your library."

Principal Gray thanked Talitha and the CRMC and said she was pleased to have received the library's first indigenous resource for the new Native Studies curriculum that will begin next year.

The MNO commends all those involved including the MNO Credit River Métis Councillors and citizens; Talitha Tolles; the MNO staff and citizens; Ian Pettigrew (PDSB); Dan Reidy (DPCDSB); the Ontario Ministry of Education; the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board; the Peel District School Board; the David Suzuki Secondary School staff and the 130 students who came to learn with open hearts and minds.

2012 MNO ELECTIONS | MNO VETERANS' COUNCIL

Meet the MNO Veterans' Council

Four Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) veterans have stepped forward to serve executive positions on the Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans' Council (MNOVC). These dedicated individuals are:



JOSEPH PAQUETTE
Acclaimed • **President**

Joseph Paquette, a proud Métis, was born in Kapuskasing (Cree Territory), in northern Ontario. In the mid-60's, Joe served with the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, 1st Battalion, and was stationed at Workpoint Barracks in Victoria, BC. He also served with the Lincoln and Welland Regiment as a reservist prior to the regular forces.

From 2008 to 2010, he was a councillor/veteran with the Credit River Métis Council. During that time he spear-headed the subcommittee for the Maanjiidowin Gathering in Mississauga which showcased the Métis, First Nations and Inuit. The gathering saw over 10,000 visitors during the two day event.

Joe strives to establish good relations with local heritage organizations, Aboriginal veterans' organizations and promotes the Métis way of life. Since 2009, he has served as Secretary for the MNOVC and was instrumental in maintaining and updating the veterans' registry, veteran registra-

tions, Métis Veterans' Wreath and the Veterans' Community Charter. In 2011, Joe established the MNOVC website to better serve MNO veterans throughout Ontario. Joe sits on several committees from local educational establishments to faith leaders' groups. He has participated in cultural presentations for the past 25 years and continues to be active locally. As a hunter/fisher, he enjoys the outdoors and is involved in gathering, processing and teaching about indigenous plants.

Joe has earned the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Ontario Heritage Trust, 2008, and received a lifetime membership from the Mississauga Heritage Foundation. He continues to research Métis history in Ontario. As a member in good standing of the National Aboriginal Veterans Association, Joe also participates in provincial and national events with our cherished veterans.

CHRISTOPHER PLUMMER
Acclaimed • **Treasurer**

No biography for Mr. Plummer is available at this time.



GUY MANDEVILLE
Acclaimed • **Chair**

Guy Mandeville was born in Timmins, Ontario, and raised in Connaught. He joined the Canadian Army in June, 1967, and served with the Royal Canadian Regiment for nine years and then transferred to the Canadian Forces Postal Service until his retirement in September of 2009, after 42 years of service.

Guy served in Germany; Alert, NWT; Cyprus; Egypt; Golan Heights, Syria; the former Yugoslavia (Croatia); Rwanda; and, East Timor. He has earned three bars to the Canadian Decoration (CD).

Currently, education is an important aspect of Guy's life. He presents weekly at local high schools on the subject of First Nations, Métis and Inuit cultures. Guy has also been involved with Scouts Canada since 1969 in various positions. He volunteers with his old military unit as curator for the Military Postal Museum located at the Postal Unit at CFB Trenton.

Guy is married to Marion, his spouse of 43 years and has four children: William, a PO1 at CFB Halifax; Charles, a PO2 at CFB Levis; Dana, a student at Loyalist College; and Tegan, a student at Loyalist College. He has seven grandchildren.

Guy is committed to fulfilling his role as Chairman of the Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans' Council to the best of his ability and to representing the interests of all Métis veterans in the Métis Nation of Ontario.



GREG GARRATT
Sergeant at Arms

Greg Garratt from Penetanguishene joined the Navy in 1981 and was stationed in Halifax until 1989. He returned to his home town, where over the past 23 years he has been active in many organizations. Currently, he sits on the Georgian Bay Métis Council. Heather, Greg's wife of 20 years, is also Métis and together they do what they can to support the Métis community--from refurbishing old computers for those without to attending and volunteering at community assemblies, parades etc.

Greg sits on several committees and sub-committees, including downtown development, the local organizing committee for the 2013 Ontario Heritage Conference, and the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) as a board member. Greg has also maintained his status in the Armed Forces Reserve.

Both Greg and his wife trace their Métis heritage to Drummond Island. Greg says, "We find so much has opened up to us since getting more involved with the Métis community over the past 10 years. Accepting the nomination for Sergeant at Arms seemed to be a natural next step toward learning more in hopes of being able to help others and preserve and enrich a part of our past for the present and the future generations. I look forward to the challenge and to expanding my Métis knowledge and background."

ARTS

Augie's Dream

| All-Aboriginal King Lear

continued from page 6

Augie met briefly with Peter during the run of *The Ecstasy of Rita Joe*, and pitched the idea, but he left the meeting feeling that Peter wasn't all that interested.

While I was a member of the National Arts Centre English Theatre Acting Company in 2010-11, I made a point to remind Peter Hinton and Paula Danckert, the company dramaturge, about the Native Lear. In my research I came across a series of Manga versions of Shakespearean plays written by post-modernist Professor Richard Appignanesi. One of the Manga's featured a Mohican Lear. I brought the book to Danckert in the hope that it would inspire them, to see the merit

of such a production. The dramaturgy of the Manga was quite sound. The narrative fit neatly into the context of a North America where the French, the English, and the Native tribes at relatively equal strength and the colonial powers were vying for land and title. To me the comic book presented an example of how this story might fit an Aboriginal cast.

Whether or not the comic book influenced them, I don't know. However, it is one of many reference books sitting in the rehearsal hall today. And at long last August Schellenberg is playing King Lear with an all Aboriginal cast supporting him, and John Juliani's son, Alessandro, is designing the sound for the show.

An Aboriginal community group called the "Four Nations Exchange" is also part of the production. Making up the "village" are 27 community members; add that to the cast of 13 and there will be 40 Aboriginal actors on the main stage of the National Arts Centre on opening night!

The rehearsals have been electric, demanding, exhilarating. Everyone is meeting the challenges that the text requires, the weird Shakespearean syntax, the emotional scale of the piece and the mountainous speeches. For Tantoo Cardinal (Regan) and Billy Merasty

(Gloucester) English is their second language! We are all excited and terrified of the enormity of this show and we all recognize the significance of it.

I am humbled to be amongst the artists in the room.

I have never felt so honoured to be a theatre artist. For me, playing Edmond in this production is the role of a lifetime. I can only imagine what it is like for August, to have carried this dream for so long to finally be doing it, in the best possible way. In the rehearsal hall the other day, we had all the village members and the speaking actors together

rehearsing act 1 scene 1 for the first time. The large rehearsal hall at the NAC was full. August came over to me before we were about to begin. He had this sheepish grin on his face and he asked me if this was what I envisioned when we were talking about doing Lear in 2009. I looked around the room, people were preparing themselves, smoke from the smudge bowl was filling the rehearsal hall and billowing down the halls of the NAC; forty smiling, laughing, beautiful, Aboriginal people gathered in a circle for one purpose: to tell one of the greatest stories ever told.

Was this what I envisioned?

"No Augie." I said, "I couldn't have imagined this in my wildest dreams."



2012 MNO ELECTIONS | PCMNO

continued from page 5



ANITA TUCKER
Acclaimed • Region 8

Dr. Anita Tucker was first elected to the PCMNO in 2004 as the Postsecondary Representative and was acclaimed in this election to the position of Region 8 Councillor.

Dr. Tucker holds a Bachelor of Science in wildlife biology, a Master of Science in wildlife toxicology, and a Doctorate in animal behavior, all from the University of Guelph. Anita lives in Milton and is a researcher at the University of Guelph in the field of animal behaviour, physiology and welfare. She plans on combining what she has learned through her education and her Métis heritage to help make our lives (as both Métis and global citizens) better. She feels fortunate to have grown up in a traditional Métis family where trapping, commercial fishing and logging were a huge part of her life.



PETER RIVERS
Acclaimed • Region 9

Peter Rivers has been acclaimed to serve a second term as Regional Councillor for Region 9. First elected to the PCMNO in 2008, Peter is also Captain of the Hunt for Region 9. Peter lives in Windsor and is a fire fighter. He has an "Associates Degree in Fire Science" from Lake Superior State University and is qualified as a "captain" in all fire fighting disciplines (fire rescue, training and inspections). He was a rescue operations manager for an urban search and rescue team in Michigan for seven years where he was deployed across North and South America. He has also been a "fire marshal" and served on the Public Fire Safety Council. Peter has a strong interest in Métis culture, heritage and way of life. He looks forward to continuing to press for Métis rights.



MITCH CASE
Acclaimed • Youth Rep

Mitch Case is currently President of the Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council (MNOYC) and the Youth Representative on the MNO Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council. He is a new member of the PCMNO and has been acclaimed as Youth Representative.



JENNIFER HENRY
Acclaimed
Post-Secondary Rep

Jennifer Henry is a new member of the PCMNO, acclaimed to the position of Postsecondary Representative. Jennifer is an education student concurrently attending Trent and Queen's Universities. She has been the Youth Representative on the MNO Oshawa Durham Region Métis Council since 2009 and looks forward to working in her new position on the PCMNO to encourage Métis to push forward toward higher education and continue to develop a forward moving nation.

OSISKO
HAMMOND REEF GOLD

NEWS BRIEF

Your resource about the Resource

Métis Nation of Ontario and Osisko Mining
sign Memorandum of Understanding

In March 2012, the MNO and Osisko Mining Corporation signed a Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") to guide their working relationship in regard to the development of the Hammond Reef gold project in northwestern Ontario.

"This agreement is an important step in building a mutually respectful and sustainable relationship between the Métis community and Osisko Hammond Reef Gold Ltd. in relation to the Hammond Reef gold project. It sets out a consultation process through which Osisko Hammond Reef Gold Ltd. can engage with the Métis Community at the local and regional levels in order to better understand Métis rights and interests that may be impacted in the local area around the project, through, amongst other things, completing a traditional knowledge study and a technical review of the project", said MNO President Gary Lipinski.

Sean Roosen, President and Chief Executive Officer of Osisko added: "The signing of this MOU is the result of a respectful consultation process between the signatories. This agreement represents a milestone in our continuing working relationship with all the local communities in the region and underscores Osisko's commitment to continue developing a strong relationship with Aboriginal people".



On April 14, 2012 Osisko Hammond Reef Gold Ltd. (OHRG) hosted a feast for approximately 55 members of the Atikokan Métis community. The purpose of the community feast was two-fold: 1) to celebrate the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and OHRG; and 2) to share information about the OHRG Project. The feast was the first of four such feasts to be held in each of the signatory communities as a result of the MOU.



OSISKO HAMMOND REEF GOLD LTD.

Head Office: 1100, av. des Canadiens-de-Montréal
Suite 300, P.O. Box 211
Montreal, Qc, H3B 2S2

Regional Office:
101, Goodwin Street, P.O.
Box 2020
Atikokan, ON P0T 1C0

Contact:
Jerome Girard, P.Eng.
Project Director
Hammond Reef Project



www.osisko.com

jgirard@osisko.com

HEALING & WELLNESS

Get your socks off and get healthy

By **Lisa Scott**
*Community Healing and Wellness
Coordinator • HAMILTON*

It was a cold and rainy day in downtown Hamilton, but nearly 200 people came out to the 7th Annual Health & Wellness Day on March the 8th. The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and the Southern Ontario Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative (SOADI) hosted the daylong event.

The community was treated to foot care services from the SOADI foot care team. Services included a visit with a chiroprapist, who provided community members with an assessment of their foot health, and a 30 minute reflexology treatment complete with a sweetgrass oil infused massage--talk about a great way to spend half an hour. Relaxation gave

way to excitement as each person left the treatment area and received SOADI's Foot Care Program Self Care Resource grab bag.

The Self Care Resource Kit was created to assist our Aboriginal, Métis, and Inuit community members practice daily self care. This kit has many tools that teach about preventative care and daily self care (see sidebar).

The crowd was then treated to a traditional feast that consisted of diabetic friendly foods, such as three sisters soup, chilli, salad, wraps and sandwiches. And what feast would be complete without dessert? We all relished the berry medley crisp and strawberry Juice.

The afternoon was full of presentations from many of the area's Aboriginal agencies including the MNO; SOADI; Urban Native Homes; Hamil-



▲ A drum circle at Health and Wellness Day in Hamilton.

ton Regional Indian Centre; Ontario Native Women's Association; Native Women's Centre; Niwasa Head Start Preschool; De dwa da dehs nye-s, Aboriginal Health Center; NYA:WEH

Program; and the Ontario Aboriginal HIV/AIDS Strategy.

Many thanks to these great agencies and their passionate workers who helped make the day a success!

FOOT CARE SELF CARE RESOURCE KIT:

- DVD
- diabetic socks
- large mirror
- SOADI pamphlet series
- lotion
- soap
- plus other preventative care products such as a magnet, pen, foot care directory and inspirational stone

The Foot Care Program Self Care Resource Kit can be ordered online through the Southern Ontario Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative (SOADI) main website: **www.soadi.ca**.

TIMMINS | GARDENING

Getting in Touch with Nature



Getting healthy and active can be as easy as stepping into your own backyard

With summer almost here it's about time we started thinking about ways to get outdoors and to get active. You don't have to run marathons to be active. The key is just to get outside and do activities that you enjoy, whether walking, canoeing, or gardening. We at the Healing and Wellness Branch in Timmins are prepared to help our community do just that!

We have numerous fun activities planned for this summer (as listed below), but we aren't stopping there. Getting in touch with nature is not just about being active outdoors; it's also about learning to live in unison with nature and to appreciate what nature has to offer.

In our summer issue of *Healing & Wellness News Timmins* we focused on gardening, composting, and recycling. Not only can you save some of your hard earned money, you can enjoy the benefit of home grown foods with no pesticides, or hormones, AND you can do it with items already in your recycling bin. Even if you have a small outdoor space or none you can garden! All you need to get started is soil, plant seeds, and recycled items. If you're unsure where to start then keep reading for some neat gardening tips!

• Empty clear bottles with

bottoms cut out or lettuce boxes make excellent mini greenhouses, for plants that are susceptible to changing temperatures.

• **Empty coffee cans or bottles with tops removed make excellent pots for plants indoors.**

Get your kids to help decorate the outsides for a fun craft.

• **Empty shoe hangers make for excellent space savers.** Rather than throwing them away hang them up on your fence or balcony, each pocket can house a different plant.

• **Compost!** Leftover food items and plant clippings break down in the hot sun (or dark bins) to create a great source of nutrients for any garden. Just remember to

turn over your compost with a shovel once in a while so everything breaks down.

• **Get large pails or a barrel to collect rain water** to keep your garden from drying out and you'll save on your water bill to.

So start your own garden, get your family involved, and reap the benefits of organic homegrown foods! If you want to get out and get active at local community events, check out the Timmins Healing and Wellness summer schedule (see sidebar).

For more information about services and events, or to receive a copy of the quarterly newsletter, please contact the local Timmins office at 705-264-3939.

TIMMINS HEALING AND WELLNESS Summer Activities

July 11	Family Day at the Park
July 19	Nature Walk Series, part 3
July 20	Harvesting Medicinal Walk
August 8	Blueberry Picking
August 15	Cooking Outdoors with Elders
August 16	Nature Walk Series, part 4
September 29	Métis Across the Nation Celebration
hosted by the Timmins and North Bay Healing and Wellness staff at Camp Bickell in Iroquois Falls, Ontario.	

MIDLAND | COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS



▲ Midland-based MNO CSS/Aging at Home Coordinator, **Debbie Ferris-Giammattola** giving **Allan Vallee** a small token of thanks for Easter hams that he was able to get this year.

Who wouldn't kiss this man?

Past President of the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council, Allan Vallee, worked very hard to establish a partnership with Rama Casino. Every holiday, the casino offers their employees turkeys and hams as a gesture of thanks. Many of these frozen gifts never get picked up, leaving the casino in a predicament because the left-overs are essentially wasted.

Even after retiring from his position as president, Allan has maintained his relationship with the casino and has worked as a volunteer for the Midland Healing and Wellness Branch. Every Christmas, Thanksgiving and Easter for the past two years, many of the citizens in the Midland/Penetanguishene area have benefitted from Allan's dedication. On one occasion, he was even

“

Every Christmas, Thanksgiving and Easter for the past two years, many of the citizens in the Midland-Penetanguishene area have benefitted from Allan's dedication.

”

able to get some beautiful blankets, duvets, and sheet sets. Securing these holiday gifts is never a sure thing. Allan never knows if his hard work will pay off because he is never certain how many items he will return with, if any. It really is the luck of the draw and we feel very fortunate that Allan continues to gamble on behalf of our citizens.

A New *Choice* for
Métis
Entrepreneurs
in Ontario



Potential financing to **\$500,000**
for resource and resource-related businesses

Rates and security customized
to promote **Métis businesses**

Contributions for
business plans and ongoing aftercare

Métis
VOYAGEUR
Development Fund

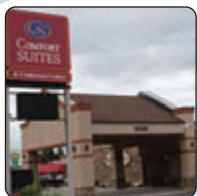


mvdf.ca

THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2012

SAULT STE. MARIE, ON ∞ AUGUST 26-28, 2012



LOCATION

Comfort Suites and Comfort Centre
229 Great Northern Road
Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6B 4Z2
705-942-2500
www.comfortsuites.com



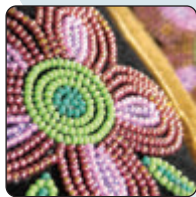
CAMPING

Bell's Point Beach Campground
158 Highway 17 East
Garden River First Nation
1-866-292-9902
www.bellspointbeach.com
(When making reservations, be sure to identify yourself as being with the MNO to get our reduced rate.)



CAMPFIRE

Welcome to the AGA - Saturday
Join President Lipinski and the PCMNO around the campfire at Bell's Point Beach Campground. Be sure to bring your musical instruments and jigging shoes!



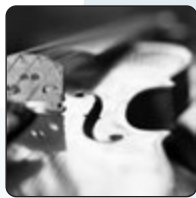
TRADE SHOW

MNO Trade Show
All day Sunday and Monday
Visit our many exciting vendors and cultural and heritage displays.



ENTERTAINMENT

Evening with Métis Entertainers (Sunday Evening)
Kiwanis Community Theatre Centre
1007 Trunk Road, Sault Ste. Marie
See some of the best Métis entertainers in Ontario and be part of the swearing-in of the new Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario.



CULTURE

Métis Cultural Evening (Monday Evening)
Hosted by Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council at the Roberta Bondar Pavilion (99 Foster Drive)
Enjoy an evening of traditional Métis culture.



MÉTIS GAMES

Métis Games, Cultural Workshops and Activities (Monday Afternoon)
Compete in traditional voyageur activities and/or learn about different elements of our rich Métis culture.

ELECTIONS

PCMNO Senator Elections

The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer is accepting nominations from MNO Senators interested in standing for election as Senators on the PCMNO.

In accordance with Article 6.10 of the *Métis Nation of Ontario Electoral Code Part A*: Each community council may select a Senator.

Those Senators selected by their community councils, together with the Senators currently serving on the PCMNO, and any Senators who have served in the past on the PCMNO, who are in attendance at a general assembly, shall choose from among themselves four Senators to sit on the PCMNO, and from among those four shall also choose a Senator who shall sit on the executive committee. Senators will be elected for a term of four years and only those Senators registered for the MNO 2012 AGA being held in Sault Ste. Marie may vote for those candidates nominated as a PCMNO Senator.

These ballot box elections will be held on **August 26, 2012 between 1:00 P.M. and 4:00 P.M.** during the Senators Annual Meeting.

Nomination forms are available on the MNO website (www.metisnation.org) in the AGA section and in the Senators section.

Nominations close August 13, 2012 at 5:00 P.M. EST.

Women's Secretariat of the Métis Nation of Ontario Elections

The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer is accepting nominations from MNO women citizens interested in standing for election as representatives in the Women's Secretariat of the Métis Nation of Ontario.

In accordance with the Women's Secretariat of the *Métis Nation of Ontario Terms of Reference* Article 4.1.3, the nominees must be women who have been verified as MNO citizens and have been residents of Ontario for a minimum of one year.

The committee of four women representatives will be elected for a term of four years by the women citizens of the MNO who are registered for the MNO 2012 AGA being held in Sault Ste. Marie. These ballot box elections will be held on **August 26, 2012, between 3:00 P.M. and 5:00 P.M.** during the WSMNO Annual Meeting.

Nomination forms are available on the MNO website (www.metisnation.org) in the AGA section and in the WSMNO section.

Nominations will close August 13, 2012, at 5:00 P.M. EST.

Please send nominations to:
Hank Rowlinson
Deputy Chief Electoral Officer
500 Old St. Patrick Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1N 9G4
Fax: 613-722-4225
hankr@metisnation.org

For more AGA information:

aga2012info@metisnation.org
www.metisnation.org

