



19th MNO Annual General Assembly

Musket volleys kick off 2012 MNO Assembly

As it does every year, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) kicked-off its Annual General Assembly (AGA) by re-living the traditions of the Métis voyageurs. On the evening of August 25, voyageur canoes carrying members of the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) and special AGA guests travelled down the St. Mary River at Bell's Point Beach Campground near Sault Ste. Marie. The journey concluded on a beach near the campground where the modern voyageurs were enthusiastically greeted by a cheering crowd of MNO citizens.

2012 marks the bicentennial of the War of 1812, and Métis contributions during the war were commemorated in the ceremony. Waiting for the canoes was a group of Sault Ste. Marie military re-enactors portraying British soldiers. The soldiers fired two musket volleys to salute the voyageurs as they arrived, and following the landing, MNO President, Gary Lipinski, flanked by Métis youth in colourful traditional clothing approached the soldiers where their leader, Brian Tremblay stated:

Thank you for joining us hardy voyageurs. We are here to recognize your service in the Corps of Canadian Voyageurs and the Provincial Commissariat Voyageurs and to thank you for your bravery in the historic battlefields of the War of 1812-14. You were in the front of battle during the stirring scenes of Plattsburgh, Mackinaw, St. Joseph Island, Sault Ste. Marie and other sanguinary points during the war. You carry the wounds received while gallantly defending our territory and these are a testimony more eloquent than words to the loyalty and valour of the Métis.

President Lipinski responded:
We joined these battles as a proud

people to protect the territory we share with you the British, the Canadians and our First Nations brothers. We fought side by side and some of us are proud recipients of medals that will be treasured by our descendants. Let it be remembered today and for all days onward that when the call went out, the Métis remembered their friends and carried their share.

Following the War of 1812 commemoration, the MNO veterans' colour party led a procession that included President Lipinski and other dignitaries who arrived by canoe. They were followed by Rick Meilleur and a group of singers dressed in traditional Métis clothing, members of the PCMNO, MNO Senators, Métis women, youth and other celebrants. Rick and his group led everyone in singing The Métis Anthem, which includes the lines:

*We are proud to be Métis
Watch a nation rise again
Never more forgotten people
We're the true Canadians.*

When the procession reached the campground, several hundred citizens and friends of the MNO joined the singers in another stirring rendition of the anthem.

After the song, a ceremony swearing-in the new PCMNO was held. The swearing-in included all the executive positions: Regional Councillors, Senators, Youth and Postsecondary Representatives. The oath was administered by Clément Chartier, the President of the Métis National Council and was followed by each PCMNO member signing his or her own Oath of Allegiance.

After these formalities, the AGA delegates enjoyed a rousing campfire celebration and a feast of corn prepared by former PCMNO Regional Councillor, Art Bennett. ∞



photo: Marc St. Germain



photo: Sam Baynam



photo: Beth Honsberger

▲ Top: Delegates to the 19th MNO AGA arrive via voyageur canoe.

▲ Above: Royal Newfoundland Regiment-Armstrong's Company fires a volley to greet arriving delegates.

◀ MNO President, Gary Lipinski confers with Armstrong's Company as part of a commemoration of Métis contributions in the War of 1812.



MVDF

The Métis Voyageur Development Fund has opened its doors

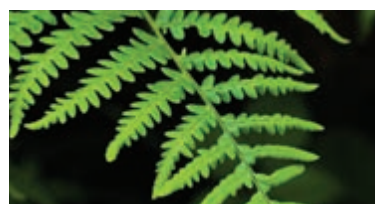
Page 3



1812

Fort St. Joseph is invaded again! The Sault Ste. Marie Historic Métis Council takes part in War of 1812 event.

Page 5



MÉTIS WAY OF LIFE

Potential impacts of development projects on Métis communities.

Special Insert



2012 ASSEMBLY

Full coverage of the 19th Annual General Assembly of the MNO

Pages 13-19, 28



AROUND THE MNO

OBITUARY



Former PCMNO member, Donna Lee, passes

*Donna Lee (Sassy Crowe)
1952-2012*

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) has lost a good friend and strong defender of Métis rights. Former Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Region One Councillor Donna Lee (Sassy Crowe) passed away in Fort Frances on August 5, 2012, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Donna served on the PCMNO from 1999 to 2002 and during her term earned the respect of all of us in the Métis Nation for her dedication to the Métis cause and her hard work to advance Métis issues. Donna is also remembered by all who knew her for her gift of storytelling and the hours of volunteer and community service she provided. She started as a casual with the local school board, was later

manager at the Kitchen Creek Golf Course and for the last ten years has been Manager of Transportation for the Rainy River District School Board.

Donna will be greatly missed by (her grandchildren) Randi-Rae, Justin, Carlee-Rae, Braeden, (her children) Tracey Baldwin, Aimee, Greg Beazley, (her mother) Minnie Crowe, (her sister) Betty Mainville, (brothers) Ray, [Wendy] Crowe, Fred [Lori] Crowe, Tom [Ruth] Crowe, Darrell Crowe, and Bob [Tammy] Crowe, along with numerous nieces and nephews. She is predeceased by her husband, Wayne; father, Wallace Crowe; as well as her grandparents, Margaret and Lute Calder.

A celebration of her life took place on Saturday, August 11, 2012.

AWARD WINNER

PCMNO Councilor Pauline Saulnier receives OPSEU Tim Brown award

On April 21, Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Region 7 Councillor, Pauline Saulnier, received the "Tim Brown Award" at the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) Annual Convention. In 2007, Pauline joined the OPSEU Aboriginal Circle under Tim Brown's leadership and became Vice-chair in 2008. With Tim Brown's passing, she was elected Chair of the Circle.

Pauline was honoured both for her work with the MNO and her role in the OPSEU Aboriginal Circle. Pauline became an MNO citizen in 1996 and by 2000 was elected President of the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council. In 2005, she was elected Region 7 PCMNO Councilor and was re-elected to that position in the recent MNO election.



Pauline Saulnier (right) receives the Tim Brown Award at the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) Annual Convention from OPSEU President, Warren "Smokey" Thomas (left).

OBITUARY

Glen Higgs 1955-2012

Glen Higgs was born August 23rd, 1955, and passed away May 25th, 2012, in a plane crash at Lillabelle Lake in Cochrane ON at the age of 56. He is survived by his wife Nancy and his children Rob (Ruthann) and Jennifer (Craig Vanier). He was the beloved grandfather of Mikayla, Evan, Stuart, Kailyn, William and Abigail.

He is also survived by his parents Carol and John Higgs, and his brothers Steven (Barbara) and Dennis (Linda), his sisters Linda Linklater (Lorne) and CarolAnn O'Grady (Gerry), his grandparents Gabriel and MarieAnge Groulx. He leaves behind 24 nieces, 17 nephews, aunts, uncles, many cousins and friends.

CONGRATS



▲ **Barbaranne, Kirby-Lynn and Harry Wright.**

Congrats to a Recent Graduate

Congratulations to **Kirby-Lynn Wright**, who recently graduated on the President's Honour Roll from a two year program in Recreational Therapy at Niagara College, Welland Campus. Kirby-Lynn will continue her studies at Brock University. She is the daughter of Barbaranne and Harry Wright.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



South of the border

Ken Simard, (right) Métis Nation of Ontario Captain of the Hunt for Region 2, attended the "Honor our Elders Pow Wow" on the Grand Portage Indian

Reservation in Minnesota where he was one of the dancers, and was also asked to carry the Métis Nation flag in the grand entry.

CONGRATS



▲ **Judy Baxter.**

Great job, Judy!

The MNO Niagara Region Métis Council Secretary/Treasurer, **Judy Baxter**, has successfully completed the Quick Books Premier 2010 Level 1 course at Niagara College. This training was made possible by the New Relationship Fund (NRF) and will enhance Judy's success in her role on council. "On behalf of the NRMFC, I would like to congratulate Judy for achieving her goal," said President Quesnelle.

PHOTO OP

Truth and Reconciliation committee meets

The Reverend Riscylla Shaw, daughter of Senator Ruth Wagner, with Métis National Council President, Clem Chartier, at the last Truth and Reconciliation committee meeting. (See *Métis Voyageur* 70, page 20, for more on Reverend Shaw.



▲ **Rev. Riscylla Shaw and MNC President Clement Chartier.**

THE MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

FALL 2012, No. 72

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MVDF | SUPPORT FOR MÉTIS ENTREPRENEURS

Métis Voyageur Development Fund opens it's doors

Métis entrepreneurs in Ontario have a new “financier of choice” with the Métis Voyageur Development Fund (MVDF) commencing operations August 14.

The MVDF's formal launch was attended by the Honourable Paul DeVillers, PC, and Chair of the MVDF Board of Directors; the Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs for Ontario; as well as many private sector companies and Gary Lipinski, President of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO). The MNO initiated the formation of the MVDF last year with the Province of Ontario who agreed to provide 30 million dollars over ten years to fund the MVDF.

“Today's announcement represents a historic breakthrough for Ontario Métis. We will finally be able to provide much needed support and assistance to Métis entrepreneurs and businesses in building the economies of Métis communities, while also contributing to Ontario's overall economic growth,” said President Lipinski.

The MVDF is an independent Métis owned and controlled agency that provides funding and support for resource or resource-related Métis businesses. “Métis are one of the youngest and fastest growing demographic groups in Ontario,” explained the Honourable Paul DeVillers. “Our fund is in a position to ensure that Métis people also play a growing role in the Ontario economy; something that will benefit all Ontario people.”

“The Ontario Government is proud to support the Métis Voyageur Development Fund,” stated the Honourable Kathleen Wynne. “This fund will help Métis entrepreneurs



▲ (Left to right) The Honourable Chris Bentley, Minister of Energy; Gary Lipinski, MNO President; Steven Morse, Executive Director of the MVDF; the Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Paul DeVillers, Chair of the MVDF Board of Directors.

and businesses in the resource sector start and expand their business. These investments will support economic growth for Métis families and communities, and Ontario's economy.”

The MVDF will extend financing options available to Métis for resource projects in Ontario, making secured and mezzanine debt available to fund projects that support sustainable growth. The financing will either supplement existing debt from the financial sector or sit alongside the entrepreneur's equity with the aim of allowing the development

of sustainable projects that the financial markets might not finance at the required level. Investing through such a revolving fund instrument helps increase the impact and extend the availability of Ontario's investment.

“We can help Métis people propel their businesses forward,” stated DeVillers, “because we are in a position to offer customized financing and on-going support that is designed to significantly increase their business's chances of success and opportunities to grow.”



The **Métis Voyageur Development Fund** is an independent Métis owned and controlled corporation, founded in 2011, that provides funding and support for resource or related sector Métis businesses.

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The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) provides property management services for Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services (OAHS) Rural and Native Housing (RNH) units.

The MNO is seeking tenders from contractors interesting in carrying out repair work on these units.

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▲ The newly elected Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario meets in Ottawa in June 2012.

First meeting of new PCMNO

The recently elected and re-elected members of the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) held their first meeting the weekend of June 15-17 in Ottawa. The meeting included extensive orientation sessions to prepare the PCMNO for its responsibilities as well as detailed brief-

ings from all the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Branch Directors. "We are here to solve problems for our citizens and our communities," said MNO President, Gary Lipinski, as he spoke passionately about the role of the PCMNO. He stressed the importance of its role in ensuring that the MNO is properly recognized as the government of Métis people in Ontario and the

“
We are here to
solve problems for
our citizens and
our communities.”

protector of Métis rights. He reminded the PCMNO that the founding document of the MNO, *The Statement of Prime Purpose*, outlines clearly the objectives of the MNO as pursuing Métis rights, improving social conditions for MNO citizens and promoting Métis culture. "We are at a wonderful time to make sure these things happen," he added.

The theme of "unity" also emerged strongly from the meeting. "Our communities are part of the MNO," explained President Lipinski, "as are women, veterans, youth and senators. Our community council charters and regional protocols bind us together. We are not separate entities...."

MNO IN THE MEDIA

NationTalk interviews MNO President Gary Lipinski

NationTalk recently interviewed Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President, Gary Lipinski. In the interview, President Lipinski discussed MNO priorities and provided an update on Métis rights litigation, as well as MNO's current relationship with industry, both short and long term. The president also said that the MNO will assist Métis youth to advance their education and enter the workforce.

Listen to the interview
at the link below:
<http://bit.ly/Ut1v76>

NationTalk
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FEDERAL RELATIONS

President Gary Lipinski addresses Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples

On June 6, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President, Gary Lipinski, addressed the Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples. President Lipinski's report was very well received and drew many questions from the committee members.

In his opening remarks President Lipinski commented: "Far too often the story in Ontario as part of the larger Métis Nation narrative is overshadowed or overlooked by some. This is a mistake, and I am glad to see the Senate Committee will not fall into the same trap."

President Lipinski provided the senators with a history of the Métis people in Ontario and information about the role the MNO plays as the government of Métis people in the province. A major focus of his presentation was the struggle for Métis rights. "Since Ontario Métis were, for the most part, refused entry into the historic treaties," he explained, "Métis rights and title remain 'unex-



tinguished' and 'existing' in this province. Our rights' claims must be dealt with. Presently, reconciliation through negotiations leading to agreements required by section 35 of The Constitution Act is not happening with the Métis Nation generally, or the Métis Nation of Ontario specifically."

The question and answer period following his presentation lasted

approximately an hour. President Lipinski fielded a broad variety of questions that included the origin of the name "Métis", harvesting issues, and protecting the Michif language. In an exchange with Senator Don Meredith of Ontario, who asked about the role of youth in the MNO, President Lipinski answered: "I was just speaking to all my directors and managers on one of our priorities

[youth] certainly going forward in this term. I have had this discussion with the Premier here in Ontario. Without question, our focus will be on children and youth over the next number of years. Prior to entering Métis politics, I was ... a teacher There is always a certain number of students who will make it, almost regardless of what happens, but you also have a number of students who, for whatever reason, whether it is not having the support structures in place or the proper role models, run into difficulties. Those are the ones we want to reach and try to help, because if you can encourage them to get their high school graduation and look at post secondary...they will be able to get into business opportunities or a good job, be able to provide their own housing, live a healthier lifestyle, and raise their children in a much better way. That is a priority the MMO will be putting a lot of attention on over the next four years."

For a complete transcript of President Lipinski's presentation to the Senate Committee or to view a video visit the MNO web site: www.metisnation.org

MNO COMMUNITY COUNCILS



▲ The Métis Dance Club provides dance instruction to the Plymouth Fife and Drum Corp from Michigan.

Two hundred years after the attack on Fort Mackinac, over 1,000 people descend upon Fort St. Joseph to remember those who were part of the War of 1812

The Americans are coming!

Assembled by **Linda Lord** with the invaluable help of **Anne Trudel**, **Senator Brenda Powley** and **Senator Ruth Wagner**

The *Métis Voyageur*, spring edition (70), featured a story about Métis involvement in the War of 1812 and commemorations that were planned for July, 2012. As expected, Fort St. Joseph was invaded again! This time, hundreds of re-enactors brought Algoma's history to life for the crowds in attendance.

The British troops, who successfully took Fort Michilimackinac two hundred years ago, did so with the assistance of First Nations and Métis.

On July 17th, two hundred years after the attack on Fort Mackinac, an estimated 1,200 to 1,300 people descended upon Fort St. Joseph to remember those who were part of the War of 1812. A moment of silence was observed. Senator Brenda Powley opened the ceremony with a prayer. She also presented sashes to speaking dignitaries while Anne Trudel, assisted by her daughter Rebekah, provided a brief presentation on the functions of the sash and other items carried by the voyageurs, such as the clay pipe, explaining that the distance travelled was calculated by the number of pipes smoked along the way.

Métis dignitaries seated on the platform were PCMNO Region 4 Councillor, Ernie Gatien; President of the MNO Historic Sault Ste Marie Council, Kim Powley; and, Councillor Stan McHale.

Many other Métis attended and volunteered; these included PCMNO Senator, Ruth Wagner, and MNO Historic Sault Ste Marie Council Vice President, John Konawalchuck.

Other special guests were Mr. Bryan Hayes, MP for Sault Ste. Marie; Carol Hughes, MP for Algoma/Manitoulin/Kapuskasing; David Oraziotti, MPP for Sault Ste. Marie; Isaac Murdoch, four-times great-grandson of Chief Shingwauk of the Serpent River First Nation.

The Métis Dance Club was well represented and performed to the music of both Senator Ruth Wagner and Zach and Benoit Schryer Lefebvre. More Métis dancers came from the MNO Summer Youth Cultural Program - Gen, Justine, Marie, Nikki, Erika, Jada, Melody, Hollie and Rebekah—and from the larger community of relatives and friends-- Alana, Beth, Bill, Christine, Evelyn, Jean Marie, Larry, Mckenzie, Myrta, Rhona, and Tracey. These people had already contributed many volunteer



(top) **North Shore Métis Council Councillor, Stan McHale; Senator Brenda Powley; PCMNO Region 4 Councillor, Ernie Gatien; Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council President, Kim Powley.** (middle) **John Konawalchuck, Vice President of the Historic SSM Métis Council with the US Niagara.** (bottom) **Senator Ruth Wagner, Jean Marie Wissell and Anne Trudel.** photos courtesy of Brenda Powley

hours sewing the period attire that everyone wore.

All of this activity and Métis involvement was the product of years of work donated by many people who sat on various committees to ensure that the Métis contribution to the British colony was noted. Senator Brenda Powley said: "There were a lot of Métis people involved....Anne Trudel has worked about five years on the committee...." Co-chairs, Kathy Fisher, curator of the Ermatinger Clergue National Historic Site, and Carol Caputo, executive director of Algoma Kinniwabi Travel Association, have always included the Métis in the region--starting with former PCMNO Councillor, Brent McHale, and MNO employees and volunteers like Anne Trudel, Lynne Sinclair and Heather Armstrong. This gave the local community a voice and an opportunity to sit on sub committees such as "research" and the "canoe zone". The canoe zone, a great success, was lead by Mark Croft and Wally van Dyke of Blind River. The Métis were well represented on this committee by former PCMNO Councillor, Art Bennett and current PCMNO Councillor, Ernie Gatien, and from the MNO Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council, Councillor Steve Gjos; President, Kim Powley; and Senator, Brenda Powley; Hollie and Stan McHale from the MNO North Shore Métis Council and other MNO citizens.

On July 15th re-enactors wear-

ing voyageur and period attire had begun with an early morning presentation at the Sault Ste. Marie Yacht Club where the sash, its functions and essential role in the fur trade were introduced to spectators and participants. Kim Powley then presented sashes to all 65 re-enactors individually. Many of the people said that they had a new understanding of the significance of the sash.

Following the re-enactments at St. Joseph's Island, the activities moved to the "Old Stone House" in Sault Ste Marie where visitors enjoyed a different kind of "re-enactment". Domestic skills, such as beading, rug hooking, embroidery, candle making, period games and more Métis dancing were demonstrated by the many Métis volunteers. The youngest dancer was Savannah Hansen, daughter of MNO employee Shawna Hansen. Savannah, at four years of age, is already teaching her daycare peers the rabbit dance.

Over the next three years, the 1812 Bicentennial will be recognized on both sides of the American and Canadian border by celebrating 200 years of friendship. The taking of Fort Mackinac on Mackinaw Island is recognized as the first strategic move after the Americans declared war on Great Britain. In the Sault Ste. Marie and Algoma region, the Algoma 1812 executive is focusing on true friends, true stories and true heritage.

GREAT LAKES MÉTIS COUNCIL | FISH FRY



▲ Members of the MNO Great Lakes Métis Council with dignitaries at their third annual Fish Fry.

On the shores of Huron

MNO Great Lakes Métis Council third annual fish fry

By **Madison Goodwill**
Summer Youth Community Worker

On July 21st the Metis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Great Lakes Métis Council (GLMC) held its third annual fish fry at the Grey Sauble Conservation Area Hibou Park located on the site of an original Métis settlement. The event was well attended and demonstrated a thriving Métis presence in the area around Grey, Bruce and Owen Sound.

The MNO Great Lakes Métis Council would like to thank the Ontario Power Generation's (OPG) Deep Geologic Repository Projects Senior Communication Advisor, Kevin Orr; MPP, Bill Walker; Deputy Mayor of Meaford, Harley Greenfield; MNO Training and Post Secondary School Program Representative, Jo-Anne Parent; Manager of Community Relations, Hank Rowlinson; Chair of Georgian Bay Traditional Territory Consultation Com-

mittee, Pauline Saulnier; Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA) trail guide, Krista McKee; the Home Depot of Owen Sound (Ruth Adams); all the vendors; and of course, all of our citizens and friends. Without you, the day would not have been such a success. Chii miigwech!

As they entered the park our guests were given a "swag bag" full of useful Métis items provided by the MNO. Our day included an opening parade and ceremony to introduce all of our dignitaries and to give them a GLMC t-shirt. President, Peter Coture, and his cohorts fried up all of the yummy local white fish, and Donna Hillyer provided the delicious desserts. In the afternoon Krista McKee from GSCA took the citizens on a hike through the conservation trails. Johnny Borton from Listowel entertained with his musical talents, and the vendors and display tables were a huge hit! Home

Depot was there to build nifty little bird feeders with children and their parents. Citizens and friends spent the afternoon swimming and canoeing along the shore of Lake Huron, catching up with relatives and old friends, and making new ones.

Kevin Orr pulled the winning ticket for our canoe raffle; the winner was Keith Wilson of Markdale! Keith decided to donate the canoe back to the GLMC. We will be holding another raffle in the near future! Thank you Keith!

President Coture would like to send a big thank you to the GLMC Council, and to all the citizens and friends that helped organize, plan, set up, facilitate, and clean up. Without everyone's help and cooperation the Great Lakes Métis Council's 3rd Annual Fish Fry would not have been so successful, and the best fish fry the council has put on! Baa maa pii!

NIAGARA REGION MÉTIS COUNCIL |

Métis encampment at Fort Erie

For the first time, the NRMCM set up its encampment at Old Fort Erie for the weekend of July 28th. Citizens present had the opportunity to share their Métis culture and heritage with many of the people touring the fort. "It is unbelievable how many people are unaware of the Métis as one of the founding peoples of this country," said NRMCM President, Stephen Quesnelle, "and that we are one of the three Aboriginal nations in Canada."

Some citizens camped for the weekend, and enjoyed it so much they wanted to stay longer. The council hopes to make arrangements next year to have the encampment stay for a week and give citizens an opportunity to camp for two or more days if they wish.

"I want to thank the Métis citizens and council members who came out to help with the set-up and the take-down of the encampment; without their help it would not be possible," said Quesnelle.



▲ (Top) left to right: **Barbaranne Wright, NRMCM Women's Representative; Stephen Quesnelle, NRMCM President; Gary Laframboise, NRMCM Senator.** (Bottom left) **Stephen Quesnelle and Cindy Forster, MPP Welland**

WELLAND MUSEUM | COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Métis exhibit ready to travel

Métis Councils raise the profile and understanding of the Métis community in its area

Stephen Quesnelle, President of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Niagara Region Métis Council, has been doing presentations on Métis culture and history to schools and other interested groups for years now. Back in 2009, his granddaughter requested that he speak to her grade six history class. Another class was added. The event was covered by the local newspaper. Stephen was invited to Wainfleet to address yet another class. A teacher suggested that the Welland Historical Museum might be interested in a display. The ball was rolling. By November 19th, 2011, the display was open to the public. (See *Métis Voyageur* #69)

Now, Ontario's first Métis museum display is inspiring others. In June, 2012, Cora Bunn and Jennifer Parkinson of the MNO Grand River Métis Council examined the three-part exhibit at the Welland Historical Museum because their

council hopes to set up a Métis exhibit in the Waterloo Region Museum. While it may not be as elaborate as the Welland one, they said they were looking for guidance and ideas.

Stephen Quesnelle told the *Welland Tribune* that the display is strengthening the local Métis community as well as telling its story to school children and other visitors. "The whole community has gotten involved in the exhibit," he told the Grand River visitors.

Curator, Penny Morningstar, guided the group through the semi-permanent exhibit and explained the council's desire for "touchable" displays. "As a curator, it was a challenge," she said about the canoe, furs, blankets, Red River cart, boxes and other objects that visitors can feel, handle, smell, see and hear.

With an entrance area and two rooms in the museum's lower level, it tells the story of the Métis in

Canada through sight, sound, pictures, clothing, tools, weapons, blankets, music and computerized puzzles.

Morningstar explained how the museum worked with Jean Vanier Secondary School students to build a scaled-down Red River cart. "Schools are very co-operative as long as you give them time to work with you," she told the visitors.

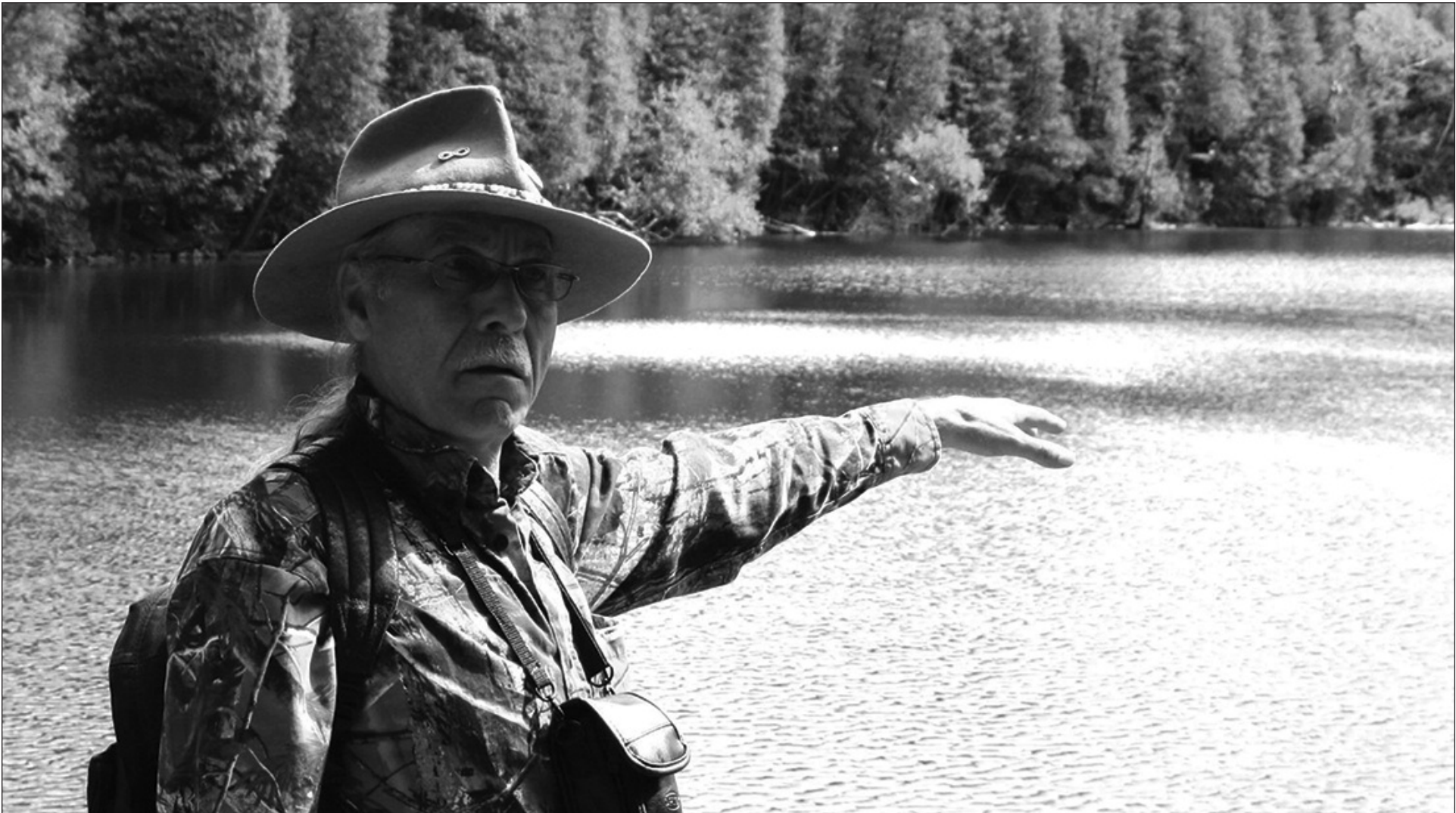
In fact, the Métis exhibit is popular with school tours. The museum runs an educational program that provides teachers with background information and staff explain the history of the Métis, the significance of symbols on clothing, the flag, and the practical designs of canoes, carts and boxes.

Now the MNO Grand River Métis Council wants to raise the profile and understanding of the Métis community in its area.

Who's next? Let's keep the ball rolling.



▲ Left to right: **Stephen Quesnelle, President of the MNO Niagara Region Métis Council, shows Cora Bunn and Jennifer Parkinson of the MNO Grand River Métis Council a Métis exhibit at Welland Historical Museum.** PHOTO: The Welland Tribune



photos courtesy of Richard Cuddy

Métis Medicine Walk



The MNO Credit River Métis Council partners with the Mississauga Halton Local Health Integration Network and Conservation Halton to host a Métis Medicine Walk at Crawford Lake Conservation Area to inspire youth and promote Métis traditional knowledge

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

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Credit River Métis Council in partnership with the Mississauga Halton Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) and Conservation Halton were hosts to “A Métis Medicine Walk” at the gorgeous Crawford Lake Conservation Area on Sunday, September 9, 2012. Thanks to these partnerships the event was free of charge to over 50 registered guests, 15 of which were youths. The Métis Medicine Walk was fashioned to inspire our youth and promote Métis traditional knowledge throughout our community.

People gathered in the parking lot by the Iroquoian village where the Credit River Métis Council had set up the Consultation Trailer. Jim Tolles, Credit River Council traditional resource person and Talitha Tolles, Credit River Youth Rep., set up a trapping, furs and fire starting display. Mississauga Halton LHIN Representatives Ariane Tilstra, Lead Health Systems Development and French Language Services and Liane Fernandes, Director, Health System Development and Community Engagement, offered a display where everyone was invited to stop by and learn about the health initiatives in their community. The Mississauga Halton LHIN is actively working to get to know the needs of the Métis community and welcomed their comments regarding healthcare for Métis citizens.

Bill Morrison, Credit River Vice-president and Chair, managed the Consultation Trailer display. Both Bill and Jim reported that even after the walkers had departed on the Medicine Walk, a constant procession of visitors enjoyed Conservation Halton’s Crawford Lake displays. These extra participants helped to further promote Métis heritage and culture.

Credit River Senator, Ray Bergie, opened the Medicine Walk with a prayer, thanking the Creator for the safe, happy gathering and beautiful venue. Richard Cuddy, Credit River President, introduced the MNO Credit River Métis Council and acknowledged the importance of friends like the Mississauga Halton LHIN and Conservation Halton. He welcomed Sharon McBride, Métis Nation of Ontario Vice-chair, and Métis brothers and sisters from across the nation as well as representatives from Environment Canada, the Dufferin Peel District Catholic School Board, the Peel Children’s Aid Society and the Ministry of Transportation. His main message to the gathering was: “The Credit River Métis Council is not an Aboriginal group, club, committee or network. The Métis Nation of Ontario is the only provincially recognized governance in Ontario for Métis citizens. The Credit River Métis Council is the official local government representation for Métis citizens authorized by and responsible to the Métis Nation of Ontario and its citizens. The council is working hard to promote Métis traditions, culture and heritage in our community and to inspire generations to come.”

Before President Cuddy finished, he had the pleasure of introducing the true star of

the event, the Métis Medicine Walk facilitator, Mr. Joe Paquette, President of the Métis Nation of Ontario’s Veterans’ Council, Métis Elder and Credit River citizen. Joe captivated the crowd, beginning his stories at his display table. He has a unique ability to share traditional knowledge and heritage with respect, charm and humour. The group was fascinated by his stories and impressed with his technical knowledge. Passing around samples of what Mother Earth provides to us, he held everyone’s interest. As he shared his extensive traditional knowledge he encouraged the participants, especially the youth, to touch and smell the samples being passed around. If you haven’t had the opportunity to attend one of Joe’s presentations, you don’t know what you are missing.

After his short introduction, Joe guided the gathering on a two hour Métis Medicine Walk around Crawford Lake, starting at the Iroquoian village. Joe used the boardwalk that surrounds Crawford Lake to carry out the tour in a way that was safe for the visitors and protected the fragile ecology of the conservation area. He is always concerned about the state of what will be left behind for generations of Métis to come. Throughout the walk Joe answered questions; he expanded

his sharing by pointing out the plants in their natural environment, and provided detailed traditional information. The throng quickly understood why Crawford Lake is one of Joe’s much-loved locations.

When the walk was complete, guests were invited back to the display area where Joyce Tolles, Credit River Secretary and Treasurer, provided healthy beverages and Simon Bain, the Métis Nation of Ontario Region 8 Healing and Wellness Coordinator, offered an assortment of wholesome snacks.

Credit River Women’s Rep., Karen Derocher and Senator Ray Bergie reported countless compliments and rave reviews regarding Joe, the Medicine Walk, Crawford Lake and the council displays.

The MNO Credit River Métis Council would like to thank the following organizations and people for collaborating on an inspirational and stimulating event: Joe Paquette; the Mississauga Halton LHIN and their Reps., Ariane Tilstra and Liane Fernandes; Conservation Halton and the staff at Crawford Lake; Simon Bain, the Métis Nation of Ontario Region 8 Healing and Wellness Coordinator; the Métis Nation of Ontario; and, last but not least, all of our friends and participants.



▲ Joseph Paquette leads a medicine walk at Crawford Lake Conservation Area.

ARTS & CULTURE

In Search of Birch

Métis crafters venture into Thunder Bay's Centennial Park collecting birch bark from fallen trees to sew birch bark baskets

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

On June 6th a group of Métis crafters visited Centennial Park in Thunder Bay. The city was very accommodating in allowing our group to go to the park and collect birch bark from fallen trees. Spruce roots were also collected and cleaned, then split and soaked prior to being used as cording to sew the birch bark baskets together.

The weather was ideal and the bugs were few. Within an hour we had more than enough bark to complete a couple of baskets each. It was superb to sit outside and clean and prepare the bark for the basket mak-

ing. The warm sunshine and fresh breeze contributed to the stories and laughter.

"This setting is good for all of me," one of the women commented. We all agreed that being outside in the fresh air and making something useful with our hands is indeed "good for all of our parts". No open fires are allowed at Centennial Park, but we were able to bring a small briquette style BBQ for a lunch of delicious "smokies".

We started a few baskets that afternoon but talking and storytelling being what they are, we ran out of time to complete our work. Everything was brought back to the Métis Centre for the next Wednesday when we would continue our basket-making project.



▲ Kasie and Tamara collect and clean spruce roots to be used in basket-making.

BOOKS

On the shores of infinity

Micheline Marchand was born and raised in Lafontaine, Ontario, where she still lives. After obtaining a BA in history from the University of Ottawa, she received her MA from Laurentian in Sudbury. She has taught French and history at the secondary level since 1987.

A citizen of the MNO, Micheline has recently published a new work of historical fiction titled, "Sur les berges de l'infini". Written in French, the book consists of nine short stories that recount the history of the Métis of Georgian Bay.

For Marchand, her own French Canadian and Métis roots are an inexhaustible source of inspiration. She builds her stories around historical facts; some are funny; some are dramatic, but all are written with verve and passion. From the War of 1812 to the recent clashes over fishing rights, Marchand shares the struggles of a Métis family living on the shores of Lake Huron.

Micheline Marchand is the author of two previous novels for young people. *Sur les berges de l'infini* is her first work geared to the general public.



YOUNG ARTISTS



Peacemaker

Métis artist recognized in national competition

Kelly Duquette, the Youth Representative for the MNO Atikokan Métis Council, is in the news again. (She was recently featured in *Voyageur* 71, page 17.) This time she has placed second in the 2012 Canadian Aboriginal Writing and Arts Challenge sponsored by Enbridge.

Kelly's winning piece features Poundmaker, the mixed-blood Cree chief who was convicted of treason at Batoche in 1885 because of his connection to Louis Riel. Kelly says she chose Poundmaker because, "He exemplified the teaching of courage by standing up for what he believed was right, despite the overwhelming government forces to create sub-

missiveness." Her creation not only honours Poundmaker and his values, it also demonstrates the breaking apart and loss of Aboriginal culture.

"Recreating Poundmaker's image helps us to remember and learn from our past, so that everyone will be encouraged to stand up for what is right and so others will respectfully listen. Then we will be heeding the message of our peacemaker...to walk in the path, instead of sitting beside it," she says.

The granddaughter of MNO Atikokan Métis Council President, Marlene Davidson, Kelly Duquette plans to attend the University of Ottawa this fall.

MÉTIS MUSICIANS

School of Rock

Métis lead band Street Pharmacy recently featured on MuchMusic's *DisBand* release fourth album

Street Pharmacy is a four-piece reggae rock band hailing from Welland, Ontario. Led by Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen, Ryan Guay, the band has written and recorded four full length albums since its start in 2006 and has gained a cult following in much of southern Ontario. Street Pharmacy offers a fresh sound that combines 90s alternative rock with reggae grooves and lyrical flow reminiscent of Golden Age Hip Hop.

Street Pharmacy was a recent co-winner of the popular MuchMusic series *DisBAND*. The band released its fourth album, "Divorce", on the Handsome Boy/Fontana North label in late 2011 and is just about to release a fifth album titled, "Alimony".

Lead singer and songwriter Ryan Guay started Street Pharmacy right

after he was released from a Hamilton mood disorder clinic. This came after the discovery that he had been misdiagnosed with schizophrenia following a physical illness that had caused brain swelling. Ryan began writing songs about these experiences, which also inspired the band's name.

As a teacher in his native Welland, ON, Ryan Guay goes the extra mile to share his knowledge and passion for music with students. A "School of Rock"-style music club he started released a single on iTunes to raise money for music education and was recently featured in National Youth Arts Week (<http://goo.gl/cyrzy>).

Street Pharmacy is: Ryan Guay on vocals / guitar; Nate Triano on guitar; Brandon Ventresca on bass and Dan Fretz on the drums.

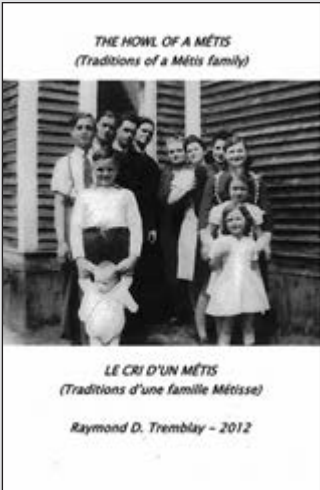


▲ Ryan Guay (left) and friend in a scene from a video for Street Pharmacy's song "Captain America".

To experience Street Pharmacy visit any of the media below.

www.facebook.com/streetpharmacy
www.youtube.com/streetpharmacymusic
twitter.com/StreetPharmacy
www.streetpharmacy.com

BOOKS



Le cri d'un Métis

Ottawa-based Métis writer and poet **Raymond Tremblay** releases a new collection of poetry

By **Chris Paci**

MNO Manager of Education
OTTAWA

Published Métis poet, Raymond D. Tremblay, is no stranger to *Voyageur* readers, young and old. His latest collection, “The Howl of a Métis (Traditions of a Métis family)/ Le cri d’un Métis (Traditions d’une famille Métisse)”, features poems on many familiar themes: family, identity, growing up as a young Métis lad in a large family in 1950s northern Ontario, spirituality and Christianity, language, and the richness of life. As Raymond says, “the collection includes poems written in English, in French and in both French and English mixed together like so many Métis families speak.”

The *Foreword* is written by Senator Reta Gordon who wholeheartedly endorses Mr Tremblay’s contributions to the Métis Nation. While perhaps not as well developed as past publications, this spiralled 114 page collection is sure to elicit many emotions. Some made me laugh and one or two brought a tear to my eye.

The title has no relation to the beat poet Allen Ginsberg’s long poem, “The Howl”, published in 1955, nor George Morrisette’s “The Prairie Howl”, published 22 years later, which was indeed Métis homage to Ginsberg’s poem. Comparisons aside, Raymond Tremblay continues to offer a prolific view of Métis life in Ontario and his poetry will surely encourage the Nation to stand up, be proud, and to tell our stories.

To order a copy of Raymond Tremblay’s book (cost is \$20 plus \$5 shipping) e-mail him at: wei-min@sympatico.ca.

POETRY | Inspired by the fiddle



Musical inspiration

I had the pleasure of seeing the Métis Fiddler Quartet play their beautiful and awesome music for the very first time on March 26th, 2012, when they made a special appearance at the University of Ottawa.

Needless to say, I was so moved by their inspiring Métis music that I decided to write them the following poem. Listening to them play brought me right back to my youth

in northern Ontario when some of my relatives played the fiddle, the guitar, the piano and the spoons at weekend family gatherings.

I wish to thank the Métis Fiddler Quartet, Alyssa, Conlin, Nicholas and Danton Delbaere-Sawchuk for keeping our Métis musical cultural traditions alive and for venturing into the creation of new Métis musical pieces.

-- Raymond D. Tremblay

Métis Fiddler Quartet

By Raymond D. Tremblay

My heart pulsated much faster as I listened to the music of my ancestors. Each one of their vibrations gently massaged my being for many hours. Truth be told, this talented quartet made my soul soar to new heights. It felt as if I’d returned to my village of youth: Mattagami Heights. Such inspiring music! This is what I listened to every weekend.

Fiddlers and guitarists playing Métis music. I felt in heaven!
I simply couldn’t resist hearing the voice of my ancestors.
Delightful and calming like a vivid bouquet of flowers.
Did you know that you all touched my Métis soul?
Love shone throughout your music. I felt whole.
Eager to thank you, I applauded you heartily.
Remember, you are now my heroes, truly!

Question not where you came from.
Unprecedented artists you’ve become.
Ah, your art profoundly mesmerised me!
Really, you reconnected me to my ancestry.
Today, as you played, I felt proud to be Métis.
Energy flowed from your souls, only pure beauty!
Thank you, Métis Fiddler Quartet, for celebrating life.

Georgian Bay Métis Council | Beadwork

Métis beadwork reduces stress

By **Tera Lynn Copegog**
Community Wellness Coordinator
MIDLAND

On May 14, Métis crafter, Jeanette Brunelle, led a workshop on traditional Métis beading at the Midland office of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO). The

workshop was held as part of a “Barriers to Wellness and Stress Relief” program offered through the MNO Community Healing and Wellness Branch. The Midland MNO office has hosted monthly beading sessions for the last few years but several new participants joined the workshop this May.



▲ Participants in the traditional Métis beadwork workshop in Midland display their finished products (left to right): **Sydney Parent, Kathy Parent, Jeanette Brunelle, Cathy Fournier, Lorraine LaCroix, Judy Lundy, Susan Sam, (front row) Kathy Morgan, Barb Beaman.**



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OUR STORIES

Justice for all?

Donn Fowler gives some thought to the importance of “access to justice”

Following up on my “Culture Clash” piece--where I deliberately did not name the major culprits, (two 1840s senators, one sheriff, one land registrar, one Anglican priest, and a few other members of the Family Compact and Chateau Clique in the pre-1841 new Province of Canada), has made me give some thought to the importance of understanding exactly what is meant by the phrase “access to justice”, so here goes...

By **Donn Fowler**

In the early 2000s the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, the Right Hon. Beverley McLachlin, began appealing to Canadian groups and individuals to give serious thought to the problem of “access to justice”. That appeal in the person of the Chief Justice of Canada prompted a whole series of discussions and debates. However, other than a number of advisory and advocacy papers written on the topic, very little appears to have been accomplished.

First, there are two aspects to such access: on the one hand, access to criminal justice, and on the other hand, access to civil justice. Moreover, I believe the Chief Justice was emphasizing the situation on the short access, the civil aspect of justice more than on the well-established side of criminal justice. Consider the criminal justice aspect. This

consists of a criminal case, police action which results in an arrest, trial, and a verdict of guilty or innocent. However, unless the criminal-accused at trial has enough personal wealth to afford the expensive services of a competent defence lawyer against the charge(s), s/he will have to have the court assign a defence lawyer. In addition, that arrestee, whether found guilty or innocent at trial will not have to pay one-red-cent--neither for the legal defence, nor for the overall substantial court costs. These costs are always paid by us--the taxpayers. In the happy event that the accused is found innocent of the charge(s), s/he is free, and may very well successfully turn around and sue the Crown for “false arrest” and possibly be awarded a substantial sum of money for having been falsely arrested et cetera. Again, the tax-payers must pay.

Of course, the police might have recovered stolen wealth or property during the process of arresting a

criminal, but that is not wealth belonging to an accused who is found to be guilty as charged. Moreover, the conviction and incarceration time is not “real” repayment. Again, such criminal case costs are at the taxpayers’ expense, one way or another.

The situation is quite different in a civil court action, because a major and overpowering problem does exist concerning the entire question of access to civil justice. That’s because court actions take on a different meaning. Usually, when a respectable, law-abiding citizen becomes a plaintiff in a personal civil court action, there are two possible means of dealing with the extremely expensive legal and court costs. A person who is too poor ever to pay such exorbitant legal and court costs, can qualify for Legal Aid assistance. Another person may be sufficiently affluent not to qualify for Legal Aid, but not affluent enough to pay for a competent lawyer and

court costs without mortgaging their home and possibly having to drain their bank accounts.

The majority of Canadians today are in the latter category--too affluent to qualify for Legal Aid but not affluent enough to afford legal and court costs. If access to civil justice means one must sell all of one’s possessions in order to pay legal costs of hundreds of dollars per-hour, and also pay the horrendous court costs for initiating civil litigation, what then is the justified situation for the middle class family who truly needs real access to justice?

Is there a possible fiscal solution for certain qualified and full spectrum civil court actions in a Lower, Superior, Appeal, or even (if necessary) Supreme Court of Canada? Middle-class citizens who are debt-free home owners should somehow fit within the national matrix of entitlement to real access to justice. It does not presently apply to them unless they are prepared to undertake a financial gamble--an impossible family sacrifice--in order to get

civil justice. Is it not possible to legislate that the Crown must fiscally provide--in certain pre-determined and qualifying circumstances--a real access to civil justice without compelling such civil plaintiffs to risk losing everything that they have?

Perhaps legislation could be enacted that would assure all Canadians that the federal government would establish and maintain a special annual and irrevocable taxation policy solely for the purpose of providing access to civil justice for all those who qualified. The fiscal door should be opened much wider than it is at present in our Canada, especially for Aboriginal people.

We now have a Goods and Service Tax (GST), but we also need to have an Access to Civil Justice Tax (AJT). The Justice Committees of parliament need to take action on this possible solution to the Right Honourable Chief Justice’s sincere appeal made on several occasions. In summary, it is all Canadian taxpayers’ money and it should serve all Canadian taxpayers.

UPDATE: On August 11, 2012, Supreme Court of Canada Chief Justice, Beverley McLachlin, again addressed the Bar Association’s council meeting in Vancouver on this subject, saying in part: “Being able to access justice is fundamental to the rule of law...” Her speech is available at the link below: <http://bit.ly/PXmU7i>



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

OUR STORIES

Never to be seen again...

By **Denis Tremblay**
South River, ON

Yup, tell it’s true. She’s gone under, rubbed out. Never to be seen again by these eyes. So ‘shed a tear’ cause she was some!

Can you blame those who tried to protect her for telling us to go away and leave her and others like her alone? “Who did this terrible deed?” you ask. Well I ain’t proud to admit it, friend, but I reckon we all helped. May the Great Spirit forgive us. I am as much to blame as any, and the real shame is, I knew better. But I watched it happen through blind eyes like all the rest. Perhaps we just didn’t care enough.

The way I see it, a lot of others will be joining her soon if we don’t learn from our past mistakes and do something about it. Just pray we’re not too late, because if we are, part of us will be next. I know that I can’t live without ‘em when they’re gone.

What is the matter boy? You look uncomfortable with what I am telling. Did I shame you a bit? Maybe I did. I can feel the accusing eyes on me too, and it sure don’t make me proud of some of the things I’ve done to her.

What’s that you ask? What or who was this that went under? I thought you knew! Well, I’ll tell you. You should have known! She was another prime camping site that

died of abuse by unthinking campers. Her rolling grassy beauty was sullied by fire pits and latrines left uncovered, and her limbs were destroyed by careless hacking and chopping. Her body was despoiled and her animals and streams poisoned by cans and garbage—a place of nature’s beauty destroyed by those who enjoyed her most.

You say you’re not to blame; you didn’t do this deed. Well, maybe so, but give a think on it. That cigarette butt you just threw down, your empty beer and pop can there in the creek. Reckon we all have to shoulder the blame, don’t we?

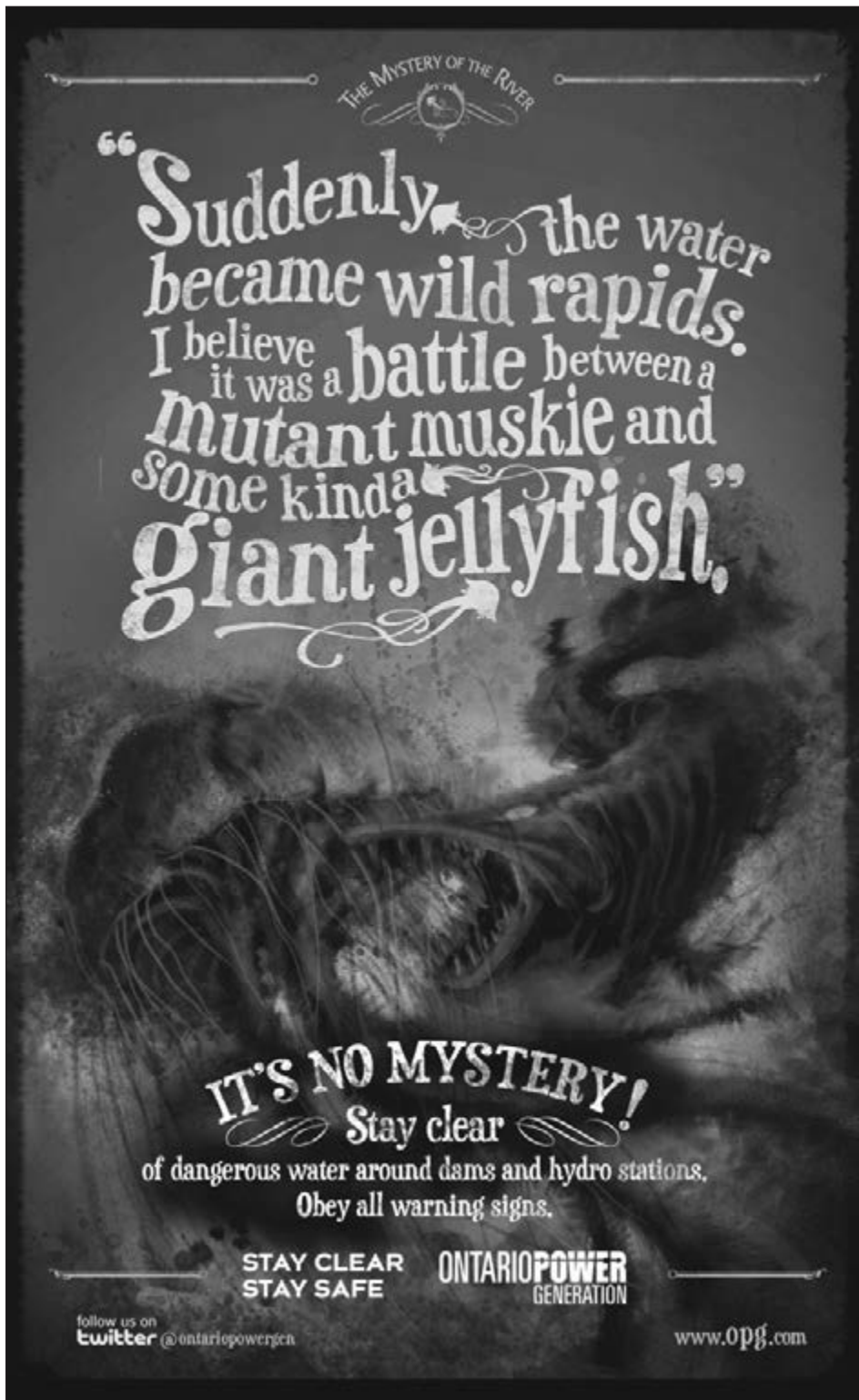
Don’t fret about it. The Great Spirit didn’t make us perfect. We have to live with the past, but we can learn from our own mistakes and do better in the future. Let’s not have the future generations look back and say, “All the beautiful places are gone, no longer available for our use—just because they misused them.”

We must all police ourselves and help our brothers and sisters to understand when they don’t treat that camp right. We must show

how it must be done, if we are not to lose it. Then maybe there will be good times for our children’s children. Then our mind won’t go the way of the original aboriginals and their buffalo for lack of places in the sun. Maybe, just maybe, they won’t have to say, “T’em times is gone; the campers rubbed out; and their mind are all gone under.”



All the beautiful places are gone, no longer available for our use—just because they misused them



HEALING & WELLNESS

The Key to Winning is Playing Responsibly

By **Loma Rowlinson** / Aboriginal Responsible Gambling Coordinator

Many people would agree that gambling is a fun form of entertainment, but it may become a problem. In this article we provide brief definitions of some of the terms used when that happens.



PROBLEM GAMBLING

An individual involved in “problem gambling” is often referred to as being “at-risk” because s/he has an ‘urge’ to gamble despite being aware of the harmful consequences. Gambling becomes a “problem” when the consequences of gambling interfere with or affect a person’s family, job or lifestyle in a negative way.



PATHOLOGICAL AND COMPULSIVE GAMBLING

The terms “compulsive”, “pathological” and “addictive” can be used interchangeably. However, pathological gambling is considered an impulse control disorder and is not the same as problem gambling. Pathological gambling is when someone has an ongoing inability to resist the impulse to gamble and continues to gamble even when gambling causes serious damage to them socially, vocationally, or financially. Such a person is usually in denial, experiences mood changes, and the behaviour is chronic. Then, if the gambling is discontinued, the victim suffers symptoms of withdrawal and depression.

- Compulsive/pathological gamblers do not necessarily enjoy gambling. They are addicted to the risk and the thrill. “Profiles” of pathological gamblers are likely to have some commonalities:
- Sufferers may have spent long periods unemployed;
 - May be spousal and/or child abusers;
 - May have borrowed or stolen to support their activities;
 - May have attempted suicide;
 - May have been convicted of offences.

WHAT IS RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING?

“Responsible Gambling” is when you realize that gambling is not a way to make money and the money spent gambling comes from your entertainment budget. A responsible gambler is aware that uncontrolled gambling creates problems not only for the gambler but also in the family, workplace and community at large. A responsible gambler is able to stick to a gambling budget without the urge to spend more money or time than originally intended.

How can we ensure that our entertainment does not become a problem? Here are a few helpful tips:

- Set a budget and stick to it.
- Do not withdraw more money or borrow money when you run out.
- Remember that the “house” always has the advantage.
- Do not “chase” your losses. Be willing to accept them as the cost of entertainment.
- Take frequent breaks.
- Balance gambling with other leisure activities.
- Know the warning signs of problem gambling.

For assistance please contact a Healing and Wellness Worker in your area. If you would like more information you can reach the Provincial Aboriginal Responsible Gambling Coordinator at **613-798-1488 xt 150**.

SUDBURY | HIV WORKSHOP

HIV rates continue to rise in northern communities

During the second week of June, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) partnered with the Native Youth Sexual Health Network for a three-day HIV workshop in Sudbury that was geared to educating Métis women and youth.

Despite the downward trend of the disease globally, experts at the workshop say HIV rates in remote, northern communities continue to rise.

Dale Xilon, Aboriginal Healthy Babies Healthy Children Coordinator (AHBHC) for the MNO brought her two young children to the event.

“I want to be able to have the knowledge to pass on, so they stay safe, so we can stop this epidemic of HIV from spreading,” she said. She went on to say that a lack of understanding of northern communities exacerbated the

“To go to a corner store and pick up a pack of condoms, you’re dealing with your auntie; you’re dealing with your uncle...”

problem. “To go to a corner store and pick up a pack of condoms, you’re dealing with your auntie; you’re dealing with your uncle,” Xilon said. “We need free access to resources that are anonymous.” Services that exist in urban centres like Sudbury are not available in smaller communities.

TIMMINS | HEALTHY LIVING

Getting back to our roots

S spurred by common goals, the Timmins Healing and Wellness Branch has started to incorporate more cultural and community based events. It has been noted through various studies that Métis people, and the general population, are developing diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, and obesity, at alarmingly high rates and we’ve decided to do something about it. The focus is on physical activity, organic eating, and cultural activities.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY: A key deterrent of such health concerns is the basis for our change in approach. The Timmins Healing and Wellness team has hosted monthly nature walks, snow-shoeing events, harvesting walks, and even activities to encourage families and individuals to build their own motivation by making walking sticks.

HEALTHY EATING: Healthy eating--mainly organic--has also been promoted in this new approach. Everyone knows that eating ‘organic’ can empty your wallet, but did you know how much you can save if you grow your own? We secured a plot at the local community garden to help clients access

healthy organic foods, and we provided eco-friendly gardening tips in the summer newsletter. All of those who received it not only obtained these useful tips, but also a calendar of upcoming cultural activities. Partnering with schools and community agencies has raised cultural awareness. We have also enjoyed success in mitt making, spirit painting, medicinal walks, and Aboriginal cultural days. Events will continue throughout the fall and winter, with the largest gathering taking place on 29 September, 2012, at Camp Bickell. This event, Métis Community Fest, is open to anyone and everyone who would like to experience Métis culture in all of its splendour.

For more information about upcoming events, or to be added to the mailing list, please contact Jessie or Michelle at the Timmins office at **705-264-3939** or email michelles@metisnation.org.

LANDS & RESOURCES

Giant Hogweed

An Invasive Species in Ontario

By **Markus B. Tuohimaa**
*Traditional Knowledge Technician
MNO LRC Branch*

Giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) is a non-native species that has been invading areas throughout Ontario. The plant has taken a strong hold in southern Ontario and the northern United States, and there are even reports of its appearance as far north as Elliot Lake. A hearty species, it is able to out-compete native species for territory.

The giant hogweed is a perennial herb from the carrot/parsley family and is closely related to several native species in Ontario. Its preference for rich, moist soils makes it most abundant along stream banks, drainage ditches, and other moist disturbed sites. However, the plant's



▲ *Heracleum mantegazzianum*

ability to survive/thrive in a range of different conditions allows it to lay claim to other habitats as well. (Charles R. O'Neill, 2009).

Giant hogweed can reach heights of up to 20 feet, with very

large leaves, stems, and flowers. It is important to be able to identify the plant when out on a nature hike, or spending time in and around waterways and other areas that may be suitable habitat for giant hogweed. Coming into physical contact with the plant's sap causes the exposed skin to become sensitive to the sun, which in turn can cause severe burns, blistering, painful sores, and purple/black scarring. In cases where there is contact with the eyes, temporary blindness, and in some cases, permanent blindness can result (CLOCA, 2012).

If you, or anyone you know, has come into contact or seen the giant hogweed it is important to get in touch with your local Ministry of Natural Resources office or the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) to report the plant.

Further Reading

www.web2.mnr.gov.on.ca/mnr/Biodiversity/Invasive_Species/Giant_Hogweed_Fact_Sheet.pdf
www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/ontweeds/giant_hogweed.htm
www.cloca.com/lwc/Invasive_species_bulletins/unwantedlettersGiantHogweed.pdf
www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/ghfactnyseagrant.pdf

GREAT LAKES GUARDIAN COMMUNITY FUND

Ontario is funding grants for community projects that protect and restore locales within the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin area. The basin includes: Lake Erie, Lake Huron, Lake Ontario, Lake Superior, the St. Lawrence River, the Ottawa River, and their watersheds. Examples of projects that could qualify include:

- Cleaning up a shoreline or beach
- Building a coastal or riverside trail
- Protecting or restoring fish, plant or wildlife habitat

You can receive up to a \$25,000 grant for your project. Smaller projects are also encouraged. Apply as early as possible. Applications meeting the fund's criteria will be awarded grants in the order they are received. **Grant applications must be received by October 12, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. E.D.T.**

More information is available at:
www.ontario.ca/GreatLakesFund
Should you have any questions:
GreatLakesFund@ontario.ca



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RESOURCES

MÉTIS CULTURE | TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

MNO Traditional Knowledge study recognized by Consulting Engineers of Ontario

Architecture, Engineering, Consulting, Operations and Maintenance (AECOM), a leading provider of professional technical and management support services for public and private clients around the world, has received the Award of Merit – Studies and Research from the Consulting Engineers of Ontario (CEO) for its work on the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Aboriginal Traditional Ecological Study.

The CEO, which represents more than 200 consulting engineering companies in Ontario, presented the Award of Merit to AECOM during its 10th anniversary celebration. Each year the CEO recognizes Ontario projects that best demonstrate the important contribution of consulting engineering to the economic, social and environmental quality of life in Ontario.

The purpose of the Aboriginal Traditional Ecological Study was to document Métis traditional uses of terrestrial and aquatic plants in southern Ontario, and to present some of the unique traditional and medicinal practices of Métis people. This study was conducted on behalf of the MNO and was funded by Ontario Power Generation (OPG). OPG will use this information to identify potential consequences to the Métis way of life in its proposed “New



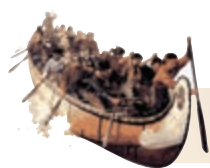
Nuclear” project in Darlington, Ontario.

“The Darlington New Nuclear Project is one of the most complex environmental assessments in Canadian history,” says Paul Murray, vice president and executive director of the project. “AECOM is proud to play a role in linking a technically complex project with a community that has strong ties to the land and water, and whose knowledge can enhance the quality of this important Environmental Assessment.”

MNO President, Gary Lipinski, said: “I want to thank all of the Elders, Métis traditional resource users and

MNO Community Councils who had a role in making this study a reality. I also want to thank OPG and AECOM for their willingness to work with our communities. I know this study will be an important resource for our people today and for generations to come.”

See the **MNO Aboriginal Traditional Ecological Study** here:
www.metisnation.org/media/81616/so_on_tek_darlington_report.pdf
See the **video** here:
www.metisnation.org/programs/lands,-resources--consultations/traditional-knowledge



MNO's 19th ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SAULT STE. MARIE • AUGUST 26-28, 2012

■ MNO President Gary Lipinski delivers his State of the Nation speech at the 19th MNO AGA in Sault Ste Marie.



photos by Marc St. Germain & Sam Bayhnam except where noted



▲ The Honourable Chris Bentley, Minister of Energy.



▲ President of the Métis National Council, Clem Chartier.



▲ Carolyn Bennett, MP for St. Paul's, critic for Aboriginal Affairs.



▲ President of the Métis Nation of Alberta, Audrey Poitras.



▲ Irwin Elman from the Office of the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth.



▲ Jean Teillet

Success of MNO partnerships highlighted at AGA

When we extend our hand, it is warmly received

The MNO is enjoying increasingly positive relationships with a large number of government and private agencies across Ontario. During the Annual General Assembly (AGA) Opening Ceremonies, the morning of August 26, MNO President, Gary Lipinski, commented on these relationships stating that, "When we extend our hand, it is warmly received."

One of the strongest partnerships that has evolved and strengthened over the last several years has been with the Government of Ontario. The Honourable Chris Bentley, Minister of Energy, represented the provincial government at the AGA while both Premier Dalton McGuinty and Minister of Aboriginal Affairs (MAA), Kathleen Wynne, sent messages to the delegates. Minister Wynne was also represented at the AGA by MAA Deputy Minister, Laurie LeBlanc.

In his remarks, Minister Bentley spoke of the growing strength of the

MNO-Ontario relationship that was cemented in 2008 with the signing of the *MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement*. "The relationship was not always thus [as positive as it is now] and sometimes a reminder has been needed, but building on the Framework the Métis have done an enormous amount of very good and lasting work."

Both Minister Bentley and President Lipinski noted that the Métis Voyageur Development Fund (MVDF) had commenced operations on August 14 this year with the support of the provincial government, which has committed to contributing \$30 million in funding over the next ten years. The MVDF will provide financial support for Métis entrepreneurs and businesses in the resource sector. "The MVDF will create jobs and economic opportunities for Métis people," explained President Lipinski, "and will have an impact for generations to come."

Minister Bentley also spoke about

“
We are stronger together than we are apart. It is our determination to continue building on that relationship, recognizing the great strengths found in history that the Métis have always brought to the development of this country and will always bring in the future.
”

— The Honourable Chris Bentley, Minister of Energy

the recent expansion of the Aboriginal Loan Guarantee Program that is managed by his Ministry. The loan program provides Aboriginal entrepreneurs, including Métis entrepreneurs, access to loans on an equity basis for renewable energy projects. Minister Bentley concluded his remarks stating: "We are stronger together than we are apart. It is our determination to continue building on that relationship, recognizing the great strengths found in history that

the Métis have always brought to the development of this country and will always bring in the future."

While the MNO has built successful relationships with government, it also has many great partnerships with private sector companies such as Union Gas. The MNO and Union Gas signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 2010 and at this AGA, the MOU was renewed. The renewed agreement was signed by MNO President Lip-

inski, MNO Chair France Picotte and Mel Ydreos, Vice-president of Government and Aboriginal Affairs for Union Gas. In his remarks before the signing, Mr. Ydreos said: "We are very proud of the work done together with the Métis Nation to build the kind of win-win relationship based on respect and economic opportunity."

In addition to renewing an existing agreement, the MNO also signed a new MOU at the AGA with the Office of the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth. Irwin Elman, the Chief Advocate with that Office signed the agreement and spoke to the assembled MNO citizens about the role and mission of his agency. Part of the mission is to provide a voice for youth, including Aboriginal youth. "Certainly," stated Mr. Elman, "the children and youth of the Métis Nation need their voices heard."

continued page 19



MNO President calls for focus on children and youth

We Can Change the World

In his State of the Nation address to over 400 Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizens attending the MNO Annual General Assembly (AGA) in Sault Ste. Marie, MNO President, Gary Lipinski, called on everyone in the MNO to place increased attention on helping and supporting Métis young people. “We all need to put more emphasis on how we support Métis children to dream the dream,” he said.

Underscoring President Lipinski's remarks was the signing during the AGA of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the MNO and the Provincial Advocate for

2008. All this combined with the fact that Métis are one of the youngest and fastest growing demographics in Ontario suggests that President Lipinski's call is very timely.

President Lipinski linked increased attention to children and youth to the MNO's long-term goal of Métis self-government. “Self-government,” he explained, “isn't something people are going to give you; we need to just do it. We do it by being responsible for ourselves and responsible for our citizens.” In keeping with this principle, President Lipinski called on all MNO citizens to encourage Métis “to help our children and youth to be the best they can be” from the womb to young adulthood. “It should not be just a certain percentage of young Métis who have the vision of finishing high school and going on to post-secondary education and careers,” he stated. He told the delegates representing

communities from all parts of Ontario that parents and family members need to support their children in taking advantage of the increasing number of opportunities that are opening up to them. He pointed out that everyone can influence one or two children by becoming a mentor, and if everyone in the MNO becomes a mentor, then “we can change the world.”

Children and Youth. The president reported that the provincial government had recently agreed to review a MNO report on Métis child and family services as part of an overall review of provincial child and family services. President Lipinski also pointed out that youth participation in the AGA has steadily increased in the last several years. This year, over 10% of delegates were youth, as compared with less than 1% in

Children and Youth. The president reported that the provincial government had recently agreed to review a MNO report on Métis child and family services as part of an overall review of provincial child and family services. President Lipinski also pointed out that youth participation in the AGA has steadily increased in the last several years. This year, over 10% of delegates were youth, as compared with less than 1% in

“We all need to put more emphasis on how we support Métis children to dream the dream.”



▲ Members of the MNO Women's Secretariat: (back row) Barbaranne Wright, Pearl Gabona, Shirley Lynn Pantuso. (front row) Candace Lloyd and PCMNO Vice-Chair Sharon McBride.

▲ (back row) Phoebe Mandeville, Janine Landry, Nicholas Delbaere-Sawchuk, Mitch Case and Kyle Grenier. (front row) Sylvie Forest and Brianne Goesslin.



▲ President Lipinski and MNO Chair France Picotte address members of the MNOYC.



▲ Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee medals were presented to Senator Bob McKay; MNO Chair, France Picotte; Alvina Cimon; Senator Joe Poitras and Senator Ruth Wagner.
▼ A special presentation of a Queen's Jubilee Medal was made to Jason Madden by Métis Nation of Alberta President, Audrey Poitras. [Read more about the Jubilee medal recipients on page 16](#)



▲ President Lipinski, MNO Chair France Picotte and Mel Ydreos, Vice-president of Government and Aboriginal Affairs for Union Gas.

MNO Staff

MNO Staff recognized for great work throughout the year

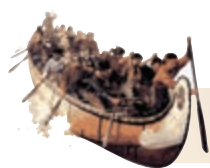
President Lipinski, MNO Chair France Picotte and other speakers at the MNO Annual General Assembly (AGA) consistently took the time during their remarks to recognize the hard work and dedication of MNO staff members. “Wherever I travel,” stated President Lipinski, “what I always hear from citizens is how hard our MNO staff are working for the Métis people. We are fortunate to have such talented and energetic people doing the work of the MNO.”

“We are fortunate to have such talented and energetic people doing the work of the MNO.”

MNO Historic Sault Ste Marie Métis Council

Congratulations to our gracious hosts

Congratulations and thanks go to the MNO Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council for hosting a successful Annual General Assembly!



MNO's 19th ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SAULT STE. MARIE • AUGUST 26-28, 2012



The Métis Dancers



Brittney Hayes



Pat Calder (Cupp) & Wanda Botsford



The Métis Dancers prepare backstage



Métis storytellers

An Evening of Métis Storytelling
and Cultural Performance

Sharing Our Pride

During the evening of August 26, at an event sponsored by Union Gas, those attending the 2012 MNO Annual General Assembly (AGA) enjoyed some of the top Métis entertainers in Ontario and heard stories about the Métis contribution to the defence of Canada during the War of 1812.

Sharing Our Pride: An Evening of Métis Storytelling and Cultural Performance was a star-studded gala hosted by James Kirkham, a comedian and impressionist. He kept the audience laughing and engaged with sing-a-longs to popular songs and did not shy away from going into the crowd to serenade individuals, which usually resulted in hilarity.

The first act of the evening was local to the Sault Ste. Marie area. The Métis Dancers featured children as young as

four, right up to senior citizens, who performed three traditional Métis dances under the guidance of mentors Senator Brenda Powley and former MNO Regional Councillor, Anne Trudel. Accompanied by Senator Ruth Wagner on fiddle, the young children particularly impressed the audience who gave them a rousing standing ovation.

Following the Métis Dancers, the renowned Métis Fiddler Quartet played several traditional Métis songs, but also adapted other music to the Métis style including Johnny Cash's Folsom Prison Blues. The Quartet demonstrated why they are a growing force in the Ontario and Aboriginal music scenes.

Following an intermission, the Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award was presented by MNO President,

Gary Lipinski. This year, the selection committee chose two winners because the quality of both candidates was so high. Senators Marlene Greenwood and Olivine Tiedema were both recognized for their many years of dedicated service to the MNO, Métis rights and self-government.

The storytelling part of the program followed. In a panel chaired by Dr. Chris Paci (MNO Manager of Education), Senator Bob McKay, Barbaranne Wright and Genevieve Routhier told stories that highlighted Métis contributions during the War of 1812. Their stories increased awareness of the important role of the Métis during the war and the need to make more people aware that the Métis were fighting for Canada before there was a Canada.

The evening was brought to a successful conclusion by two singers from Fort

▲ **The Métis Fiddler Quartet's Alyssa Delbaere-Sawchuk performs during Sharing Our Pride: An Evening of Métis Storytelling and Cultural Performance at this year's MNO AGA.**

Frances: both have experience performing across Canada and the United States. Pat (Calder) Cupp and Brittney Hayes entertained the audience with a series of classic staples as well as some favourite new country hits. Guest appearances were made by Fort Frances Community Councillor, Wanda Botsford, and two members of the Métis Fiddler Quartet.

By the end of the evening, all in attendance were indeed filled with pride in their Métis heritage! ∞





▲ Métis veterans who received Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medals at the 19th MNO AGA. **More Jubilee medal recipients on page 14, 21 and 22.**

AGA Honours

MNO citizens awarded Queen's Jubilee Medals

On August 27, in a ceremony held at the Annual General Assembly (AGA) of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), 18 MNO citizens received Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medals. The awards were presented by MNO President, Gary Lipinski, during a special ceremony at the Roberta Bondar Pavilion in Sault Ste. Marie.

Ten of the medals went to MNO veterans, and recognized the long tradition of Métis service in defence of Canada going back as far as the War of 1812, as well as the dedication and sacrifice of each veteran. The veterans honoured included MNO citizens

who had served in World War II, the Korean Conflict and numerous Canadian peacekeeping missions. The veterans who received medals are:

Chris Plummer (Courtice); Senator Rene Gravelle (Val Caron); Guy Mandeville (Trenton); Senator George Kelly (Ottawa); Senator Earl Scofield (Lasalle); Senator Elmer Ross (Bobcaygeon); Greg Garrett (Penetanguishene); Kerry McLaughlin (Thunder Bay); Gerry Bedford (Orangeville); Senator Ray Bergie (Brampton); Jean Camirand (Thunder Bay); and, Maurice Sarrazin (Val Caron).

Medals were also presented to five MNO citizens to acknowledge their



long-term dedication to the cause of achieving Métis rights and self-government. Each of these individuals had served in leadership positions in the MNO at both the local and provincial levels for many years and helped build the foundation of the MNO. Much of the MNO's current success is due to their efforts to build the nation. These medal recipients are: Alvina Cimon (Dryden); Senator Ruth Wagner (Bracebridge); Senator Joe Poitras (Scarborough); Senator Bob McKay (Thunder Bay); and, MNO Chair, France Picotte (Timmins).

A special presentation of a Queen's Jubilee Medal was also made to Jason

Madden by Métis Nation of Alberta President, Audrey Poitras. Jason was recognized for his on-going and long-term dedication to Métis rights starting in his youth when he served as the Postsecondary Representative on the PCMNO, and continuing to this day. Jason is a lawyer and one of the leading defenders of Aboriginal rights in Canada.

The many other Métis citizens in the audience who had previously received the Queen's Jubilee Medal were asked to stand and be acknowledged as well; they did so to a well-deserved round of applause.

∞

Mutual understanding, respect, trust.

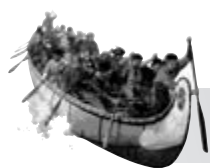
Doing Business with Hydro One

Hydro One is committed to ensuring opportunities exist for Métis and First Nations businesses to play a role in our procurement process and activities.

If you would like your company identified as a business with Métis and/or First Nations ownership please contact newvendorinquiries@HydroOne.com.

If you are interested in doing business with Hydro One and would like to view Hydro One's procurement opportunities, please register on the supplier self-registration website to become a bidder. To register, visit www.HydroOne.com/DoingBusiness.

Partners in Powerful Communities



2012 Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award

Senator Marlene Greenwood and Senator Olivine Bousquet-Tiedema named 2012 Volunteers of the Year

During the Sharing Our Pride: Métis Storytelling and Cultural Performance evening of the Annual General Assembly, the 2012 Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award was presented by MNO President, Gary Lipinski. This year, the selection committee chose two very worthy winners, because it was impossible to decide between them. What follows is an excerpt from the remarks of MNO President Lipinski during the award presentation.

Senator Marlene Greenwood

“Senator Marlene Greenwood has been volunteering and devoting her time, knowledge and wisdom to the North Bay Métis Council and Métis Nation of Ontario since the inception of the MNO and North Bay Métis Council in 1994/95. Marlene is present at every council meeting and at every event being held by the North Bay Métis Council, such as Remembrance Day wreath laying ceremony, First Nation powwows, etc.

“Marlene is a soft-spoken lady who has a big heart and who is loved by many. She is often referred to as ‘Aunt Marlene’. Senator Greenwood is an honest and genuine Métis person who is valued for her volunteerism, her charisma and her devotion in moving forward the MNO agenda.

“One example of Senator Marlene Greenwood’s generosity is when Credit River Métis Council was holding a Youth Capote Workshop; they did not have at that time a Senator on council. Senator Marlene without hesitation accepted the offer to come to the Capote Workshop in Mississauga at her own cost.

“To thank Senator Greenwood for coming and providing her knowledge, her mentorship and being a role model, the Métis Youth gave her a red capote.

“In true Senator Marlene Greenwood fashion she donated this red capote with great pride to the Greenwood Room of the North Bay Métis Office.

“Marlene is a well-known senator and elder throughout the Province of Ontario. Her presence within the Métis Nation of Ontario has positively impacted our Nation. Senator Greenwood continues to volunteer significant time and enthusiasm and has truly been a catalyst throughout the Métis Nation.”

Senator/Elder Olivine Bousquet-Tiedema

“Olivine Germaine Marguerite Marie Bousquet was born in St. Boniface Manitoba. She grew up proud to be Métis.

“Senator Olivine came to Toronto when she was a young lady. She was so lonely for her Métis culture and language that she would



▲ Volunteer of the Year co-winner Senator/Elder Olivine Bousquet-Tiedema with MNO President Gary Lipinski.



▲ Volunteer of the Year co-winner Senator Marlene Greenwood with MNO President Gary Lipinski.

stand on street corners looking at the people as they passed by, hoping to see a Métis face.

“Olivine has a family and brought up her children telling them about speaking Michif and dancing jigs with all of her family in Manitoba from an early age. When Olivine heard about the Métis Nation of Ontario, she was instrumental in running ads to find fellow Métis people and in founding the first Toronto Métis Council.

“Later as a PCMNO Senator, Olivine was instrumental in founding both Credit River Métis Council and the Oshawa Métis Council. Olivine’s enthusiasm and work for her Métis culture knows no bounds. As Senator of Oshawa Métis Council, Olivine did the entire calling and organizing to invite the Oshawa Métis Council citizens to a potluck supper at New Year’s time. This annual pot luck has grown in size and popularity.

“When Oshawa Métis Council held a four-day jigging workshop for our citizens and youths in 2007, Olivine offered encouragement

daily and gave gifts to the participants.

“The Oshawa Durham Métis Council in that same year honoured Olivine by naming our new dance troupe the Olivine Bousquet Métis Dancers (OBMD).

“Since then, to show her pride and support of this troupe, Olivine wholeheartedly wears the Olivine Bousquet Métis Dancers sash, which displays her picture and has made countless medicine bags to give to new dancers and dignitaries and to help fundraise for the dancers.

“This is why the Volunteer of the Year Committee was not able to choose between these two truly proud, devoted, dedicated, and knowledgeable pioneering women that have impacted the Métis Nation of Ontario in such a positive manner.

“Therefore, the only conclusion that was evident to us was to award both candidates a 2012 Suzanne Rochon Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award.”



▲ MNO Senators and youth participate in a knowledge exchange workshop centred on Métis traditional knowledge and Way-of-Life.

AGA workshops valuable to MNO leaders

Prior to the formal start of the Annual General Assembly, the MNO held several workshops for its provincial and local leadership. Community Council Presidents or their designates, members of the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO), the executive members of the Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans’ Council (MNOVC) and the Women’s Secretariat of the Métis Nation of Ontario (WSMNO) as well the Captains of the Hunt attended three workshops.

The first workshop held the morning of August 24 was sponsored by Hydro One and briefed MNO leaders on the corporation’s activities that relate to Métis concerns. This was followed in the afternoon by a workshop led by Lands, Resources and Consultations

Branch staff on identifying impact of the duty to consult. While these workshops were taking place MNO Senators and youth, including the members of the Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council (MNOYC), participated in a full-day knowledge exchange workshop centred on Métis traditional knowledge and the Métis Way-of-Life. The interaction between youth and Senators during this session was rich with discussion, knowledge exchange, and sharing.

The youth/Senator workshop continued the next day, while during the morning of August 25, the MNO leaders participated in a workshop organized by the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO).

Premier
Gold Mines Limited
is pleased to support
and participate
in the 2012
Métis Nation
of Ontario’s
Annual General
Assembly



A Big Thank You to these Friends of the MNO:

Great Lakes Power Transmission
OPG Deep Geologic Repository Project



DR. SUZANNE ROCHON-BURNETT was a founding member of the Métis Nation of Ontario. Named to the Order of Canada and the Order of Ontario, Suzanne was a recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation and the first woman inducted into the Aboriginal Business Hall of Fame. Suzanne passed away in 2006. To honour her memory and recognize her outstanding service as a volunteer, the Métis Nation of Ontario named Suzanne as the first recipient of the inaugural Volunteer of the Year Award which now bears her name.



RESOLUTIONS

2012 MNO AGA RES#2012-001

RESOLUTION ON AMENDMENTS TO MNO ELECTORAL CODE

WHEREAS a foundational principle of the MNO is to hold fair and democratic elections for the election of the Métis Nation's regional and provincial leadership;

AND WHEREAS the MNO has adopted the MNO Electoral Code for the conduct of its elections and held its most recent election in May 2012;

AND WHEREAS the MNO's Chief Electoral Officer tabled a 2012 Elections Report with the 2012 MNO AGA making a series of recommendations with respect to the conduct of future MNO elections;

AND WHEREAS the MNO wants to provide an opportunity for all MNO citizens to provide their comments and input on the MNO Chief Electoral Officer's Report as well as provide their comments and feedback on the MNO's 2012 Election process generally;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The MNO circulate the MNO Chief Electoral Officer's report throughout the MNO in September 2012 and provide an opportunity for all MNO citizens to provide their feedback on the report as well as provide their input on the MNO's 2012 election process generally until April 30, 2013.
2. All comments received by the MNO prior to April 30, 2013 will be considered by an independent Committee consisting of a representative from the MNO Community Councils, MNOYC and Senators as well as the MNO's legal counsel. The Committee will also be supported by the MNO's administration.
3. The Committee will be tasked with preparing a report based on comments received, along with proposed changes to the MNO Electoral Code. This report and the proposed changes to the MNO Electoral Code will be circulated throughout the MNO. These documents will also be tabled with the 2013 MNO AGA for its consideration and discussion.
4. Based on comments and feedback received from MNO citizens as well as the 2013 MNO AGA, a final redraft of the MNO Electoral Code will be tabled for the consideration and ratification of the 2014 MNO AGA.
5. No amendments will be made to the MNO Electoral Code while these consultations are ongoing or after the 2014 MNO AGA considers and makes changes to the MNO Electoral Code.
6. The appointees to the Committee will be Joanne Young (Hamilton/Wentworth Métis Council), Janine Landry (MNOYC) and Verna Porter (Senator).
MOVED BY: Cora Bunn
SECONDED BY: Richard Cuddy

MOTION CARRIED

2012 MNO AGA RES#2012-002

2013 MNO ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

WHEREAS 2013 will also mark the 20 year anniversary

of the creation of the Métis Nation of Ontario;

AND WHEREAS September 19th, 2013 will mark the 10 year anniversary of the Supreme Court of Canada's historic decision in the Powley case;

AND WHEREAS the MNO wants to celebrate its accomplishments as well as highlight the ongoing advances in Métis rights that have been achieved as a result of the Powley case;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The MNO develop a 2013 anniversary logo marking the MNO's formation and the Powley decision that can be used by the MNO throughout the year on letterhead, promotional materials, etc.
2. The MNO administration be directed to work with governments and other potential partners (i.e., Métis National Council, Chair of Métis Studies, etc.) to attempt to secure funding to hold a symposium on the Powley case in Ontario to coincide with the September 19th anniversary.
3. One of the goals of the symposium will be to commission papers and produce a book of legal and academic articles on the impacts of the Powley case and the advancement of Métis rights. The symposium will also look to include presentations on the impacts of Powley on average Métis citizens and Ontario Métis by telling the story of the creation of the MNO and its struggle to advance the Powley case, the personal stories from Elders and community members about the Powley case, etc.
4. The MNO will also attempt to hold a "Friends of the Métis" gala event, as a part of the symposium and AGA events.
MOVED BY: Gary Lipinski
SECONDED BY: France Picotte

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

2012 MNO AGA RES#2012-003

RESOLUTION ON MNO HARVESTERS CARDS

WHEREAS the advancement of Métis rights and self-government is fundamental to the MNO;

AND WHEREAS ensuring that all Métis citizens can continue to practice their constitutionally-protected harvesting rights as a part of their Métis culture is essential;

AND WHEREAS in the Powley case the Supreme Court of Canada recognized the Métis as a full fledged rights-bearing people and that historic Métis communities that continue to the modern day possess constitutionally-protected harvesting rights;

AND WHEREAS in order to be a Métis rights holder an individual must self-identify as Métis, be ancestrally connected to a historic Métis community and be accepted by the Métis contemporary community which is a continuation of the historic community;

AND WHEREAS the Supreme Court of Canada also stated that:

It is important to remember that, no matter how a contemporary community defines membership, only those members with a demonstrable ancestral connection to the historic community can claim a s. 35 right. Verifying membership is crucial, since individuals are only entitled to exercise Métis

aboriginal rights by virtue of their ancestral connection to and current membership in a Métis community.

AND WHEREAS the MNO established the MNO Harvesters Policy and Card system as a way to identify and defend Métis rights-holders who meet the Powley test and who are entitled to exercise Métis harvesting rights in their traditional territories;

AND WHEREAS in July 2004 the MNO negotiated an interim Four Point Harvesting Agreement with Ontario which recognized the MNO's Harvesters Card system as well as the MNO's identified harvesting territories based on credible Métis rights claims, but the agreement capped the number of Harvesters Cards the MNO could issue at 1250 until an independent review of the MNO Harvester Card system is conducted;

AND WHEREAS in order to increase that 1250 cap, and, ultimately have the cap completely removed (because there can be no cap on legitimate Métis rights-holders exercising their constitutional rights) the MNO wants to move forward on undertaking an independent assessment of the MNO Harvesters Card system;

AND WHEREAS there are some MNO Harvester Card files that do not have complete documentation in them and the MNO Registry's ongoing efforts to attempt to get those Harvesters Card holders to complete their files have been unsuccessful since these cards with incomplete files continue to be automatically renewed;

AND WHEREAS these incomplete files have the potential to undermine the integrity of the MNO Harvesters Card system in an independent review even though the majority of Harvesters Card files are complete and the ongoing delays in undertaking an independent assessment of the MNO Harvesters Card system is not allowing the MNO to issue Harvesters Card to other MNO citizens who have completed Harvesters Card files due to the 1250 cap;

AND WHEREAS it is the goal of the MNO AGA to have the 1250 cap removed as soon as possible in order to allow all legitimate Métis rights-holders to have a MNO Harvesters Card and exercise their Métis harvesting rights;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The MNO Registry be directed to write letters to all MNO Harvesters Card holders with incomplete files requesting that additional documentation be provided in order to complete their files pursuant to the requirements the MNO Harvesters Policy, which is consistent with the Powley test. These letters will be sent out by the end of November 2012. Each letter will state the following:
 - a. it is being sent on the direction from the MNO AGA;
 - b. the MNO Harvester Card holder has until November 30, 2013 (12 months) to

ensure that their Harvesters Card file is complete.

- c. if the Harvester's file is not completed prior to November 30, 2013, the Harvester's Card will be cancelled and provided to the next MNO citizen on the list who has a completed MNO Harvester Card file that has been waiting for one of the MNO's 1250 cards;
 - d. any paid administration fee (\$20/year) for future years will be returned to a Harvester who has their Harvester Cards cancelled by the MNO;
 - e. if their Harvesters Card is cancelled on November 30, 2013 they will be able to re-apply for a MNO Harvesters Card in the future once their file is complete and if MNO Harvester Cards are available for issuance;
 - f. the letter in no way affects MNO citizenship and does not question whether an individual is Métis;
 - g. the process is being undertaken in order for the MNO to successfully complete an independent review of the MNO Harvesters Card system which will allow the MNO to comply with the Powley test as set out by the Supreme Court of Canada and remove the negotiated 1250 cap in the future so all MNO citizens who are rights-holders can obtain Harvesters Cards in the future.
2. The MNO administration be directed to attempt to secure funding in order to undertake community workshops to assist MNO Harvester Card holders and others in completing their Harvesters Card and/or citizenship files.
MOVED BY: Louise Goulding
SECONDED BY: Richard Cuddy

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

2012 MNO AGA RES#2012-004

RESOLUTION ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS pursuing economic development is an important part of building strong Métis communities and a strong MNO;

AND WHEREAS the MNO AGA wants to ensure that economic development is pursued in a transparent, accountable and business-like manner which does not put the MNO, Community Councils or individual MNO citizens at financial risk;

AND WHEREAS the MNO has commissioned work and opinions based on other best practices for aboriginal economic development and the identification of legal issues to protect the MNO, Community Councils and individual MNO citizens when economic development is pursued;

THEREFORE BE IT
RESOLVED THAT:

1. the MNO AGA direct the PCMNO to continue its work on developing MNO economic development model and to adopt a MNO Economic Development Policy that can be implemented at all levels of the MNO; and
2. the MNO AGA direct the MNO to pursue economic development opportunities that will assist the MNO in paying off its remaining debt and allow the MNO to increase the amount of discretionary

funding that is not tied to program and service delivery.
MOVED BY: Sharon McBride
SECONDED BY: Pauline Saulnier

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

2012 MNO AGA RES#2012-005

MNOYC POLICY AND PROCEDURES

WHEREAS the MNOYC strives to meet the goals laid out in the Statement of Prime Purpose;

AND WHEREAS there are currently no policies and procedures speaking directly to youth governance;

AND WHEREAS a strong youth voice is essential for the future of the MNO;

AND WHEREAS the MNOYC has taken time to develop a draft policies and procedures manual by creating a Governance Working Group which met multiple times via conference call and finalized the draft Policies and Procedures on February 19, 2012;

THEREFORE BE IT
RESOLVED THAT:

1. The 2012 MNO Annual General Assembly direct the PCMNO, MNO staff and administration to coordinate with the MNOYC in order to review and revise with a view to implementing the draft Policies and Procedures developed by the MNOYC Governance Working Group on February 19, 2012; and
2. This process be completed by the 2013 Annual Assembly.
MOVED BY: Mitchell Case
SECONDED BY: Janine Landry

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

2012 MNO AGA RES#2012-008

RESOLUTION ON MNO AGA ENTRY

Whereas the dignitaries of the Métis Nation of Ontario, Government and proponents open the AGA in the canoes

And whereas our MNO President mentioned that we should encourage our youth to be future leaders

And whereas the MNO has the MNOYC

Therefore be it resolved that at each future AGAs, an additional canoe be added for our youth representatives, subject to funding being secured..

MOVED BY: Senator

Ruth Wagner

SECONDED BY:
Pauline Saulnier

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

2012 MNO AGA RES#2012-009

CITIZENSHIP INFORMATION TO COMMUNITY COUNCILS

WHEREAS it is important for Community Councils to know who their new citizens are;

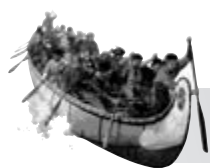
AND WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario has new citizen's contact information on the MNO citizenship application;

THEREFORE BE IT
RESOLVED that the MNO AGA provide direction to the MNO administration that the MNO Registry provide update citizenship lists to each MNO Community Council on a bi-annual basis.

MOVED BY: Cora Bunn

SECONDED BY:
Marlene Davidson

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS



MNO's 19th ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY SAULT STE. MARIE • AUGUST 26-28, 2012

Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans' Council



▲ (back row) **George Kelly, Jack Bouchard, Alis Kennedy, Jean Camirand, Gary Lipinski, Greg Garrat.** (front row) **Christopher Plummer, Joseph Paquette and Guy Mandeville.**

Métis veterans recognized at MNOVC AGM

On August 25, prior to the start of the MNO Annual General Assembly, the Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans' Council (MNOVC) held its Annual General Meeting (AGM). This was one of the best attended MNOVC AGMs ever with approximately 20 Métis veterans in attendance.

MNO President, Gary Lipinski, attended the meeting and extended his thanks to the veterans for their dedication and sacrifice both through their military service and their service to the Métis Nation. In addition, President Lipinski presented Louis Riel Medals to Métis veterans Guy

Mandeville, Jack Bouchard, Chris Plummer, Senator Earl Scofield, Joseph Paquette, Senator Dr. Alis Kennedy, Jean Camirand, Senator George Kelly and Greg Garrat.

In addition, Senator Rene Gravelle and MNOVC President, Joe Paquette, accepted a decorated canoe paddle from MNO Education Officer, Benny Michaud. The paddle had been designed and drawn by Senator Gravelle, Tara Warner, Danielle Secord, and Melody Chislett-Morris as part of a project that brought Métis youth and elders together. This paddle was one of a number that were on display throughout the AGA.

∞

Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans' Council

Senators' and Women's Secretariats hold elections at AGA

On August 25, prior to the start of the MNO Annual General Assembly, the MNO Senators and the Women's Secretariat of the Métis Nation of Ontario (WSMNO) met to hold elections for the 2012-16 term.

Senators representing each chartered MNO Community Council were entitled to vote for four Senators to serve on the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO). Nine Senators had been nominated prior to the vote with eight standing for election. Senators Reta Gordon, Joe Poitras,

Verna Porter and Rene Gravelle were chosen. Senator Ruth Wagner and Senator Gerry Bedford, both of whom had served on the PCMNO from 2008 to 2012, chose not to stand for election this time but will retain the title of "Senator" due to their service on the PCMNO.

Senator Reta Gordon was asked by the other three PCMNO Senators to continue serving in the capacity of "Executive Senator" on the PCMNO Executive.

It wasn't all business for the Senators; they also enjoyed their traditional "Meet and Greet" the evening

of August 24. This gathering gave the Senators some well-deserved relaxation and time to catch up with each other's activities since the last AGA.

The WSMNO has four representatives who were selected at the meeting on August 25. All four positions were acclaimed. These representatives are Pearl Gabona and Shirley Lynn Pantuso, who previously served terms as representatives, and Barbaranne Wright and Candace Lloyd, who are starting their first terms with the WSMNO.

∞



▲ **Métis Nation of Ontario Senators at the 19th MNO AGA in Sault Ste Marie.**

When we extend our hand, it is warmly received

continued from page 13

Dr. Allen Prowse, Vice-president of Patient and Client Care and Chief Nursing Executive with Providence Care, also spoke to AGA delegates. The MNO has had a long and successful relationship with Providence Care in delivering healing and wellness programs to Métis throughout Ontario. Dr. Prowse commented: "We are very pleased to be a partner of the Métis. We have learned a great deal, and we have shared a great deal with each other." He also stated: "As we move forward, we hope to identify emerging opportunities together,

to enlarge our partnerships, to address broader needs like those of children, youth and seniors."

The MNO has successfully established partnerships with many Ontario postsecondary institutions, and has signed MOU agreements with over a dozen, including the University of Sudbury, which was represented at the AGA by its President, Dr. Pierre Zundel. Dr. Zundel described Métis oral history projects and a course on Métis culture that are being developed at his university and congratulated the MNO on its increasing success. "You can feel the winds of change coming," he

explained, "and it has been wonderful to see how these winds have really been filling your sails. You have been able to speak with a unified voice and I think that is going to take you a long way. We are happy to sail along with you on this journey."

Equally important to the MNO are the relationships it continues to enjoy with other Métis governments. Both Métis Nation of Alberta President, Audrey Poitras, and Métis National Council President, Clément Chartier, attended the AGA and spoke to the delegates during the opening ceremony. These governments along with the MNO had intervened in the Manitoba Métis Federation's benchmark land claim case that went before the Supreme Court of Canada in December, 2011.

"If this case is successful, the federal government will be forced to create a process to deal with our historic grievances," explained President Lipinski. "We are the only Aboriginal people without a process and so it was important that the Supreme Court heard our voice."

In addition to these representatives the AGA also heard from Dr. Carolyn Bennett, the Member of Par-

liament for St. Paul's and Kim Powley, President of the MNO Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council. As host, President Powley welcomed the delegates and guests to Sault Ste. Marie while Dr. Bennett indicated she appreciated all she had learned at these gatherings and said she planned on using the information to educate her parliamentary colleagues about the Métis.

All in all, the AGA delegates listened to an impressive array of speakers representing Métis, federal and provincial governments, business, health, education and social services. It is clear that the MNO has been very successful in building partnerships that benefit the Métis citizens in Ontario.

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▲ **Métis Nation of Ontario Community Council Presidents at the 19th MNO AGA in Sault Ste Marie.**



▲ **MNOVC President Joseph Paquette, Rene Gravelle and Benny Michaud with a paddle presented to the MNOVC**

ACROSS THE PROVINCE

A Beausoliel adventure

Métis youth from the Georgian Bay area have camping adventure on Beausoliel Island

By **Larry Ferris**
Georgian Bay Métis Council

Five Métis youth from the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Georgian Bay Métis Council and one councillor attended YMCA Camp Kitchikewana on Beausoleil Island for three days and two nights. They shared their camping experience with campers from Georgina Island First Nation, became friends and were invited to visit Georgina Island First Nation this fall as part of a cultural exchange.

The YMCA camp councillors provided the children with laughs and learning experiences from 7:00 in the morning until 9:00 at night. Georgian Bay Islands National Park gave lessons on the wildlife, as well as the history of the islands including artefacts that connect to both First Nation and Métis people. The campers had a chance to try kayaking, drum-

ming, orienteering, hiking, swimming, archeology digs, games and much, much more.

The MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council is planning a return trip next year and invites other councils from Region 7 to send children and councillors. Anyone interested should contact Larry Ferris (ferris.larry51@gmail.com).

Larry would like to thank D. Saulnier's Metal Recycling and local MPP Garfield Dunlop for financial support. This event was first made possible by the late Senator Helen Bradley; she is still remembered by staff with a smile and a little chuckle.

"I would also like to thank the kids for doing such a good job representing the Métis people and culture and for making it a fun trip--and remember moms, they learned to wash tables, set tables, sweep the floor, clean the cabin, make their bunks and much more," said Ferris.



▲ Métis youth on a nature walk on Beausoleil Island.

Our Language

WANT TO LEARN MICHIF?

Michif is the language of Métis people once spoken all across the Homeland. Like most Aboriginal languages, the number of Michif speakers declined due to the colonization process that attempted to stamp out the use of languages other than English and French.

Efforts are now underway to preserve Michif, and introduce Métis youth to their heritage language. As part of that effort, the Métis Nation of Ontario has created videos of Ontario Michif speakers speaking words and phrases in Michif, English and French. Using the alphabetical links provided, anyone can view these videos.

Visit this web site:

www.metisnation.org/culture--heritage/michif.aspx

MÉTIS BUSINESS | SUDBURY

Métis owned business wants to give clients value for money

Two years ago Dan Boulard's company, FERUS Industrial Contracting, did not exist. Now, this Métis entrepreneur is the lead contractor for a \$45-million project, and the recipient of \$234,000 provided by the province to help create 31 new jobs at the company over the next three years. The announcement was made August 22 by Sudbury MPP and Minister of Northern Development and Mines, Rick Bartolucci. "I was always impressed with Dan, and his dedicated approach to the work", he said. "This is really an incredible day in the economic expansion of how we view Sudbury."

FERUS is a general contracting company that specializes in project management, new construction, and rebuilding industrial equipment for the mining, pulp and paper and hydro industries.

Boulard, a civil engineer technician and a journeyman iron worker, worked his way up to become a project manager on major projects. "I've been in the industry for 28 years, always working for someone else," he said. "It came to a point where I said I wanted to do it for myself, with a business plan I created."

Dan Boulard summarized his business philosophy this way: "We are an integrity company. We want to be compensated fairly, but we also want to give the client value for their dollars. We don't operate with big profit margins,

but we want to help people, and we want to help our clients."

FERUS' first job was a contract from Steelworkers Local 6500 for much of the steel work for the union's Brady Street hall. Rick

We don't operate with big profit margins, but we want to help people, and we want to help our clients.

Bertrand, the union president, said: "He's just an incredible person who really believes in doing a good job, and in helping others. He's happy making a smaller profit margin if he's creating good paying jobs. We need more people like Dan in the north."

Currently, FERUS has 15 workers at job sites, and another five working out of the company's headquarters in Hanmer. Funding from the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund will allow them to add another 31 workers.



Experience Canadian Heritage Rivers photo contest

The Métis have always had a close relationship with rivers. Our voyageur ancestors travelled the rivers as part of the fur trade and built the first historic Métis communities near their shores. Now *Canoeroots and Family Camping Magazine* is giving you a chance to explore your connection with rivers and have the chance to win some great prizes in the second annual Experience Canadian Heritage Rivers Photo Contest.

Contest runs from May 15, 2012 to October 31, 2012.

Winning photos will be featured in the spring 2013 issue of *Canoeroots & Family Camping* magazine and will tour with the 2013 Reel Paddling Film Festival.

Visit the web site:
www.reelpaddlingfilmfestival.com

For more information on the contest visit this site:
www.canoerootsmag.com

To see which Ontario rivers are part of the Canadian Heritage River System, check this web site:
www.chrs.ca



(Left to right) **MNO Niagara Region Métis Council President, Stephen Quesnelle; Niagara College student, Zachery Cousineau; and MNO Regional Employment and Training Intake Officer, Sean Vanderklis.**

Student Success

On April 19, Niagara College hosted an awards night to recognize student achievement. At the ceremony, Métis student Zachery Cousineau was pre-

sented with the Métis Nation of Ontario Award. Zachery is a third year business administration and accounting student, originally from Penetanguishene.

HOUSING:

Ontario Renovates Northern Remote Communities



The Investment in Affordable Housing (IAH) Ontario Renovates Northern Remote Communities Program aims to assist low to moderate income homeowner households in remote areas repair their homes to acceptable standards while improving the energy efficiency of their units. This program also aims to increase accessibility through unit modifications and adaptations.

Funding is in the form of a forgivable loan to the homeowner based on approved work to a maximum of \$25,000. The period of forgiveness is ten years and is forgiven at an equal rate per year over the 10-year term. The earning of loan forgiveness begins on the date of repair completion. Funding for accessibility repairs up to \$3,500 is in the form of a grant and does not require repayment.

Details here: www.metisnation.org/programs/housing/ontario-renovates

COMMUNITY SERVICE

White pine planted for MNO citizen

By **Raymond D. Tremblay** OTTAWA

It gives me great pleasure to inform our readers that, on June 18th, 2012, my 81 year old-young brother, Fern Tremblay of Timmins, an MNO citizen, was selected this year's inductee at the École secondaire catholique Thériault arboretum.

This annual recognition was started in 2000 when Thériault's parent advisory council created an arboretum with the goal of honouring individuals who have made significant contributions to the school or towards francophone culture within Timmins. The criteria for those honoured is that they have demonstrated a clear impact in educating the community's youth; have devoted themselves to the French catholic mission; and are deemed to be an ideal role model for today's youth.

Throughout his life, Fern always placed the needs of others ahead of his own. He's been involved on the political scene as Reeve of



▲ **Fern Tremblay (left), with his children, Marquis Tremblay, Line Lemire, Ginette Gaudreau and Rosanne Harvey.**

Mountjoy Township and an Alderman on Timmins City Council as well as an active member of various organizations such as St. Dominic Parish; Le Centre culturel La Ronde; the Porcu-

pine United Way; a local eye donor program; the Jean-Paul Beaudet Council of the Knights of Columbus. He is also the founding and current President of the Joseph Fortin Foundation, which provides financial assistance to low-income families who have to travel to other communities for lifesaving medical treatments. And that's only a few.

The white pine chosen by Fern to be transplanted in the arboretum this coming fall is one that he had planted in his own front yard from a seedling five years ago. A plaque was unveiled on the grounds. The words translated from French, convey his willingness to "wake up every day to serve others just like our Lord."

His four children took turns in highlighting some of the precious values and principles their father inculcated in them. As Fern's baby brother, I'm very proud of him and I'm not the least surprised that he felt both honoured and profoundly humbled to be selected for this special recognition.

MÉTIS VETERANS | WAR OF 1812

Métis Veterans participate in national War of 1812 ceremony

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) veterans represented the MNO and the Métis National Council (MNC) in a ceremony on May 22 at the Fort York Armouries in Toronto. The event commemorated combatants who fought on the Canadian side during the War of 1812 including Métis and First Nations as well as 31 current regiments of the Canadian Armed Forces that trace their origins to the War of 1812.

His Royal Highness, Prince Charles; Prime Minister, Stephen Harper; Defense Minister, Peter McKay; Aboriginal and Northern Development Minister, John Duncan; and, Chief of Defence Staff, General Walter Natynczyk, were among the dignitaries participating in the ceremonies.

During the ceremony, the commemorative banner and medal that will be presented to Canadian Forces units and Métis and First Nations communities involved in the War of 1812 were unveiled. This follows the tradition established after the War of 1812, when banners and medals were presented to Aboriginal communities following the end of the war. An 1812 Commemorative Banner and Medal Ceremony for Métis and First Nations communities will take place later in 2012 in Ottawa.

MNO veterans in attendance included Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans Council (MNOVC) President, Joseph Paquette, MNOVC Sergeant-at-arms Greg Garratt and Senator Alis Kennedy. Métis National Council (MNC) Vice-President, David Chartrand also attended.



▲ Left to right: **Joseph Paquette, President of the MNO Veterans Council (MNOVC), Senator Alis Kennedy and Greg Garratt, Sergeant-at-arms of the MNOVC.**



"Indspire", formerly the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation, has evolved into the largest non-governmental funding body for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis post-secondary students across Canada. Visit their web site for more information and to down load application forms.

www.indspire.ca/scholarships

Application deadlines:

- Oil and Gas Trades and Technology (OGTT) – April 30 and November 30 annually;
- Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres (OFIFC) – May 1st annually;
- Fine Arts – May 1st annually;
- Aboriginal Health Careers – June 1st and November 1st annually;
- Post Secondary Education – June 1st and November 1st annually;
- Legal Studies for Aboriginal People (LSAP) Pre-law – May 15th annually.

Occasionally, Indspire is able to offer special bursaries outside of the regular deadline dates. Students are encouraged to visit the Indspire website frequently.

Metis Cookhouse

by Gail LeBlanc

Barbeque Grilled Veggies

- 3 cobs of corn cut in 3 pieces
- 3 quartered red potatoes
- 1 cup baby carrots
- 1 large cubed green pepper
- 1 large cubed red pepper
- 1 med quartered sweet onion
- 1 envelope onion soup mix
- 3 tablespoon olive oil
- 2 tablespoon dried basil
- 1 tablespoon tarragon

Wash all vegetables first. Then, in a large bowl, combine all ingredients and toss until all veggies are coated.

Place on a double thickness heavy-duty foil. Fold foil to seal the mixture. Make sure it's tightly closed.

Grill over medium heat for 25-30 minutes or until potatoes are tender, turning once.

Serve with your favorite grilled meats.

Enjoy!

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MÉTIS VETERANS

MNOVC | MÉTIS NATIONS OF ONTARIO VETERANS COUNCIL

Two join ranks of Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans Council

In the last edition of *The Métis Voyageur* (page 24, No. 71, Summer, 2012) we introduced the newly chosen Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans' Council (MNOVC) executive and provided three short biographies. Since then, George Kelly has joined the ranks as "Senator". The MNOVC executive is now comprised of five members: President, Joseph Paquette; Chair, Guy Mandeville; Sergeant at Arms, Greg Garratt; Treasurer, Christopher Plummer; and Senator, George Kelly.

Senator George Kelly

Senator George Kelly was born September 25, 1934. He was raised and educated in Ottawa, with his four brothers and three sisters. George joined the Royal Canadian Navy in 1952 at the age of 17 and was honourably discharged (rank LS. LR.) in 1957. He served during the Korean Conflict with NATO Command on board, H.M.C.S. Sioux; H.M.C.S. Athabaskan; and, H.M.C.S. Algonquin.

Following his military service, Mr. Kelly was employed by the City of Ottawa for 33 years. He was a Special Constable with the Ottawa

Police Department from 1960 until 1971, and a City Councillor from 1985 to 1991.

Although George Kelly is married and the father of four, he has never stopped serving his country and community. As a volunteer he has been president and coach of Ottawa youth minor sports since 1962 and is still involved. He has volunteered at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario; voluntarily stood in for Santa Claus at community events for 20 years; been a director of the Central Canada Exhibition Board; helped children with special needs achieve their wishes through the Children's Wish Foundation; played



▲ Senator George Kelly



▲ Christopher Plummer

benefit hockey with the Ottawa Police from 1970 until 1980 (for children with special needs).

In 1988 the East Ottawa Optimist Club presented George Kelly with the highest award that can be bestowed upon a community volunteer by a service club, the Humanitarian Award for Dedicated Unselfish Service.

In 1994 Mr Kelly attended the MNO Founding AGA Meeting in Toronto.

Christopher Plummer

MNOVC Treasurer, Christopher Plummer, was born in Oshawa, and joined the Canadian Army in May, 1981. He served with the Ontario

Regiment for 31 years, achieving the rank of Master Warrant Officer.

For the duration of his military career, Mr. Plummer served with the Canadian Armoured Corps (RCAC) and the Royal Canadian Dragoons battle group on Operation Cavalier in Bosnia. Chris was also the last Squadron Sergeant Major for the Ontario Regt B Sqn (Cougar Squadron) prior to the reserve unit's re-roll to a solely reconnaissance unit. Chris Plummer has been presented the Canadian Decoration (CD2).

Presently Chris is actively involved with the Canadian Ski Patrol as part of the education team in the Kawartha Zone.

He is married to Linda, his spouse of 18 years, and has two children, Kenneth and Liam. Both Chris and Linda are Métis and trace their roots back to the families, Solomon, Sylvester, Mackay and Taillon. The Plummers first discovered their family history in 2002, so they are looking forward to learning even more about their heritage.

CFB BORDEN | OPERATION BLACK BEAR



▲ MNO Veterans' Council President, Joseph Paquette, presents a Métis sash to the incoming Commander of CFB Borden.

CFB BORDEN | JUBILEE MEDALS

Jubilee medals awarded to Métis vets at CFB Borden

By Joseph Paquette
MNO VC President

The Black Bear Program was instituted four years ago at CFB Borden, Ontario. It was meant to be an extension of the Raven Program in BC and the Bold Eagle Program in Alberta, and for the past three years it has exceeded expectations.

A total of 64 participants registered for the last Black Bear Program held from July 10th to July 14th. This camp was special, and not just because it was the last one in Ontario. Dr. Alis Kennedy CD, a veteran with the Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans' Council

(MNOVC), the National Aboriginal Veterans Association (NAVA) and Senator for the MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council (TYRMC), joined Joseph Paquette, President of the MNOVC, a citizen of the MNO Credit River Métis Council and member of the National Aboriginal Veterans Association. Both received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal (QDJM) from NAVA Vice-president, Robert Thibeau CD.

"It sure has been exciting working with the Aboriginal Youth from across Canada for the past three years," said Joe Paquette. "Good luck to all of you. I will sure miss them all."



▲ (Left to right) MNOVC President Joseph Paquette, Senator Alis Kennedy and NAVA Vice-president Robert Thibeau.



Barbaranne Wright

MNO citizen receives Jubilee medal

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen, Barbaranne Wright, received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal during a ceremony at the National Aboriginal Veterans Monument in Ottawa on National Aboriginal Day, June 21, 2012.

Barbaranne was one of several Aboriginal people to receive the medal at a ceremony commemorating 200 years of Aboriginal voluntary military service in the defence of Canada. Barbaranne is the women's representative on the MNO Niagara Region Métis Council and her medal recognized her work in a number of veterans' projects. Barbaranne is the daughter of a Métis veteran and several of her ancestors fought in the War of 1812.

The medals were presented by the Honourable Steven Blaney, Minister of Veterans Affairs for Canada. "What a great day to be a proud Métis Woman," Barbaranne said.

Change of Command

MNO Veterans' Council President participates in Change of Command Ceremony at CFB Borden

On July 6, 2012, MNO Veterans' Council President, Joseph Paquette, attended the ceremony marking the change of command at CFB Borden from Brigadier General J.P.L. Meloche, OMM, CD to Colonel T.L. Harris, CD. Best wishes were conveyed to outgoing Brigadier General Meloche and a Métis sash was presented to incoming Colonel Harris.

Under the command of Brigadier General Meloche, CFB Borden

hosted the very successful "Aboriginal Youth Black Bear Program" for the past two years. During this time Mr. Paquette participated in the Black Bear Program as the "Métis Elder".

This is the last year for the Black Bear Program at CFB Borden, but the program will continue to offer the same opportunities to First Nations, Métis and Inuit youth from across Canada at its new location in Gagetown, New Brunswick.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Sault College presents first MNO Powley Electrical Award

Award commemorates Steve Powley who had championed Métis harvesting rights

In 2008, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) secured \$25,000 from the Power Workers' Union (PWU) to be used at Sault College for an academic award named after Steve Powley, the Métis hero who had championed Métis harvesting rights at the Supreme Court of Canada. Sault College matched these funds and the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities then matched the combined total funds contributed by PWU and the college.

The resulting total was then invested by Sault College to create an endowment, so that the interest could be used to create an annual

award for Sault students. The MNO investigated what field the most Métis students were entering at Sault College and found that these were electrical programs. Based on this research it was determined that the award would go to a self-identifying Métis student registered in electrical programs at the college.

Earlier in 2012, the MNO Steve Powley Electrical Award was presented for the first time. The recipient was Sara Ingram who received \$3500. The award was presented by Kim Powley, the daughter of Steve Powley and the President of the MNO Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council.



▲ Sara Ingram (left) receives the first MNO Powley Electrical Award from Kim Powley (right), the President of the MNO Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council and daughter of Steve Powley.

MÉTIS STUDENTS



▲ Alex Tesar worked for the MNO in the Registry Branch during the summer of 2010 and is the grandson of MNO Chronic Disease Coordinator Jo MacQuarrie.

Think, reflect and dream

Alex Desiré-Tesar was the 2012 valedictorian at the University of King's College in Halifax. He was also the winner of this year's Sir John William Dawson Essay Prize in Science and Religion, for his essay, "Natural Necessity and Moral Possibility: Vindicating Natural Evil".

In addressing his graduating classmates Alex Tesar captured their attention with his wit and sense of humour as well as some notable quotes. Graduation is a life-changing event and he acknowledges his own progress from a little boy who wanted to be a fire-truck to an adult with a B.A.

Alex likens King's College and its students to a platypus because they "belong in the rarefied company of things that shouldn't be, but are, charmingly oblivious to our own impossibility." He continues: "We are members of that category of things Hunter S. Thompson once described as 'too weird to live, and too rare to die'."

“They say that a B.A. isn't worth anything – personally, I think that's something to celebrate.”

After graduating with a B.A. there are usually two choices: go to graduate school or get a job, or sometimes both. Alex addressed this dilemma. "They say that a B.A. isn't worth anything – personally, I think that's something to celebrate. It's true that constructing an argument isn't the same as building a ship; all we have are words to weld with, and unless the government radically changes its priorities, no-one is going to give us a 25-billion dollar contract to build them a fleet of rhetoric," said the new grad.

continued page 24

KIND WORDS FROM MNOET CLIENTS

A change in outlook on success

By Meghan Skyum

I would like to extend my deepest thanks to the Métis Nation of Ontario for your donation and contribution towards my goal. Since growing up in a small town (Hawk Junction) as well as the Sault, I've always been determined to experience the bigger things. When I was in high school at Korah Collegiate, I started out slowly, and then began to realize that I wasn't even using half of my learning capacity.

After this epiphany, I began to rank among the top of each class, and at a university level. My main studies were history, philosophy, English, world issues, and lastly, law. Humanities-related studies are definitely my thing. I excelled in each class but remained mediocre in law. The subject has always fascinated me, so I decided to focus my studies on it in college--to prove to myself that I can succeed. "Police Foundations" seemed to be a perfect fit for me.

The Métis Nation of Ontario Award has changed my outlook on my success. It will be easier for my

“Your contribution has touched me; you can be assured that it will be put to good use. All students should be grateful for organizations such as yours that offer such assistance--it's really great!”

family and I to rest assured that I will make it through the education that I desire. After college, I plan to go directly to Lake Superior State University to obtain a degree in "criminalistics". From there, I may continue with school or find a good job in law enforcement. I hope someday that I can work in forensics.

Your contribution has touched me; you can be assured that it will be put to good use. All students should be grateful for organizations such as yours that offer such assistance--it's really great!

Employment Skills



▲ MNO staff members, Tammy Webb and Kristen Stewart at the Eskilon Learning Solutions Conference.

Success comes one client at a time

In late spring this year, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Education and Training Branch staff members Tammy Webb and Kristen Stewart presented at the Eskilon Learning Solutions Conference. Fifty delegates from across Canada enjoyed keynote speakers, informative client presentations, a networking reception, entertainment and multiple mini-training sessions.

The one and a half day program was designed to highlight and share best practices in "essential skills" assessment and instruction in pro-

complete a formal high school program the opportunity to demonstrate high-school level knowledge and skills.)

Tammy Webb said: "For me personally, this conference really reinforced that the MNO is on the right path in our ability to be able to easily assess a client's essential skill level based on their occupation goal..." She also suggested that when clients have the appropriate skill set, they can keep working in a job they have a passion for. "Success comes one client at a time," she added.

"Tammy and I had the opportunity to present to other service providers from across Canada at this conference," Kristen Stewart commented. "We discussed what the MNO is currently doing to address essential skills when working with clients. I found this opportunity very valuable

in the sense that we were able to listen and discuss what other organizations are doing with their clients. I also gained more knowledge about essential skill levels in general and how to ensure we are setting our clients up for success."

“This conference really reinforced that the MNO is on the right path in our ability to be able to easily assess a client's essential skill level based on their occupation goal.”

grams such as literacy and essential skills upgrading, pre-trades training, employment preparation programs, community-based programming, GED and college preparation. (The GED tests--general education development--provide adults who did not

KIND WORDS FROM MNOET CLIENTS

Making a difference

By Diane Ladoucer

I cannot express how grateful and thankful I am to have received funding through the MNO Midland Branch. I did not have any money to upgrade my education, which I needed, being a single parent. Jo-anne Parent helped me tremendously during that stressful period with the

paperwork so I could get info in time. I had not been in school for 30 years so going to college was a big deal for me. Everybody encouraged me. I now have a part-time job as dietary aide at the hospital.

Thank-you so much Métis Nation of Ontario; you have made a difference in my life.

Strong winds from the east

By **Scott Parent**

On Aug 01, 2011, I departed on a 14' coast runner stand up paddleboard (SUP) that I had named "Papanaatyhianoncoe", from Lion's Head Harbour. I set out at 6:00 A.M. and paddled out to Gun Point. There, I spent an hour observing the weather, and open water conditions. The winds were strong, around 10 to 12 knots out of the northwest. Weather was in a stable period.

I set out from Gun Point sometime after 7:00 A.M., toward an east heading. Though it was east, my actual line of paddle calibrated as northeast power zigs and southeast paddle surf zags. Points along the Bruce Peninsula soon appeared as islands. I used the Isthmus Bay as a tail sight reference. Only Cape Croker and Griffith Island south of the Cape were visible by mid-afternoon. Cape Croker was almost out of view when Christian Island appeared far to the southeast. I paddled on a supportive swell over most of the distance. By late afternoon, Cape Croker had disappeared, and only the distant Christian Island was visible. I used the visible sight reference of Christian Island, with my memory of Cape Croker's location, and triangulated where I thought the Westerns should be. The swell had augmented into choppy peak waves as strong north and west winds converged.

Sometime during early dusk, I reckoned the Westerns' lighthouse on Double Top Island, to the east. It would be a long while yet before I actually reached the Westerns. I suited up and secured my paddle with a line. Though the winds were high, weather was quite stable and the water temps were warm. At late



▲ Images from Scott Parent's paddle across Georgian Bay.

dusk, the lighthouse beacon became visible. Over the next hour or so, multiple lighthouse and buoy lights along the eastern shore and southern islands came into view. A half hour of resting in the falling night, upon the "moshing" liquid bull, had rendered me a little south. I had adjusted my direction toward my beacon and paddled onward into a strong wind. (The Westerns' buoy had marked 17 knot gusts that night.) I fixed my sight on the beacon, counting as it disappeared in the black night behind the peaks and troughs of the dark water. Because the beacon only illuminates every 10 seconds, there would be many extended periods between sightings. As a heading I would choose a random star above the lighthouse, and change stars as the hours of the night passed.

After a long crossing, I was

underneath the Westerns' lighthouse riding out the peaks and troughs. With my headlamp, I could see the granite boulders underwater. I knelt on the Papanaatyhianoncoe, in search of an exit site. I paddled into the fold between the two isles of Double Top, and threw my dry bags high on the main island. Then I jumped in the waves and escorted the board and paddle onto the island in a crash landing. As I was securing the board, the waves toyed with my belongings by swiping them back into the water. The next day I saw that the waves would have to climb four meters up the shore to reach my bags. I stopped my SPOT device (A "SPOT" connects a smartphone to a global satellite network that lets you send messages and GPS coordinates from virtually anywhere on the

planet.) and checked my phone for reception. I found "ok" reception with a tower on the island. My arrival time was around 3:30 A.M. I explored the island under the charming haunt of the lighthouse beacon and a wealth of stars. The warm summer winds and high waves roared about me. After a while, I lay down to sleep.

A few hours later I awoke to calm weather and flat water. It would be another hot summer day. I swam at Double Top and paddled up the chain of the Western group. I explored a couple of the islands and paddled further northeast toward Frying Pan Island. This 15 km line had a supportive tail wind with calm water, and I arrived at the north end of Frying Pan around 4:30 P.M. I camped out my second night on the

shore of Frying Pan, and ate all I could eat at Henry's Fish Restaurant, having completed my crossing of Georgian Bay at Henry's.

Over the next few days I paddled south from Frying Pan to Manitou. From Manitou, I paddled to the Gilford Rocks; to the Pine Island chain; across the Gull Rocks; and, south to the Giants Tomb. Then from the Giants Tomb, I paddled east over to Beckwith Island. Here I portaged across Beckwith, and continued paddling over to Christian. Then I continued south into the Nottawasaga where I completed my sojourn at Wasaga Beach that evening.

I paddled over the course of five days, unable to paddle day three, due to strong winds from the east carrying a persistent rain. I was paddling with a Werner bent shaft paddle. I highly recommend the use of this paddle on long distance runs, due to its light weight, and extended purchase on paddle strokes. I was using a SPOT tracking device that allowed friends to monitor my progress along the distances. I saw dolostone cliffs, expanses of inland freshwater sea in action, granite island groups and shallow passages, as well as pine stands upon pink islands surrounded by open water, long vegetated dune islands, and the world's longest fresh water beach. I swam, cliff jumped, fished, and dove, not to mention the capsizing, and graceless fin snags along the shallow shorelines of Wasaga. I experienced a wealth of weather intimately, and met interesting people, including family I had not previously known.

Scott Parent is the son of MNO citizen, Jo-Anne Parent, who works in the MNO office in Midland.

More on this voyage at: www.markscraver.wordpress.com/2011/12/02/5-day-georgian-bay-sup-trip-report-by-scott-parent

Think, reflect and dream

from page 23

Proving that he is a well-rounded and intelligent young man, Tesar made this interesting point: "The modern axiom that a degree in the liberal arts does not provide an obvious foundation for today's careers is absolutely true, but it is a consolation, not a curse; who are more likely to change things than those who do not have an investment in the way things currently are? In a world that can no longer exist in its current formulation, its best chance for the future is not a collection of rapacious business majors struggling to learn Mandarin, but people who think, reflect, and dream, whose palettes possess colours we have yet to see."

The entire valedictory address may be read at the link below, or watched on YouTube. It's worth your time. - Linda

www.ukings.ca/2012-valedictory-address



There are many great careers in mining in such areas as business, camp services, remediation, training, trades, as well as a whole host of other exciting jobs.

The Métis Nation of Ontario's new **Métis Northern Mining Strategy** will provide funding to 30 eligible students for the next three years. To qualify for this support your education or training must be relevant to a career in mining. The MNO Northern Mining Strategy can fund college, university and graduate programs.

Applications will be considered in September and work placements at a mining company will be considered a requirement of the program.

Scott Carpenter / MNO Manager of Projects and Partnerships
scottc@metisnation.org or **705-527-9363**

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



▲ Hank Rowlinson (standing) instructs would-be voyageurs at Vincent Massey Park in Ottawa.

Portage in the park

Voyageur Games demonstrated on National Aboriginal Day

On June 21, 2012 Métis across the Homeland celebrated National Aboriginal Day. In Ottawa, this included a four-day Solstice Festival in Vincent Massey Park. During this festival Métis volunteers and Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) staff members staged the Métis games. These games, which are a popular part of MNO Annual General Assemblies and other special events, offer participants the chance

to learn about Métis culture and have fun at the same time! The Métis games feature a series of contests based on the lifestyle and work of the Métis voyageurs. They include relay races, carrying weights to simulate the arduous portages that voyageurs once endured, as well as tests of strength using traditional Métis sashes. Hundreds of students from Ottawa schools participated on National Aboriginal Day and in the

following days members of the general public also took part. MNO staff and volunteers operated an information tent and distributed educational and promotional items. Métis volunteers and MNO staff facilitating the Métis games and working in the MNO information tent were Hank Rowlinson, Scott Rowlinson, Guylaine Morin-Cleroux, Carmen Pregent, Shannon Davis and Marguerite Paulin.

MÉTIS HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Oshawa Métis Heritage Festival draws crowds

On June 23rd and 24th the MNO Oshawa & Durham Region Métis Council (ODRMC) hosted its sixth Annual Métis Heritage Celebration at Memorial Park in Oshawa. Robert Pilon, President of the ODRMC, estimated that about 2,000 people attended the weekend event. Métis entertainers included Ontario's own Alicia Blore and Rajan Anderson, as well as JJ Lavallee and his band. A youth tent with activities for the young, traditional story-telling, interesting pre-

senters, and historical artefacts on display kept everyone entertained. Of special interest were the authentic 26 ft birch-bark voyageur canoe built by master canoe maker Marcel Labelle, a teepee painted by renowned Métis artist Dennis Weber, and a real, working, Red River cart made by craftsman Armand Jerome. "Our goal is to celebrate the Métis culture," said Mr. Pilon. "It's important because there are 2,300 Métis people just in the Durham Region."



▲ Members of the Olivine Bousquet Métis Dancers perform at Memorial Park in Oshawa.

CONGRATS



▲ Nicolas Deschatelets

Another successful Métis graduate

Orlenda and Nicole Deschatelets of Sturgeon Falls are pleased to announce the graduation of their son, **Nicolas Deschatelets**, from Laurentian University in Sudbury, Ontario. Nicolas was very grateful to receive financial assistance from the Métis Nation of Ontario to complete his Bachelor in Specialized Physical Education and Health (4 years) and his Bachelor of Education Degree in June, 2012. Nicolas has accepted a teaching position in the Toronto area with the "Conseil Scolaire du District Catholique Centre Sud" starting in September, 2012. Proud grandparents are Donat and Pauline Seguin.

50 GOLDEN YEARS



▲ PCMNO Senator Gerry Bedford and his wife Carol renew their vows with Elvis impersonator, Reverend Dorian Arthur Baxter.

A hunka hunka burnin' Golden Anniversary



On July 21st, 2012, PCMNO Senator **Gerry Bedford** and his wife **Carol** were surprised by their daughter Coral with a 50th anniversary poolside party in their backyard. Coral's husband, Darryl, and their son, "Sir" Carter, were in attendance along with approximately 60 friends and family members. Carol and Gerry renewed their vows with Elvis impersonator, Reverend Dorian Arthur Baxter—a special surprise known only to Coral and one other person.

SAULT STE. MARIE

SSM's Métis Dance Club performs at Passport to Unity

Based on a story from www.Sootoday.com by **Donna Hopper**

Passport to Unity, presented annually by the Sault Community Career Centre, was a great success again this year. On the third and final day of the event, cultural foodies flocked to the Essar Centre to sample tasty offerings from around the globe. Sushi from Japan, perogies from the Ukraine, natas from Portugal, pupusas from Latin America, and pirukad from Estonia, aptly complemented a variety of cultural entertainment that included the Métis Dance Club's youth dance troupe (above). Vendors offered an array of arts and crafts as well as services that included photography, healing message, local festival information, henna body paint and children's crafts. One of the largest and most interesting displays was from Algoma 1812 and the Ermatinger-Clergue National Historic Site. Sandra Rousseau, whose recently self-published book, *American Attempt to Take*

Canada: War of 1812-1814, explains the war as it applied to Sault Ste. Marie, St. Joseph Island and Mackinac Island, was also on hand. "I had four ancestors who were in that war between Mackinac Island and St. Joseph Island," said Rousseau. "Because of that, I already knew a lot of this story. I discovered that most people only know the short version--that we went over to Mackinac Island and took the island without firing a shot. But they don't know we actually had to move there and stay for three years to hold the fort. Also, we had to fight off 1,500 Americans who wanted the fort back, and we only had 295 men who were successful in beating them." Rousseau's book is available at Coles, the Art Gallery of Algoma and the Arts Council of Sault Ste. Marie and District.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Walking her own path

Julie Vermette details in her own words how the Métis Self Employment Program allowed her to succeed at personal goals and establish a life she never thought possible

By **Julie Vermette**

Before I applied for the Self-Employment Program at the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), I was a graduate from George Brown College and a part-time contractor working as a Life Skills Coach. While I found some fulfillment as a life skills coach, I had a desire to expand, growing my own business that included life skills. I didn't want to work full-time for someone else and I think I have always had more of an entrepreneur spirit. Also, I found by working only part-time on a contract basis, I didn't have the resources to do the marketing that it takes to build a business, nor did I have the financial backing to support myself while handling the time and expenses of business startup.

“**The financial support was valuable in allowing me the time for startup, such as building my website, developing my programs...**”

Another challenge was that I was not entirely clear on how to go about sharing my message in my business. While my business plan reflected what I generally wanted to do, I wasn't completely confident in what I was offering.

In 2011, I applied for the Self-Employment Assistance Program, through the MNO Education and Training Branch and was accepted.

Part of the agreement in the Self-Employment Program was that I needed a business mentor. I found the regular conversations I had with my mentor valuable in helping me gain clarity and focus on what I really wanted. It also helped in stressful times when I felt discouraged and frustrated. She was able to give ideas I might never have thought of. By careful reflection, I acquired a clearer picture of my business and the message I wanted to convey in my work. My mentor has become my associate and I guess you could say we are an alliance, helping each other in business. My first retreat was very successful and helped to increase my confidence substantially. The positive feedback helped me to know what worked in my program, and what I needed to improve.

The financial support was valuable in allowing me the time for startup, such as building my website, developing my programs, getting more familiar with the social media, marketing, etc. These things are very time consuming and had I not had the financial support, I would have found it very challenging to complete the tasks in due time.



I own and operate Wind Whisper Retreats and Workshops. I am a retreat coordinator and group facilitator. I offer workshops to help people, mostly women, find their voices and connect with their spirits and to walk their own paths. My main message in my work is self-awareness and self-empowerment--connecting to spirit. There is a great need in our world today and my desire is to be part of this movement--to make a positive difference. My work is offered to both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.

I have been aware of many women's issues since I was very young and felt a passion for something different, something more self-

▲ **Julie Vermette owns and runs Wind Whisperer Retreats.**

empowering for women. Much of what I saw I just could not accept. This work encompasses who I am and what I am passionate about. I also have a love for nature and feel its healing power when outside. I do retreats to allow women to have a place to get away from everyday life to connect with nature and gain some tools to include in their healing journeys.

What I'm experiencing is that when in business for yourself you need to love what you do and believe in yourself and what you do one hundred percent. I have reached a stage in my life where I need to be

who I am to express my purpose in this life. The challenges are not behind me--not by a long shot. I still have a long way to go and much work to do and I find the most important thing is to surround myself with people who support what I am doing and understand my perspective. The most rewarding aspect of what I am doing is following my own path for the purpose of making a positive difference in others' lives. I am very grateful for the help the MNO has given me.

For information on Julie's Retreats: www.windwhisperretreats.com.

Kind Words from MNOET Clients

Reaching our full potential

An MNOET client offers thanks for the "love and support"

By **Aqua Rennie**

I am writing to offer my biggest and greatest thanks for the funding I received for my education. I am happily working in my field of study and thought it appropriate to thank those who work within the organization that supports Aboriginal youth.

I was funded for the Theatre Arts program at Algonquin College and for the Acting for Film and Television program at Humber College. I graduated from both colleges on the Dean's List and appreciated having the opportunity to study without financial stressors. This allowed me to reach my full potential. I'm grateful I was able to devote all my time to my studies, as so many of

“**I am proudly working within my community, as an artist, role model, and support to those who are struggling on their journey as I did in the past.**”

the students I studied with were torn between giving it their all and maintaining a part-time job.

I am currently working at Native Earth Performing Arts as the Community Liaison. I fulfilled my goal of working at an Aborigi-

nal arts company, and it's the oldest professional Aboriginal arts company in Canada to boot! I am proudly working within my community, as an artist, role model, and support to those who are struggling on their journey as I did in the past.

My hopes and dreams were made possible through the training initiative at the Métis Nation of Ontario. I am a proud Métis woman and look forward to continuing my work within my Aboriginal community. I am truly grateful for all the love and support I received from the Métis Nation of Ontario.

Aqua Rennie is the Community Liaison for Native Earth Performing Arts. www.nativeearth.ca.

Kind Words from MNOET Clients

Hard work and burning passion meet success

By **Chantel Gravel**

Thank you for selecting me for the Métis Nation of Ontario bursary award. I am truly grateful that all of my hard work and fire burning passion was recognized through my essay. As a hair stylist I encounter different situations each day that I must problem solve in a timely matter. Throughout the last year I had many opportunities to see the many sides hairstyling offers.

“**I also worked on two local movie productions last year: Citizen Gangster and Fox Fire. It was my job to style all background actors and actresses into 1950s styles...**”

I styled wigs for the Canadian Cancer Society, which was later featured in the Canadian Hairdresser magazine. I volunteered at the International Women's Day fashion

show which displayed women's fashion and achievements over the last century. This event was a huge success. I also worked on two local movie productions last year: *Citizen Gangster* and *Fox Fire*. It was my job to style all background actors and actresses into 1950s styles. Most mornings consisted of 50+ background actors with only two hours to complete. I've also gone to many hair shows--one hosted by Wella in Sudbury.

This past January I had the opportunity of a lifetime. Joico/Iso were offering for the first time ever, a Caribbean cruise with education called, "Destination Education". Over seven days we had six classes teaching us new hair cutting techniques, new colour placements, and how to bring it from Hollywood to your salon. We also had a three hour seminar with world renowned hair-stylist, Tabatha Coffee.

I plan on furthering my education in the future by specializing in colour. Once again, thank you for selecting me as the recipient for the MNO bursary award.



Native Earth is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year by moving to the Regent Park Arts & Cultural Centre. As a fund-raiser, seats are being sold in the new venue. The price of a seat is \$300. Native Earth will honour that contribution with a plaque engraved with a name of the donor's choice and in the Indigenous language of the donor's choice. As a charitable, not-for-profit organization Native Earth will issue a tax receipt for your contribution. To purchase a seat contact Aqua at 416-531-1402 or aqua@nativeearth.ca.

Community Consultations on MNO Electoral Code



2012 MNO AGA passed a resolution which sets out a multi-year process to consult MNO citizens

By **Doug Wilson**
Chief Operating Officer
Métis Nation of Ontario

I am writing to provide MNO citizens information on a consultation process that has been initiated on the 2012 MNO Elections generally and the MNO Electoral Code specifically. At the recently held 2012 MNO AGA, the MNO's Chief Electoral Officer presented his *Elections Report*. This report included an overview of the 2012 MNO elections process as well as a series of recommendations for the MNO to consider in relation to future elections. A copy of this report is available at www.metisnation.org.

The 2012 MNO AGA passed a resolution which sets out a multi-year process to consult MNO citizens on the Chief Electoral Officer's report, the 2012 MNO elections and the current MNO Electoral Code. This resolution is attached to this memo as APPENDIX A.

Specifically, the MNO AGA established an independent Committee consisting of Joanne Young (Hamilton/Wentworth Métis

Council), Janine Landry (MNO Youth Council) and Senator Verna Porter. This Committee will be supported by the MNO's Legal Counsel (Jean Teillet) and myself, as the MNO's Chief Operating Officer.

Over the next 8 months, MNO citizens are encouraged to provide their comments, input and suggestions to the Committee about the Chief Electoral Officer's report, the 2012 election, the MNO Electoral Code, etc. Comments can be sent via email to mnoelection@metisnation.org or please feel free to contact members of the Committee directly. All comments received prior to April 30, 2013 will be considered by the Committee when they meet in May 2013.

Based on the comments received, the Committee, with the support of MNO's Legal Counsel and Chief Operating Officer, will prepare a report as well as propose changes to the

MNO Electoral Code. These documents will be tabled with the 2013 MNO AGA and circulated to all MNO citizens for feedback.

From September 2013 to April 2013 (8 months), the Committee will receive input and feedback from MNO citizens to the proposed changes to the MNO Electoral Code. Based on these consultations, the Committee will pre-

pare a Special Business Resolution for the consideration of the 2014 MNO AGA that proposes changes to the MNO Electoral Code.

The 2014 MNO AGA will then consider and vote on these proposed changes. If these changes are adopted, the revised MNO Electoral Code will then be circulated to all MNO citizens. After the 2014 MNO AGA, no additional

changes to the MNO Electoral Code will be considered or made prior to the 2012 MNO Election. The chart below sets out the timeline and deadlines for these consultations.

If you have any questions about the process please feel free to contact me or any member of the Committee.

Date:	Deadline:
September 2012	Consultation process begins
April 30, 2013	Deadline for comments on Chief Electoral Officer Report, 2012 MNO Elections, MNO Electoral Code
2013 MNO AGA	Committee Report tabled with 2013 MNO AGA and circulated to MNO Citizens
September 2013	Consultation Process on proposed changes to MNO Electoral Code begins
April 30, 2014	Deadline for comments on proposed changes to MNO Electoral Code
June 2014	Committee prepares and files Special Business Resolution on proposed changes to MNO Electoral Code for consideration of 2014 MNO AGA
2014 MNO AGA	Considers proposed changes to MNO Electoral Code and revised MNO Electoral Code takes effect
May 2016	Next MNO Elections

OSISKO
HAMMOND REEF GOLD

NEWS BRIEF
Your resource about the Resource

Atmospheric and Acoustic Baseline Results

One of the components that will be assessed as part of the Environmental Assessment for the Hammond Reef Gold Project is the Atmospheric and Acoustic environment. This includes air quality, noise levels and climate.

Osisko has been collecting weather data at the Hammond Reef site since the spring of 2011. Nearby climate stations with longer recording times will also be used to describe the local climate, and a trend analysis will determine how the climate may affect the Project. Existing air quality at the site will be estimated based on information collected by eight long-standing air quality monitoring stations. Existing noise levels will be assumed to be "quiet" which is typical of a rural area in Ontario.

Air and noise specialists will create computer models to estimate the potential changes to air quality and noise levels from the Project.

The air quality assessment will include modelling of the following indicator compounds:

- Particulate matter (PM);
- Oxides of nitrogen (NOX) and nitrogen dioxide (NO2);
- Sulphur dioxide (SO2);
- Carbon monoxide (CO);
- Metals, including antimony, arsenic, beryllium, cadmium, chromium, cobalt, copper, lead, manganese, mercury, nickel, selenium, silver, tellurium, tin and vanadium.

These computer models use Project-specific engineering and design details to predict how the Project could affect air quality and noise levels at specific points of reception. Points of reception are nearby people or wildlife that have been identified during consultation, field work and background research.

We will continue to share the details of our work with you as we move forward in the Project planning process. Please contact us if you have any questions about the Project.

OHRG Weather Station Tower Installation March 24 2011

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MNO's 19th ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SAULT STE. MARIE • AUGUST 26-28, 2012



Full coverage of the MNO's 19th Annual General Assembly on pages 1 and 13-19.



Cultural Activities & Métis Voyageur Games

The Games Métis Play



On August 27, MNO AGA delegates of all ages took part in Métis cultural activities and the Métis Voyageur Games at the Roberta Bondar Pavilion in Sault Ste. Marie.

The proceedings featured athletic skill events representing the historic activities of Métis voyageurs during the fur trade era. Specific components included air rifle, hatchet throw, pole

carry and sling shot.

Those present also enjoyed demonstrations of traditional dance and children's games, presented by the MNO Summer Youth Cultural Program students as well as workshops from MNO staff on traditional cultural activities such as fiddle making, bannock making, finger weaving, beading and embroidery.

Crews from Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN) were on hand to film events for a new show called "Warrior Games".

In the evening, the MNO Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council hosted a delicious pig roast accompanied by local Sault Ste. Marie area entertainment: the Métis Dancers and the popular country band, the Wild Turkeys.



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