

FALL/WINTER 2006

MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

THE PUBLICATION OF THE MÉTIS NATION

OF ONTARIO SINCE 1997

MUSIC AWARDS

MÉTIS SINGER ANDREA MENARD
WINS BIG AT THE 2006 CANADIAN
ABORIGINAL MUSIC AWARDS

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LOUIS RIEL DAY

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HOMELAND TO REMEMBER
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TRACKING MÉTIS ANCESTORS
FROM THE HIGHLANDS TO
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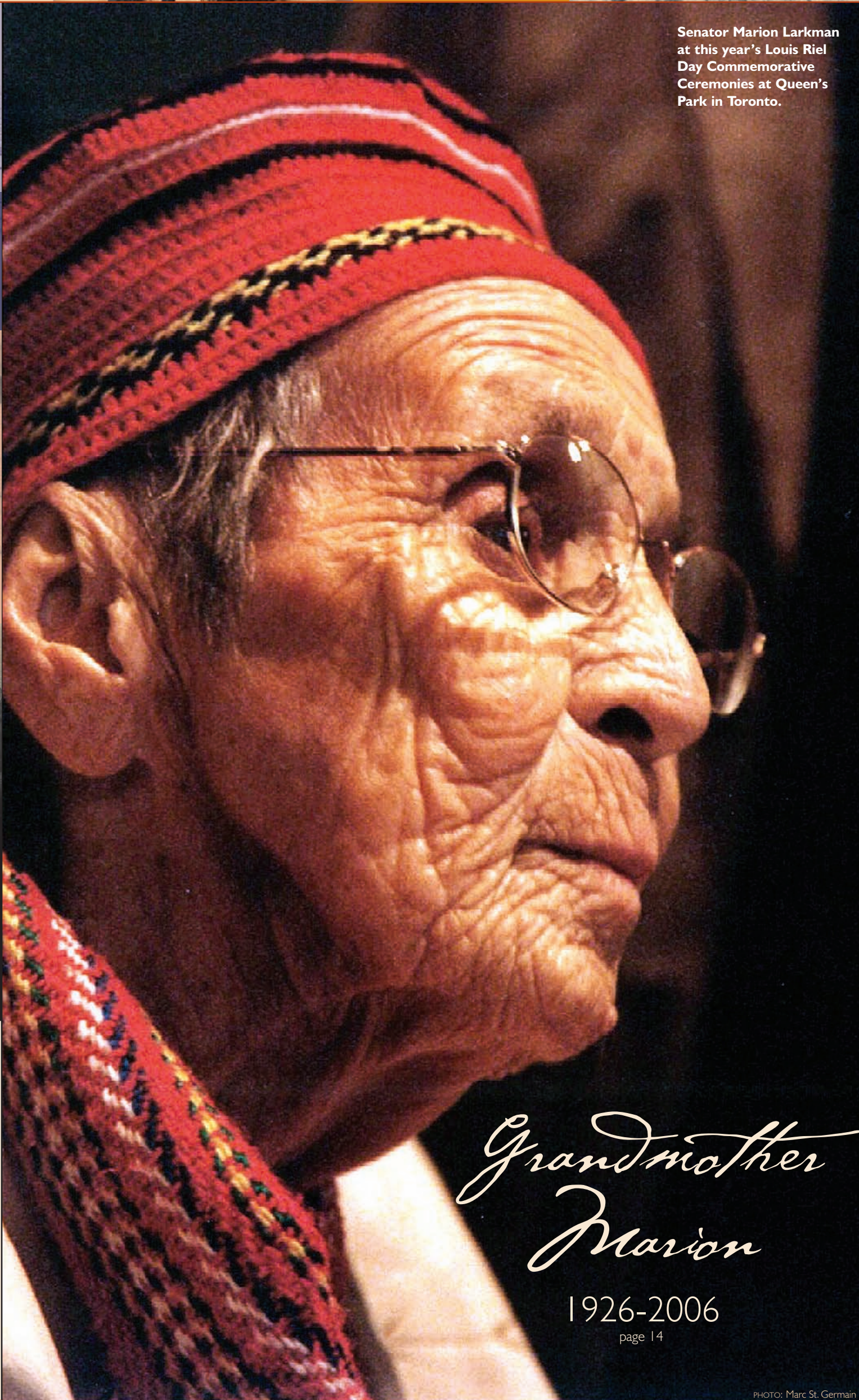
NEW ARRIVALS

NEW LITTLE MÉTIS
ARE SPROUTING UP
ALL OVER ... PAGE 2



IN THE LAND OF THE CONDOR

THIS SUMMER,
11 MÉTIS YOUTHS FROM
ONTARIO SPENT 14 DAYS IN
OTAVALO, ECUADOR DOING
COMMUNITY SERVICE IN AN
INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY
.... PAGES 9-11



Senator Marion Larkman
at this year's Louis Riel
Day Commemorative
Ceremonies at Queen's
Park in Toronto.

*Grandmother
Marion*

1926-2006

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PHOTO: Marc St. Germain



Mr. and Mrs. Pasquale Carelli, a Métis family from Region 9, wish to announce the birth of their darling daughter, **Marly Carelli**.

Pasquale refers to Marly as 'my little bundle of joy'. As you can see she is already taking the world by the tail, flirting for everyone to see.

Congratulations to the entire Carelli family! We wish you and Marly a happy and healthy life.



Congratulations to the family of **Sadie Patricia Humphries**. She was born at 12:51 a.m. on July 25, 2006, and weighed in at 7 lbs 14 oz.

Proud grandma is Susan Johnston, Administrative Clerk, MNO Ottawa. Sadie is the daughter of Stephanie Johnston, the former receptionist at the MNO head office in Ottawa, and Trevor Humphries.

Both Sadie and Stephanie are healthy and very happy.



Senator Gerry Bedford with grandson, Carter, daughter Coral (Credit River Métis Council Women's Rep) and her husband Darryl Dodds.

Carter Shawn Bedford Dodds has been well decked out by his Métis family. His sash is a gift from Senator Reta Gordon; his toque was made by Anne Scofield (wife of Region 9 Councillor Eric Scofield); the moccasins were a gift from Senator Lois McCallum and were made by Lynne Picotte.

He'll go far with a name like that



Roxanne and Kris Coulombe announce the birth of their son **Matthew Riel Coulombe**, born August 25th, 2006 at 8:27 a.m. at Brantford General Hospital. Matthew weighed in at 6 lbs. and 14 oz. and has dark grey-blue eyes and a lot of dark hair (for now).

The proud and happy grandparents are Sharon McRann, Kris' mother; Candice and Dave Coulombe, Kris'

father and stepmother, and Wilma Hildebrand. What lucky children to have three grandmothers!

Both Kris and his father Dave Coulombe are staunch and committed members of the Hamilton Wentworth Council and work very hard for this community. We all wish them health and happiness with the new addition to their family.

— Kathleen Lannigan

Very loving and protective big sister Telley (Chantelle), with little brother Matthew Riel Coulombe.

OBITUARY



CLARA CECILIA BURNHAM

In Loving Memory of **Clara Cecilia Burnham** (née Demuynck), 96 years, Saturday, October 7th, 2006, at Pioneer Manor, Sudbury.

Wife of John C. Burnham, predeceased. Loving mother of Loreena Richardson (Fred) of Warton, Carol of Warren, Dorothy (Myron Martin, predeceased) of Sudbury, John, predeceased (Donna), Fred (Debra) of Copper Cliff, Gerry (Jude) of Sudbury, Robert (Virginia), Florida.

Cherished grandmother of 14 grandchildren and of nine great grandchildren. Dear daughter of Henry and Mary (Vanderheyden) Demuynck. Dear sister of the late Alice Sullivan, George, Joe, Harry, Earnest, Alfred Demuynck, Mary Gainy, Theresa Jacobsen, Bill Demuynck, Margaret Kelly, Thomas Demuynck. Sadly missed by many nieces and nephews. Interment St. Charles Cemetery.

CORRECTION

On page 6 of the AGA Special Edition of *Métis Voyageur* we made a mistake. The young girl in the top right photo is Rebekah Trudel, not Moreau. We apologize to all concerned.

THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO'S 14th ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

has been awarded to the Thunder Bay Métis Council and is scheduled to run from July 9th to July 13th, 2007.

Now is the time to start planning your week in Thunder Bay. As in 2004, the event will be held at Chippewa Park on the shores of beautiful Lake Superior. For more news on the AGA watch upcoming issues of the *Métis Voyageur* and the MNO web site: www.metisnation.org



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Voyageur Deadlines
deadline: date of events:
January 1st 15 Feb–15 Apr
March 1st 15 Apr–15 Jun
May 1st 15 Jun–15 Oct
September 1st 15 Oct–15 Dec
November 1st 15 Dec–15 Feb



COMMUNITY Activities

GREY-OWEN SOUND MÉTIS COUNCIL

The Grey-Owen Sound Council has **relocated to a new bigger and better site** in Owen Sound in order to provide bigger and better service to our community. The new address is:

380 9th Street East,
Owen Sound, ON,
N4K 1P1

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO - TIMMINS

I wish to take a moment to thank Andy Lefebvre for the generous donation of a harvested moose for our MNO-T community freezer. Andy harvested a bull moose and the meat has been distributed to those in need within our community. For more information please call us at 705-264-3939.

— **Richard Aubin**,
Diabetes Coordinator, Timmins

THUNDER BAY MÉTIS COUNCIL

BY CAMERON BURGESS



On October 25th a birthday party was held in honour of Edith McLeod by the local Aborig-

inal community. Edith was a founding member of the Native Housing Program, Thunder Bay Indian Friendship Centre, Ontario Native Women's Association and the Métis Nation of Ontario.

It was Edith's 90th birthday, and a wonderful afternoon filled with some roasting and toasting by many friends and family. Senator Bob McKay presented Edith with a beautiful painting of two polar bears on behalf of the MNO.

Announcements

WEDDING BELLS:

Congratulations on your wedding **John McKinnon** and **Kathy Hunter** July 29/06 in Aurora, ON.

CONGRATS:

Congratulations to **Michel Daoust**, **Jacques Mayer**, **Arnel Guillemette**, and **Gaston Savage** on their ordination to Permanent Deacon from your fellow Deacon, Raymond Aubin P. D..

BIRTHDAY WISHES:

Happy 60th Birthday to Robert McKinnon of Uxbridge, Ontario, on December 13th, 2006.

NEW ARRIVAL:

Congratulations to the family of **Chloe Evelyn Cargill**, born April 25, 2006 to Heather (née McKinnon) and Kevin Cargill of Uxbridge, ON.

WELCOME!

We would like to welcome the newest member of the LTC team, **Sue Wilson**. Sue will be working in Midland with Michelle Foster-Millard as a half-time LTC Coordinator. You can reach Sue at: suew@metisnation.org.

WE'RE PROUD OF YOU!

The Métis Nation of Ontario Training Initiatives, Region 6, would like to congratulate **Velvet Johnson** on her nomination to receive the Thomson Nelson Scholarship award in recognition of her academic achievement. Velvet graduated from the Aboriginal Studies Certificate program with honours, securing a grade point average of 3.98. Velvet has expressed a great desire to continue her education and I am sure that she will succeed in any future academic endeavours. Congratulations Velvet!

LOUIS RIEL DAY 2006



PHOTO: Marc St. Germain

Senator Roland St. Germain, Toronto City Councillor Jane Pitfield, Anishnabek Nation Grand Council Chief John Beaucage and Métis Nation of Ontario President Tony Belcourt prepare to raise the Métis flag at this year's Louis Riel Day Commemorative Ceremonies at Toronto City Hall.

Flying the Métis Colours

The day Louis Riel was hanged, November 16th, 1885, in Regina, Saskatchewan, was by all accounts a cold clear day. Since then 121 November 16ths have gone by and whether it rained, snowed or the sun shined, Métis people have recalled that tragic day with heavy hearts.

— BY MARC ST. GERMAIN

This year's Riel Day Commemorative Ceremonies in Toronto brought out dozens of Métis, First Nation and non-Aboriginal supporters to remember the great man, despite rain and high winds.

At Toronto City Hall, Senator, Roland St. Germain, opened the morning ceremonies with a smudge and some words about the doubled-edged nature of November 16th for Métis people.

"This is a kind of a celebration because we have our flag flown at City Hall and at Queen's Park," said Senator St. Germain. "But it is also a very, very solemn occasion for Métis. One hundred and twenty one years ago we stood and watched our leader, Louis Riel, hung for treason—a man who did nothing but fight for the rights of his people."

Special guest, Grand Council Chief of the Anishinabek Nation, John Beaucage, spoke about the long relationship between the Anishinabek Nation and the Métis Nation. "It's a very strong relationship," he said.

Chief Beaucage also painted a picture of the events of Riel's life from a different perspective. "Our communities have stories of Louis Riel travelling here to

Ottawa along the waterways of the Great Lakes. Many canoes, many people in those canoes, who could speak many languages." Chief Beaucage talked about the different people Riel would meet up with along the way from the west to the east. "[Riel] stayed with our people. Our people looked after them and wished them well along the way. And we were one—we were one family."

Next, Métis Nation of Ontario President, Tony Belcourt, paid tribute to the Métis citizens of Toronto for "their good work, their powerful work and for creating awareness in GTA that would lead to such a great honour as having our flag flown at Toronto City Hall on Riel Day."

President Belcourt also spoke of the enduring spirit of the Métis people despite Riel's fate. "It is Riel's legacy and everything he fought for...that has allowed our nation to continue. After he was hanged and John A. Macdonald thought 'well that puts an end to the Métis'—here we are today at this wonderful occasion able to raise our flag at Toronto City Hall."

President Belcourt then read a

On Louis Riel Day Métis Nation of Ontario President Tony Belcourt spoke the following words at the Queen's Park Legislature Building and presented Anishnabek Nation Grand Council Chief John Beaucage with a plaque to commemorate the eight First Nations men hanged with Louis Riel in 1885.

In Remembrance

In memory of the Cree, Saukteaux, Lakota, and Dakota people who suffered, were unjustly imprisoned, or died during Kah Kee Mi Ah'kah-mi'kahk (the Time When Things Went Wrong) including during and after events in 1885 also known as the Métis Northwest Resistance, and honouring in particular the following eight men who were hanged together on the morning of November 27, 1885 in Battleford, SK.

Miserable Man
Bad Arrow

Round the Sky
Wandering Spirit

Itka
Man Without Blood

Iron Body
Little Bear

Presented to
Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief
John Beaucage

In commemoration of the historic Nation-to-Nation relationship
between the Anishinabek Nation and Métis Nation

LOUIS RIEL DAY, NOVEMBER 16TH, 2006

Presented by
President Tony Belcourt
of the

the Métis
Nation of
Ontario

poem written by Louis Riel while he was imprisoned and awaiting his execution. (The poem as well as video and photos from this year's Riel Day ceremonies are available on the MNO website: www.metisnation.org)

The events at City Hall were hosted by long-time Toronto City Councillor Jane Pitfield, who read

a Proclamation by the City of Toronto declaring November 16th Louis Riel Day in the GTA.

After the words of the dignitaries the Métis flag was raised and flew proudly in front of Toronto City Hall for the rest of the day.

The ceremonies then moved to the Queen's Park Legislature

Building where several dozen people mustered on the steps as a strong wind came up and cold rain began to fall. The Todmorden Branch 10 Canadian Legion Colour Guard assembled and lead those gathered through the rain to the flagstaff. The bright blue flag of the Métis was raised in front of the same Legislature that put a \$5000 bounty on the head of Louis Riel just a few generations ago.

The Colour Guard then lead the congregated on a wind-whipped march to the Northwest Rebellion monument. Senator Reta Gordon and National Métis Youth Role Model winner, Dalton Matthias, laid a wreath in front of a framed portrait of Riel at the foot of the monument.

Gary Lipinski, Chair of the PCMNO, asked for a moment of silence and then moved the ceremonies inside the Legislature building.

Inside, President Belcourt took the microphone and recognized a very special person who had just arrived. Senator Marion Larkman was greeted by the crowd with a tremendous round of applause. Everyone was on their feet.

"I am very thankful for this great honour," said Senator Larkman after she gave a short prayer. "We are a big nation and we are growing. And we are only going to grow much more." The spirits of all in attendance were lifted by the presence of this esteemed Elder.

"There was a time when I wouldn't come into this building," President Belcourt went on to say. "It will take a long time for

continued on 13

Aboriginal Service Centre opens at Carleton U.

Carleton Aboriginal Service Centre opens after a long struggle. Community support is still needed to keep Centre thriving

— BY SHEILA GRANTHAM —

The need for an Aboriginal service centre, run by students for students, came from a group of Aboriginal students at Carleton. In the Aboriginal lounge at the university, in between classes, the students talked about what they would do to improve services for the Aboriginal student population.

At the time, the students were already volunteering their time to go to classes to raise awareness of Aboriginal issues and teach students about various aspects of Métis, Inuit and First Nations culture. A few students were volunteering to go to the food bank and retrieve items for the lounge so that Aboriginal students would not feel any stigma or embarrassment attached to them when they were low on food.

We even received a donation of brand new computers, as well as a TV and VCR so we could have movie nights in the lounge. A group of Aboriginal students at Carleton accomplished all of this on a volunteer basis. However, it was very difficult to keep up with everything. Many of the Aboriginal students have other issues to deal with on top of their studies that make it harder to volunteer.

Aboriginal students face such challenges as having a family to



Sheila Grantham jiggging at the grand opening of the Aboriginal Service Centre at Carleton University in Ottawa.

support, needing money to support themselves and put food on the table, as well as stresses back home within their communities. Having only a small group of individuals to provide many volunteer services proved to be an additional challenge. We felt that many of the services could not be retained without an Aboriginal Service Centre.

When we met with the Vice President of Student Services (VPSS) within Carleton University Students' Association (CUSA) in the 2003 school term, we really believed that a service centre was a great route to take. The CUSA representative told us that an Aboriginal Service Centre would have two workers: a coordinator and an administrator, in addition to paid work-study students and volunteers. The service centre would be given a budget based on what the Aboriginal students felt they needed. Funding would provide books and other resources, excursions, talks and events. Instead of students scraping for

donations, all of the money and paid workers would be there. It sounded great! The representative said all that needed to be done was a proposal with a budget attached. I honestly thought it wouldn't be long until we had a centre up and running.

I wrote the proposal with the help of Tom Milne and Kendra Tagoona. After it was done I met again with the representative and somehow everything seemed to be on the backburner and as time went on I lost contact with the VPSS representative. I wasn't ready to let go of everything we had worked for so I continued to contact CUSA. The next school term Tom Milne and I met with the new VPSS and the President of CUSA. More promises were made but nothing came from it until the next school year. With a new president and a new VPSS, CUSA approached the Centre for Aboriginal Culture and Education with a plan for a service centre to be up and running for the 2006/07 school year. The budget was passed based on the original proposal that was written and Tom Milne was hired as the Coordinator for the centre.

Now, the Aboriginal Service Centre is running, but it shares space with REC Hall and has only one worker doing the work of both the coordinator and administrator. In the mean time, I myself graduated from Carleton last December. However, I am always willing to help out at the centre, and I encourage other Aboriginal students at Carleton, as well as people from the local Aboriginal community, to do so as well. I truly believe it is up to us to do what we can to support it, so that one day the centre will be what the Aboriginal students at Carleton envisioned and worked so hard to create.

MÉTIS COMMUNITY HARVEST 2006:

Dryden flies the Métis flag proudly

BY AIVINA CIMON

The Northwest Métis Nation Council President would like to send a very special thank-you to everybody who helped and came to support our harvest feast on Saturday, October 28th. It was a success!

We are starting a social evening every second Saturday of the month at 8 p.m. at the Moose Hall lounge. Come out and enjoy, meet new friends, learn to jig and square dance.

On Memorial Day our veteran, Bertha Masecar, placed a wreath at the epitaph at City Hall. On Louis Riel Day, November 16th the Métis flag flew at the town hall in Dryden and also

in Vermillion Bay at the municipal office. Open house was held in both communities.

Meetings are every third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at the office. Remember to call the office with changes of address or phone number.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and the Happiest of New Years, a very successful new year to all community councils out there, to our president and PCMNO as well as the staff at head office in Ottawa May your wisdom and knowledge keep on leading us.

Alvina Cimon is the President of the Northwest Métis Nation in Dryden.

DRYDEN MÉTIS MAKE THE SCENE:



Just thought you would like to see the pictures of the Home and Trade Show, that was held in Dryden Sept 7th, 8th, and 9th, 06. It was a good show and just under 2,000 people attended. The media gave us great exposure. BY CAROL P. HANSLIP

SUNSET COUNTRY MÉTIS COUNCIL:

Manitoba talents visit Métis council

BY CHARMAINE LANGLAIS & ANNE-MARIE ARMSTRONG

Sunset Country Métis (Fort Frances) would like to share with readers some of our cultural celebrations.

We all remember Sierra Noble from the 2006 Annual General Assembly in Sault Ste. Marie and how she taught us to jig, even Tony. Sierra visited Fort Frances in 2005 and we were pleased that she returned to this area. On September 22, Sierra and her guitarist, Danny Flett, introduced two schools to Métis music, history and culture. Her presentations focussed on motivating students to set goals and find personal gifts. Sierra proved to be a very powerful speaker and role model for students, someone they could relate to. On the evening of September 22, we

hosted a family dance in Rainy River. Sierra played, jiggled and shared stories about Métis music and dance. Sierra was well received by all.

On September 23, a free jigging workshop was offered and 20 participants attended. Young and old were taught the Red River Jig and a few advanced steps. A dinner and dance followed with approximately 100 people in attendance. Sierra was joined by a six-year-old jigger, Michael "Slick" Harris, from Winnipeg. "Slick" is the World's Junior Men's Jigging Champion. Sierra maintained a running narrative with the audience and her love of Métis heritage, music and people in general, was obvious. Sierra is gracious in acknowledging others and highlighting their talents. Throughout the evening, she continued to entertain and



Six-year old World Junior Jigging Champion Michael "Slick" Harris.

had most, if not all those in attendance, tapping their toes under the table. Sierra was nominated for an Aboriginal Peoples Choice Music Award.

In September, the Health Branch and citizens visited the Kay-Nah-Chi-Wah-Nung Historical Centre, which is a world-class museum. As a group, we explored the nature trails, participated in a sacred ceremony and visited



Fiddle phenomena Sierra Noble is welcomed to Sunset Country with an appropriately decorated cake.

numerous archaeological sites. After lunch, we observed the exhibits of the interpretative centre, which accurately detailed the wildlife and depicted the story of our ancestors' way of life. Everyone enjoyed the day and found the visit to be both interesting and intriguing.

Ongoing programs include an exercise class on Wednesdays at 11 a.m.; a Kids Being Kids event

on Thursdays from 10-11:30 a.m.; traditional beading and game nights and community kitchens. Everyone is welcome. Call 807-274-1386 for more information.

Charmaine Langlais is the MNO's Health Services Coordinator and Anne-Marie Armstrong is the Aboriginal Healthy Babies Healthy Children Coordinator in the Sunset Country Métis Council Fort Frances office.

COMMUNITY NEWS:



Senator Leora Wilson (left) presents Heritage Community Recognition Award to Patsy Lou Wilson McArthur (right) of the Saguingue Métis Council.

Métis Historian Honoured

— BY SENATOR LEORA WILSON —

The September General Meeting of the Grey-Owen Sound Métis Council, held at M'Wikwedong Friendship Centre in Owen Sound, was also a celebration of achievement, when Patsy Lou Wilson McArthur of Port Elgin was presented with the Heritage Community Achievement Award. This award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to cultural heritage preservation in their communities.

Patsy Lou Wilson McArthur is a retired school teacher who has made it her mandate to bring to light the contribution of the Métis people who arrived in this area in the early 1800's. She has become a competent spokesperson for her historic heritage through Métis history presentations made to organizations in this area.

Her tireless fact-finding adventures have brought awareness to the historic Métis communities in the Lake Huron and Georgian Bay areas, previously unobserved in local history books. She has gathered a remarkable amount of information and because of the dedication to her heritage, there is now a publication exclusively following the paths of the Métis in this area. The book, *Historic Saugeen and Its Métis People*, by the Saguingue Métis Council of Southampton, and edited by Patsy Lou Wilson McArthur, is exceptionally detailed in stories and pictures of early Métis families.

Pat's research and enthusiasm has proven invaluable. She actively spearheaded the interest group that resulted in the placement of a heritage plaque at the mouth of the Saugeen River in 2004, recognizing the Hudson's Bay Post that occupied that spot in the early 1800's.

She previously spent some time at the MNO headquarters in Ottawa, in the Registry researching the genealogy of those applying for Métis citizenship. Having personally documented the movements of many early Métis families, her knowledge is now available to others. (See book review page 19.)

MÉTIS COMMUNITY HARVEST 2006 – MIDLAND:

RENDEZVOUS '06

— BY LOUISE GOULDING —

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU! As Chair of the Métis Rendezvous Committee I send many thanks to all who attended the 2006 Métis Rendezvous in Lafontaine, ON. Without people like you there would be no community.

Thank you to the many, many volunteers who assisted in making this *Rendezvous* such a great success. It is only with people like yourselves that we are able to move this great Nation forward.

Thank you to the many donors for your generous donations. The food donations were unbelievable, allowing us to feed over 450 people at dinner. It simply would have been impossible without you all!

Thank you to the many demonstrators for teaching our culture, our heritage and our knowledge to all those present.

Thank you to the harvesters who were able to harvest bear, ducks, geese and fish for our citizens in need. It is so greatly appreciated.

A personal thank-you to the committee, what a great job you all did! Congratulations. Thank you everyone and see you all next year!

Louise Goulding is the Captain of the Hunt for Region 7 and Chair of the 2006 Métis Rendezvous Committee.



PHOTOS BY: Scott Carpenter



MNO COMMUNITY SPORT INITIATIVE:

Métis take over Christie Pits

On Sunday, September 17th, the Region 8 Sport Initiative held its second "Find Your Sport - Try Them All" event. It was one of the last hot days of summer with temperatures climbing into the high 20s. It was the best participant turn out so far for the Toronto Sport Initiative. The event took place at Christie Pits, a large sunken downtown park that offers everything you would want—soccer fields, baseball diamonds, basketball nets, a wading pool, play structures; the list goes on.

BY HEATHER PURDON

The day arrived and the Métis flag was hoisted in the air at the MNO-ON-THE-GO sign-up area. We had participants of every age and background. A few people stopped to watch the game. Some of them even joined in at break and the team sizes seemed to get bigger and bigger throughout the day.

The objective of getting people active was achieved. The donated water was flowing and people were excited to be outside on what seemed to be the last real day of summer. After all, it was the middle of September, how many more 28 degree days did we have left?

The soccer game ran long as most people were happy to keep playing. Although the pinafores I had made for the 'teams' were a little hot, (I guess a wool-blend was not the greatest fabric to use.) I thought it best to use them because most people did not know each other. We had the



green team and the blue team. I believe the blue team won, but I'll say that most people didn't really notice once the game was over. The old adage, "it's not about winning" was truly put into effect on that day.

Next, we moved on to softball. In this instance, all family members came and participated; the whistles and rules seemed to fall by the wayside and a fun time was had by all. I had gotten a t-ball hitter so that younger children could play too. It was terrific to see a little one make a great hit, and it was even better to see par-



Region 8 Community Sport Leader Heather Purdon hoists the colours.

ents cheering and encouraging their child.

I would like to honour the volunteers who helped me make the day run so smoothly. I had Ralph Cherneko, whistle in hand, refereeing the soccer game. He did a great job and was happy to bring his valued skills as coach and referee to the Sport Initiative. I also had Natalie, a student volunteer who helped with sign-ups and waivers. Both brought an impressive spirit and energy to the day, so thank you both.

The future of the Sport Initiative is to continue providing equipment for free sport and recreation that is fun and accessible. The winter is coming and I'm glad the Sport Initiative was able to host two events before winter set in. Over the next year, the Toronto Sport Initiative is partnering with the Aboriginal Ontario Early Years Centre to provide free weekly yoga classes. Watch for times and dates to be posted on our website.

CONTACT:
Heather Purdon
Community Sport Leader
Toronto Region 8 office
PH: 416-977-9881

ABORIGINAL FESTIVAL BRINGS FRIENDS AND FAMILY TOGETHER FOR ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR

BY **CHERIE DIMALINE**

Shoppers picked up Métis smoked whitefish, beaded moc-casins, Native Christmas tree angels, turquoise jewellery and Haudenosaunee embroidered jackets. They could also eat Indian tacos, get a tattoo by a Six Nations artist, watch a youth fashion design competition and hear teachings on rights and responsibilities of Native men and women. The 13th Annual Canadian Aboriginal Festival had something for everyone.

The event started with Native company, Abormedia, presenting a two day economic development conference, *Leading From Within*. The two day conference focussed on Aboriginal youth mobilizing towards cultural renewal and economic wellness. Presenters included Sam Gull, founder of the multi-national corporation, Cree Star Systems; Jeff Hunter, Director of

Human Resources of the Nisich-awaysihk Cree Nation; and Robert Campbell, Director of Business Development and Public Relations for Tribal Councils Investment Group.

KIDS EDUCATION DAY

Friday was set aside for school groups from across the Greater Toronto Area. Thousands of students showed up to access traditional lessons and demonstrations from the 30 teaching stations set up throughout the stadium. Some stations included

lacrosse lessons, beading demonstrations, powwow dancing and displays of historical artifacts.

The powwow, replete with three huge Grand Entries, attracted dancers from all over Turtle Island. Twenty six separate categories of dance were open to competition with an additional honorarium set aside for Tiny Tots. Seventeen drums travelled to the renamed 'Roger's Centre' to compete for the top prize of \$5000. Stoney Creek from North Carolina took the top slot with the top five rounded out by Whitetail Cree, High Noon, Rock

Hill and Ontario's Snake Island.

Performing on the main stage were Six Nations hip hop artist, Josh Hill; Manitoba fiddling sensation, Sierra Noble; the immensely popular Susan Aglukark and the phenomenal Kahurangi Maori Dancers from New Zealand who made a huge impact at the 8th Annual Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards. In the smaller performance tent were shows by Michelle Boudrias, Red Thunder, and Jared Sowan. The Métis Nation of Ontario's Carey Calder brought an edgy folk sound to her own performances.

INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE

During this year's Traditional Teachings, *The Indigenous Knowledge of Health* paid respect to the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Arvol Looking Horse, from the Lakota Nation; Verdie Martinez, from the Navajo Nation, and Be'sha Blondin, of the Dene Nation, were among the teachers and Elders who made it out to this year's festival.

The vendors catered to the youth with stitched baseball caps, 'blinged out' gold necklaces, Aboriginal hip hop artists and even rims for cars. However, amongst the 'Rez Unit' t-shirts and Native models calendars, remained the staples of braided sweet grass and star blanket quilts. It was an eclectic mix of traditional and modern, to match the diverse crowd who made their way to the stadium.

ACTOR/SINGER ANDREA MENARD WINS BIG AT 2006 CAMAs:

Métis singer sweeps

Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards showcase top talent for eighth great year

BY **CHERIE DIMALINE**

One hundred and twenty one years after his death, Louis Riel was part of an acceptance speech at the Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards. After winning the Best Song Single award for her song '100 Years', Saskatchewan Métis singer/actress, Andrea Menard, gave thanks to her cultural hero. "(Thanks) to Louis Riel who said 'my people will sleep for 100 years and it will be the artists who awake them'. When I heard that quote I knew why I was here on this planet. That's what 100 Years is about."

Aside from her duties as co-host of the 8th annual music awards celebrating the best in Native music, Menard made three appearances on stage to pick up glass statues. The dynamo who recently received a Gemini nod for her work on Moc-casin Flats won Best Folk Album honours. Picking up this award she joked: "I was up for Best Folk Album three years ago and I had a jazz album. So I'm happy to actually have a folk album this year."

Menard also snatched the coveted Best Album of the Year award out from under Eagle & Hawk and the immensely popular Susan Aglukark. Praising her co-writer and producer Robert Walsh, she expressed shock at the honour. "I'm so stunned. I'm an artist and we've all worked our buns off to get these albums out there." She added: "Next time around get a jazz category because I think it's going to be a jazz album."

In the interviews following the show, Menard stressed the important role Walsh plays in her



Métis singer and actor Andrea Menard co-hosted this year's Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards and took home three awards. PHOTO: BARRY RODEN

success. "Robert and I are having a writing session and we'll get at least two more albums out of it. Two more are coming, get ready!"

She also spoke about her musical tastes. "I love nostalgic music, old time folk singers, old, old country singers and jazz divas; I love that music."

The event, which was opened by Susan Aglukark and closed by a stellar performance by New Zealand's Kahurangi Maori Dancers, brought a diverse slice of modern Aboriginal music to life. Musicians, including the Métis Nation of Ontario's own Carey Calder, who played bass for Weaselhead, brought their talent and passion to the stage while showcasing the diversity in today's music scene.

The show was filled out by the house orchestra led by veteran musician, musical director and this year's Music Industry award winner, Donald Quan. Quan invited the husband and wife team of Raven Kanatakta and Shoshona Kish of DiggingRoots to assist with the 2006 ensemble.

Sitting in was the 16 year old fiddling sensation, Sierra Noble, who has twice earned the title of Manitoba Junior Fiddling Champion. The Manitoba star has been playing her fiddle since fiddling legend Tommy Knot began training her, saying that he could trust the existence of the people's music in this little girl's hands. Métis Artists' Collective member, Ryan Rogers, performed on the upright bass, and Saskia Tomkins, a British born woman of mixed Aboriginal/Black and European heritage, delivered on her violin.

Cree traditionalist, Joseph Naytowhow, earned the Keeper of Traditions in Aboriginal Music honour while Germaine Langan picked up the Lifetime Contribution to Aboriginal Music award. Langan dedicated her award to her mother, her children and grandchildren. "I would like to remind them and all children to follow their dreams, because dreams do come true."

Visit www.canab.com for complete festival details.



2006 CANADIAN ABORIGINAL MUSIC AWARD WINNERS

BEST FEMALE ARTIST
Tamara Podemski

BEST MALE ARTIST
Jared Sowan

BEST GROUP OR DUO
Eagle & Hawk

BEST BLUES ALBUM
Jared Sowan
Eclectically Yours

BEST COUNTRY ALBUM
Mike Gouchie
Bad Boys & Angels

BEST HAND DRUM ALBUM
Northern Cree
Slide & Sway

BEST FIDDLE ALBUM
Cliff Maytwayashing

BEST FOLK ALBUM
Andrea Menard
Simple Steps

BEST ROCK ALBUM
Highway 373
No Limits

BEST RAP OR HIP HOP ALBUM
REDDNATION
Now or Never

BEST POWWOW ALBUM—TRADITIONAL
Red Bull
Enter the Circle

BEST POWWOW ALBUM—CONTEMPORARY
Northern Cree
Nikamo-Sing!

BEST FEMALE TRADITIONAL ROOTS ALBUM
M'Girl
Fusion of Two Worlds

BEST ALBUM OF THE YEAR
Andrea Menard
Simple Steps

BEST SONGWRITER
Tamara Podemski

BEST SONG/SINGLE
Andrea Menard
100 Years

BEST PRODUCER/ENGINEER
Peter Bacsalmasi
The Journey- Donna Kay with Little Island Cree

BEST ALBUM DESIGN
David R. Maracle
Sacred Healing

BEST MUSIC VIDEO
Susan Aglukark
I Will Return

MÉTIS HARVESTING RIGHTS

BY
GARY
LIPINSKI

Métis Nation of Ontario asks court to uphold the MNO-MNR Interim Harvesting Agreement and the Honour of the Crown

DEFENDING MÉTIS RIGHTS



Dear Friends, this will serve as an update on our North Bay court appearance on June 16th, 2006. As you know, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) continues to defend citizens with valid MNO Harvesters Cards who have been charged by the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). At this time, the MNR continues to lay charges against legitimate MNO Harvester Card holders, who are harvesting south of a unilaterally imposed MNR line, even if these individuals are harvesting within their traditional territories and following MNO's Harvesting Policy.

The MNR has decided to lay these charges in complete violation of the Four Point Agreement (Interim Agreement) the MNO President entered into with the Minister of the MNR on July 7th, 2004. The Interim Agreement that was negotiated and agreed to was and remains clear and unambiguous. It commits that all MNO Harvesters Card holders (up to a maximum of 1250 in 2004), who are harvesting in their traditional territories and are not in violation of any conservation or safety rules, will not be charged by the MNR.

Specifically, the Interim Agreement states that the MNR will apply its Interim Enforcement Policy (IEP) to MNO Harvester Card holders in the same way they do with First Nation harvesters in the province. The IEP explicitly states that under normal circumstances (i.e. no conservation or safety issues), Aboriginal harvesters will not be 'subject to enforcement procedures'. Simply put, the MNR should not be charging MNO harvesters who are harvesting within their respective traditional territories. As a part of agreeing to the Interim Agreement, the MNR had and has an interim map of our Métis traditional harvesting territories where the Interim Agreement is to apply.

Despite the clarity of the Interim Agreement and the very public commitments of the Minister for the MNR, the MNR continues to charge MNO Harvester Card holders south of its unilaterally imposed line (i.e. in areas south of Sudbury and North Bay). The MNR has been recognizing and not charging MNO Harvester Card holders in traditional territories north of Sudbury and North Bay.

In light of the MNR's breach of the Interim Agreement, the MNO has had to resort to the courts in an attempt to force the MNR to uphold its commitments and implement the Interim Agreement in full. The MNO has decided to defend our citizens and our rights by asking the court to stay charges (i.e. drop the charges) against three of our harvesters in the North Bay area who were fishing pursuant to the MNO's Harvesting Policy and the Interim Agreement. These MNO citizens

“In light of the MNR's breach of the Interim Agreement, the MNO has had to resort to the courts in an attempt to force the MNR to uphold its commitments and implement the Interim Agreement in full.

and Harvester Card holders are Marc Laurin, Shawn Lemieux and Roger Lemieux.

The basis of our request to the court is that MNR is not upholding the Interim Agreement or following the law of the land, as set out by the Ontario Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of Canada in R. v. Powley and other Aboriginal rights cases. We are asking the court to interpret the Interim Agreement, as it is written, and to stay these three charges. If successful, we hope this would result in the MNR dropping similar charges against our harvesters south of its unilaterally imposed line and respecting the Interim Agreement fully (i.e. not charging any MNO Harvester Card holders in their traditional territories who are following the MNO's Harvesting Policy and respecting conservation and safety rules).

The MNO had hoped that on June 16th, Judge Rodgers would have been able to hear the case in full and render his decision shortly thereafter. However,

because of disputes with respect to evidence, cross-examination of witnesses had to take place on June 16th in court rather than out of court. This meant that on June 16th the Crown spent the entire day cross-examining President Belcourt. Not only was the whole day spent doing this, but another day has been scheduled to continue the cross-examination of President Belcourt on October 13th. Following that, it will be MNO's turn to cross-examine the MNR's witnesses, which is scheduled for November 2nd.

Upon completion of these cross-examinations, another date will have to be set for Judge Rodgers to hear the arguments from the lawyers on the merits of the case. Realistically, it looks like we are not going to have a decision from the court on this matter until next year.

I know most of you are wondering what that means for others who have already been charged, or who may be charged in the future. The MNO and the Crown have agreed to have these charges adjourned pending the outcome of our application for staying charges against the above mentioned three Métis harvesters. This means that existing and future charges will be dealt with after Judge Rogers renders his decision on the stay application in R. v. Laurin, Lemieux and Lemieux. Our hope is that when the court provides its ruling on the interpretation of the Interim Agreement, all such charges will be withdrawn and we can try, once again, to establish a respectful working relationship with the MNR based on the MNR upholding the honour of the Crown and

the Interim Agreement.

For the MNO's part, we have not wavered from our commitment to the Interim Agreement. We stand committed to undertaking the associated work contemplated in the Interim Agreement such as an independent evaluation of our Harvester Card system and getting on with joint research. However, in good conscience, we cannot do this until MNR implements the Interim Agreement in full. How could we sit at a table with the MNR when they are not honouring the explicit commitments in the Interim Agreement but are continuing to charge our harvesters? We will not go back to a table to negotiate down from the clear and unambiguous deal President Belcourt reached with Minister Ramsay on July 7th, 2004. When the MNR finally decides, or is forced to honour the Interim Agreement in full, we will eagerly return to the table to get on with the work that is needed. Your negotiations team looks forward to that day.

Related to this update, the Captains of the Hunt and PCMNO have approved a new process and fee for MNO Harvester Card application and renewal. Please see your Captain of the Hunt or our website for information on Harvester Card renewal or for first time applications.

Of course, if you have any questions please feel free to contact me, the Captain of the Hunt for your region, or the MNO Head Office in Ottawa.

Gary Lipinski is the PCMNO Chair and the MNO's Chief Harvesting Rights Negotiator.

NEWS BITS:

Métis claims in Maritimes leap by thousands

ST. JOHN, NB - In the three years since the country's top court defined Métis rights for the first time, thousands of people in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have come forward to claim Métis status. The 2003 Supreme Court of Canada decision, known as the Powley ruling, recognized a community in Ontario as Métis and gave them the aboriginal right to hunt for food - a decision seen as a first step toward granting full aboriginal rights to hunt and fish for food out of season or without a provincial licence. The New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council estimates 1,000 people have come forward in recent years claiming Métis status.

University of Toronto hires first aboriginal initiatives coordinator

TORONTO—Shek:Li, Tan'si and Boozhoo. In Oneida, Cree and Ojibwe, respectively, these phrases are a greeting and a welcome - messages that U of T is eager to send to Aboriginal Peoples. With the hiring of Kelly Powless as the human resources co-ordinator for aboriginal initiatives, U of T has created a buzz in both the aboriginal and the Ontario university communities. "This is the first time an Ontario university has deliberately designed a position to encourage aboriginal applicants for employment," said Powless, who is herself Oneida. "Many universities and people from across Canada are very interested in seeing how it unfolds."

Aboriginal Women Leaders Recognized for Contributions to their Communities

TORONTO—The Ontario government is celebrating the achievements of Aboriginal women by recognizing three Aboriginal leaders with the "Leading Women, Building Communities Award," Sandra Pupatello, Minister Responsible for Women's Issues announced recently.

"We're recognizing and paying tribute to Aboriginal women who have made significant achievements in areas of culture, law, public health and social change," said Minister Pupatello. "Their hard work, vision and leadership are an inspiration to all women."

The three award recipients are: Elder Lillian McGregor D.D.L., a member of the Whitefish River First Nation, Birch Island and Elder for Ontario's Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Strategy; Madam Justice Rose Boyko, a Tsek'ehne woman from McLeod Lake, British Columbia and the first Aboriginal woman to be appointed to a superior court in Canada in 1994; Sylvia Maracle, from the Tyendinaga Mohawk Territories and Executive Director of the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres.

Nuestros amigos del sur

Indigenous Ecuadoran reps pay timely visit to MNO head office

— BY MARC ST. GERMAIN —

The Métis Nation of Ontario was honoured to host representatives of the Confederación de Nacionalidades Indígenas del Ecuador (CONAIE) (National Confederation of Indigenous Peoples of Ecuador), when they paid a visit to head office in Ottawa this summer.

The visit on August 9th was part of an extensive networking mission undertaken by CONAIE to meet with indigenous groups and non-governmental organizations in Canada and the United States. The delegation, made up of CONAIE Vice President, Santiago de la Cruz, and Director of Planning, Gerardo Obando, along with translator Marcelo Saavedra-Vargas sought to exchange information and develop alliances throughout North America.

Formed in 1986, CONAIE is the largest indigenous advocacy organization in Ecuador where about 30% of the population is native. CONAIE's main focuses are strengthening indigenous identity, protecting the land and resource rights of indigenous people, and resisting destructive



CONAIE Vice President Santiago de la Cruz

development by foreign multinational corporations. They also stand in opposition to U.S. military involvement in Ecuador and South America in general.

With the aid of English/Spanish translation from President Belcourt's assistant, Leticia Larsen,

Executive Director Pete Lefebvre presented an overview of the MNO operations and a briefing on Métis history and culture. Pete led the CONAIE delegates on a tour of head office and the MNO Registry.

Although on business in Manitoba, MNO President, Tony Bel-

court, was also able to greet the CONAIE delegates using the MNO's new teleconferencing technology. President Belcourt spoke about international issues he had been involved with, particularly with the Aymara in Peru and the Q'eqchi in Guatemala. He also spoke about the ongoing Métis struggle for recognition of our rights and recent victories in that fight, like the Powley Case.

resources and lands. We have suffered discrimination and systematic extermination practices. So, we struggle to recuperate our territories and have our rights recognized."

Vice President de la Cruz described the battle to have indigenous peoples' collective rights recognized in Ecuador's Constitution. In the late 1990s CONAIE mobilized thousands of

“It is important to build alliances between indigenous peoples, because there are common issues and problems we all face.”

Coincidentally, the CONAIE delegates arrived in Ottawa just as 11 Ontario Métis were about to travel to Ecuador as part of the Métis Youth Global Adventure, a partnership project between the Métis Nation of Ontario Training Initiatives and Canada World Youth's Global Learner Program (page 7). The youth sat in on the CONAIE visit as part of their orientation session.

Vice President de la Cruz, spoke about CONAIE, the work they do and some of the recent struggles of Ecuador's indigenous people.

"The main struggle we have been facing is protecting our natural resources, our territories and our indigenous rights," said Vice President de la Cruz through translator Marcelo Saavedra-Vargas. "Like other indigenous peoples across the world we have suffered the plunder of our

indigenous people and with other Ecuadorian social movements organized massive demonstrations. In 1998 these actions resulted directly in Constitutional reforms that included recognition of indigenous self-determination and promises to preserve traditional political structures. Unfortunately, since then the Ecuadorian Government has simply ignored these reforms and indigenous people continue to be treated unjustly.

"It is important to build alliances between indigenous peoples, because there are common issues and problems we all face," said Vice President de la Cruz.

Before they left, the delegates were treated to a traditional Métis lunch of moose stew and bannock, courtesy of AHWS Coordinator Lisa Pigeau and Senators Reta Gordon and Lois McCallum.

MÉTIS YOUTH

The Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council has a full contingent! Here they are again:

REG 1	Amber Griffiths
REG 2	Sean Barrie
REG 3	Scott Russell
REG 4	Joni Labbe
REG 5	Dan Lesperance
REG 6	Tara "Benny" Michaud
REG 7	Alison Croft
REG 8	Chantel Kondraki
REG 9	Cherice O'Neil



Captain's
Corner

by KEN SIMARD
CAPTAIN OF THE HUNT
REGION 2

Hello to all Métis citizens:

It's time to gather food, and cut our fuel to keep warm for this wintry cool weather coming. As for those hunters who are ready for the harvest, make sure you hunt in a safe manner at all times. Follow the rules and come home safe with your successful harvest.

If you have any encounters or problems in the forest make sure to contact the Captain of the Hunt in your region.

Good luck to all!

STORY BEHIND THE PICTURE:

STONE HOUSE HAS MÉTIS CONNECTION

The City of Sault St. Marie and the Historic Sites Board recently asked Senator Jacques Leroux to smudge and bless the Ermatinger Old Stone House. You might well ask what we Métis have to do with old stone houses; in this case, quite a lot.

— BY LINDA LORD —

Charles Oakes Ermatinger, of Swiss descent, launched his fur trade career in 1797 or 1798 in the Sandy Lake area near the headwaters of the Mississippi River. It was here that he met and married Mannowe, the daughter of Katawabeda, an influential policy chief of the Sandy Lake tribe.

Ermatinger was associated with the North West Company by 1799, and continued in their employ until 1807, when Charles and the company went their separate ways. This led Ermatinger to resume his status as an independent trader. With his wife and four children, he made his way to Sault Ste. Marie where he established a permanent residence and post.

The site he chose was a wooded lot on the bank of the St. Mary's River about a mile and a half below the rapids and the North West Company post. In

between the posts there were a few scattered houses belonging to retired voyageurs and their families.

Upon their arrival, Ermatinger and his employees began to build the post and a cabin to house the Ermatingers. The post itself would have been built of logs complete with a finished bark roof. The windows would have been covered with parchment and the chimney would have been made of compacted clay and grass.

Ermatinger began work on the property now known as the Ermatinger Old Stone House in 1812. Situated on 252 acres (30 of which were cleared), the house measured thirty-five feet by forty-five feet. It was constructed using a typical Quebec masonry method: stones of varying sizes were applied to both faces of the walls and then covered with a lime mortar without any attempt at pointing.

In 1814, American troops



Senator Jacques Leroux stands with dignitaries in front of the Ermatinger Old Stone House in Sault Ste. Marie June 9th, 2006.

attacked Sault Ste. Marie with a force of 150 troops. They burned most structures, including the North West Company post, but Ermatinger's house escaped unscathed.

After the Ermatinger family left Sault Ste. Marie in 1828, the house was variously occupied by a caretaker, a missionary, The Church of England, a collector of customs and post master, and in 1852 the "Stone House Hotel".

Over the next several years,

the house served as a tavern, courthouse, post office, dance hall, tea room, and apartment building. In 1965, it was purchased by the City of Sault Ste. Marie and restored. It now stands as it did originally at a cross roads of Canada's history on the St. Marys River and a testament to the Métis entrepreneurial spirit.

Summarized from <http://collections.ic.gc.ca/ssm/pages/english/stone.html>

MÉTIS YOUTH IN ECUADOR

IN THE LAND OF THE
CONDOR

This summer, 11 Métis youths aged 18-29 from across Ontario went on a 14-day trip to Ecuador to do community service in Otavalo, an Indigenous community. This project was a partnership with the Métis Nation of Ontario Training Initiatives and Canada World Youth's Global Learner Program. Youth were responsible for fundraising a portion of the total costs (approx. \$2000-\$2500/person).

These young people were afforded a chance to increase their understanding of Ecuador and its culture by living and volunteering in an Ecuadorian community. Of course, being immersed in a culture different from one's own stimulates thought about one's own identity and culture as a Métis person. This mutual sharing of history, values, traditions and pride in arts and culture has enriched our young Métis trav-

ellers and they share some of their experiences and impressions with us in the articles which follow.

For more stories and pictures visit the Metis Youth website. To get involved in the next Metis Youth Global Adventure contact the MNO's Provincial Youth Services Coordinator Ginny Gonneau by email: ginnyg@metisnation.org or phone: 1-800-263-4889, 613-798-1488 ext 105.



top row left to right: **Sheila Grantham, Benny Michaud, Fernanda Yanchapaxi** (Ecuadoran guide), **Kimberley Eltherington-Vaughan, Katie Pile.**
bottom row left to right: **Anita Tucker, Carey Calder, Alison Croft, Irene Gonneau, Farah Holst, Ginny Gonneau and Nancy Gonneau.** PHOTOS BY: GINNY GONNEAU

ECUADOR: A VISIT TO A DIFFERENT WORLD

“I will never forget the generosity this family showed me when I stayed with them and I hope someday I will be able to return the favour.”

I learned a lot from my Ecuador experience. At first I was really out of my comfort zone and thought I would not enjoy myself at all. My host family was absolutely amazing but they live very differently than I do. They have cold showers; their mattresses are not mattresses like the one I sleep on; they wash their clothes by hand and their food was primarily soups, rice and beans. Every morning they get up very early—and the rooster makes sure of that at four every morning! It was hard at first to adapt, but eventually I got into a routine every day.

BY SHEILA GRANTHAM

My placement was not at all what I expected. I was shocked at how run down the daycare was, especially the children's tables—one actually collapsed while the children were using it. The teacher was amazing. Impalita, always maintained her cool even when the children of all ages were running around in every direction. She could always draw them back in with her interactive games. I was impressed by how laid back she was, never yelling or getting upset over anything. I

admired that a great deal.

My host family were Quichua, the indigenous people from that region. My host mother was a nurse and I was very grateful for that! I got really sick while I was there and she made me herbal teas and took care of me.

My host father, a teacher, was incredibly passionate about maintaining his culture and protecting the indigenous knowledge. They have two children, Camie and Koorie. Camie, the baby, is adorable, but is still in the 'terri-

ble twos' phase. Koorie is nine years old and people will often see him on the 'Welcome to Otavalo' posters. I will never forget the generosity this family showed me when I stayed with them and I hope someday I will be able to return the favour.

Life in Otavalo was very interesting. Once a week they host the world's largest indigenous market, where for one day a week the streets are made for vendors and not cars. I picked up a lot of indigenous crafts for my family and myself.

The restaurants are very cute in downtown Otavalo. Our group ended up eating several times at one of the few restaurants that made pizza. The decor was entertaining as they had bean bag seats in one section and they provided live latin music on certain nights.

But what was most breathtak-

ing was the volcanoes and mountains that surrounded Otavalo. Our group was lucky enough to be able to climb a mountain. I can honestly say it was the most challenging thing I have ever done. I suffered really bad altitude sickness but I never felt prouder than the moment I reached the top.

Overall, my experiences in Ecuador have taught me many things. I learned that stepping out of my comfort zone was great. It forced me to learn other things I had not known before. Going to Ecuador made me more laid back and it taught me to have more respect for other cultures. I also have a greater appreciation of all I have. Although my host family didn't have much, they had all that they needed and it really did make me realize how great my life truly is.

MÉTIS YOUTH IN ECUADOR



PHOTOS BY: Ginny Gonneau

A group of young children in an Indigenous community in the hills outside of Otavalo. These children attended Sheila Grantham & Alison Croft's daycare. They loved having their picture taken.

OTAVALO: More than meets the Canadian eye



— BY BENNY MICHAUD —

“Never judge a town by the amount of dust rising from the road.”

My first impression of Otavalo came as I was being jostled around in the back of a pick up truck with my fellow participants on our way to meet our host families. After being dropped off with Al and Farrah I peered through the cloud of dust the truck created as it left and saw the little town where I was to be staying.

I'm embarrassed to admit that I immediately began wondering what we would do in a town so quiet you can hear the bus coming up the dirt road long before you can see it. Little did I know that by the end of the day I would meet the local bootleggers, taste contraband liquor, hand pick lemons from a tree grown by nuns, and end up tossing popcorn in my soup.

Otavalo is a place where one's

senses are overloaded. The vibrant local culture is exactly that—vibrant. It seems as though everything in Otavalo is exaggerated. Everything is larger than life—the mountains, trees, market place—not to mention the serving sizes at lunch (the main meal in Ecuador). Had I not been absolutely enamoured with my ultra-hospitable host family I would surely have believed they were fattening me up to kill me at Christmas. Being the most rotund of their three Canadian guests, I had the sneaking suspicion that they believed beyond my lips lay an enormous black hole that could never be filled. But how my host mother tried! Needless to say, my drink of choice while in Ecuador quickly changed from cervasa (beer) to Pepto-Bismol. Humour transcends language, thankfully, and my squeamishness

became more of a joke than an insult. I had truly underestimated how much of a punch little Otavalo could pack.

In my naiveté I had even underestimated the enormity of the market. The market scene on a Saturday in Otavalo is the most intense expression of local Indigenous culture. Believing I had become somewhat familiar with certain locations in downtown Otavalo, I got off the bus at our usual stop on Saturday and was stunned at how unrecognizable our little street had become. The entire downtown had transformed into the largest Indigenous market in all of South America. The Otavalo market absorbs the energy of the multitudes that walk through it and becomes a living entity, pulsating with the sounds, smells and colours of the local population. Everything in the market screams life, and not one ounce of space is wasted on the mundane. Everywhere I looked there were brilliantly coloured tapestries and blankets. Vendors raised their voices in broken English to potential customers, attempting to be heard above the music which is quick-paced, lively, and constant. I could not have imagined anything more exhilarating than the Otavalo market.



Katy Pile & Sheila Grantham on the 3 hour climb up Mt. Fuya Fuya (4,275 m). "On the way up we saw an Andean condor (we thought it was an eagle at first) soaring in the sky."

And then there was Mojanda—the mountain that almost claimed my life—if not my life, then my legs at the very least. I believe my initial reaction upon first seeing the distance that we were all expected to climb was to pee behind a bush before we started. I'm not sure I had to go until I saw that mountain.

I'm not sure I could have climbed Mojanda at all if it hadn't been for the expertise of my climbing crew, Carey and Allison. I feel compelled to speak like a professional mountain climber and call them 'my crew' because this was no hill. After an hour of my slow paced climbing we had fallen so far behind the rest of our group that it seemed as though we were the only three people on the mountain at all. I can recall many times during our climb when I turned to Carey and Allison (who had become my spiritual tug-line) and expressed the doubt I had the ability to reach the summit. It took everything I had and all the motivational phrases they could muster to get me up that mountain. I owe them one of the best experiences of my life.

Lesson learned in Otavalo? Never judge a town by the amount of dust rising from the road.

MÉTIS YOUTH IN ECUADOR



right: Ginny Gonneau and Carey Calder (not pictured) present a Metis sash to local Quichua Indigenous family. This couple demonstrated the process of making wool and weaving. Quichua indigenous women also wear sashes made of bright colours.



left: Kim Eltherington-Vaughan and Irene Gonneau (front row left side) with their host family. right: Two young girls doing very skilled crafts at their mother's booth in the Otavalo market.

LESSONS: A MÉTIS TRAVELLER LEARNS A FEW

I have only a few paragraphs in which to share all of Ecuador with you. I am not even sure where to start, so I will share just a few thoughts about all my adventures, because the adventures were many.

BY KIM ELTHERINGTON-VAUGHAN

Lessons Learned:

1) There are many ways to communicate and the spoken word is not always the most important, a little charade goes a long way.

2) Being rich has nothing to do with money and everything to do with family and friends.

3) Your cultural roots will keep you grounded, and respecting another's culture is the greatest gift you will ever give them.

4) We are never too old to enjoy blowing bubbles—Irene brought bubbles for the children, a marvellous idea—it entertained our ENTIRE family for many hours. (It's the little things that matter the very most.)

5) Being scared should motivate you, not cripple you. I said 'yes' instead of letting my fear talk; I said 'yes' before I could even think, and then there I was with an intense fear of heights climbing Mt. MOJANDA (capitals

needed to emphasize the extreme scariness), horseback riding in the Andes, and riding a bus to Otavalo (I needn't say anymore for those of you who came along), but I am sure that I will never fear death so many times in two hours ever again.

6) I have something to learn from ever person I pass on my journey. We are ALL teachers and we are ALL students!

7) Shrug it off and RELAX; it really makes life so much easier.

8) Goat head soup does not taste good and no amount of popcorn will make it better, but if someone makes it for you EAT it and smile, because they went to the trouble of making it.

9) The world would be a lot better place if we saw things as children do: if we didn't care about the colour of skin and the language we spoke, and if we understood just how much a hug can help, and how powerful a smile is.

10) Don't worry about a little

“
Don't worry about a little dirt or a runny nose; live in the moment and wash your hands later!
”

dirt or a runny nose; live in the moment and wash your hands later!

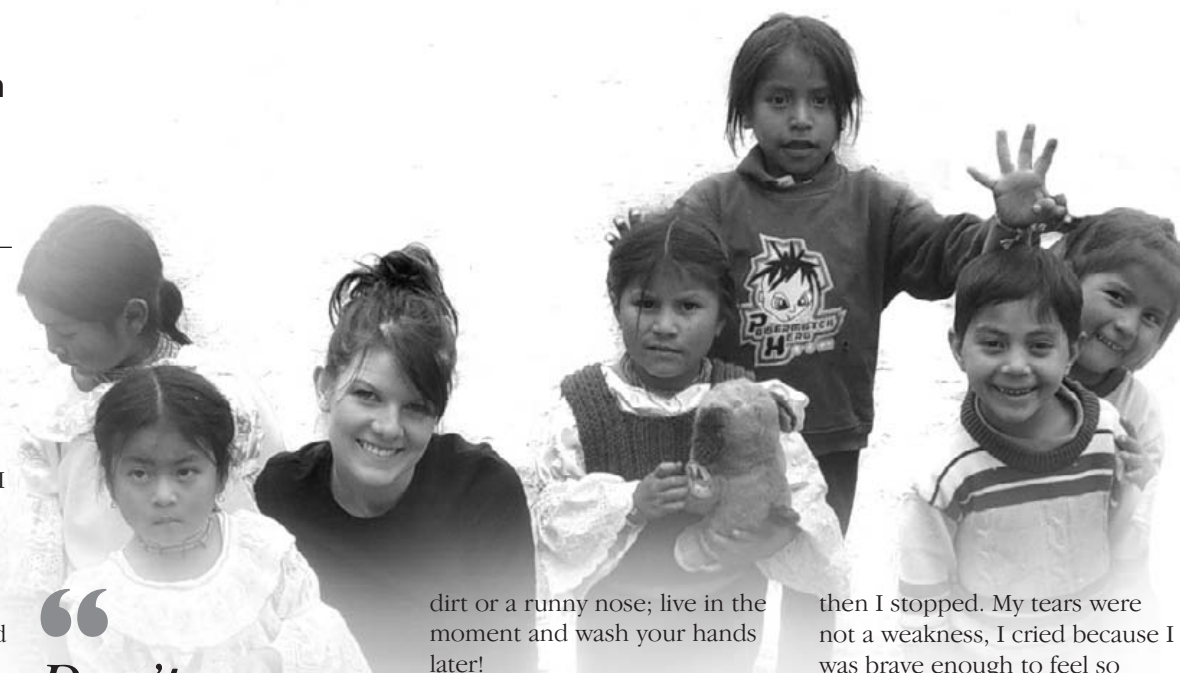
11) Ketchup is not the same as tomato sauce. Do not attempt to make spaghetti from it. YUCK!!!

12) Oh yes, mustn't forget that not everyone sees the need to name a horse. You should expect a very strange look if you enquire as to a horse's name; they are all named 'HORSE'!

Reflections on lesson #1:

Our final day: the van arrived and as Irene and I walked away I asked Milton, our brother, to tell our family they had touched our hearts. I turned away to cry, but

then I stopped. My tears were not a weakness, I cried because I was brave enough to feel so strongly, to love these people I knew for only a brief time. My tears were of thanks and sadness and more than anything of happiness. I had finally lived one of my dreams; checked off one of my "to do's" on that unwritten life list, and they had lived it with me. They had welcomed an unknown adventurer. Our paths met and they have changed my life in ways I will never be able to thank them for. So I gave them my tears and then they gave us theirs. Without any words we spoke the same language.



Searching far & wide

— BY REBEKAH WILSON —

My name is Rebekah Wilson. I am a Métis Youth and aspiring journalist/song-writer from the Grey Owen Sound area. This is a song-turned-poem that I wrote about following your dreams. I am 18 years old and just graduated high school so this topic has been on my mind for a while now and I just wanted to share it.



Push it to the Limit

People always ask me where I'm going, And most times, I'm not even really sure, All I know is I'm not running from my past, But running to catch up to my future.

I'm not hiding from the questions, But searching far and wide for answers, I'm not scared to take some risks, I'm not scared to take some chances.

I won't be held back by failure, I'm not scared to be alone, I'm not worried about what I'll lose or the opportunities I've blown.

All that really matters, Is what I've got right now, And all the open doors in life, That I'll be hunting down.

Sometimes you just gotta push it to the limit, Hold on tight until you get it, And you'll find you're so much stronger in the end.

Sometimes you just have to go on and give it, Forget about dying, you're still living, Follow your dreams and you'll be happy in the end.

I'm heading down the longest road I've ever seen, Behind the wheel, and I'm in control, I don't know where this life will take me, But I've never been more ready to go.

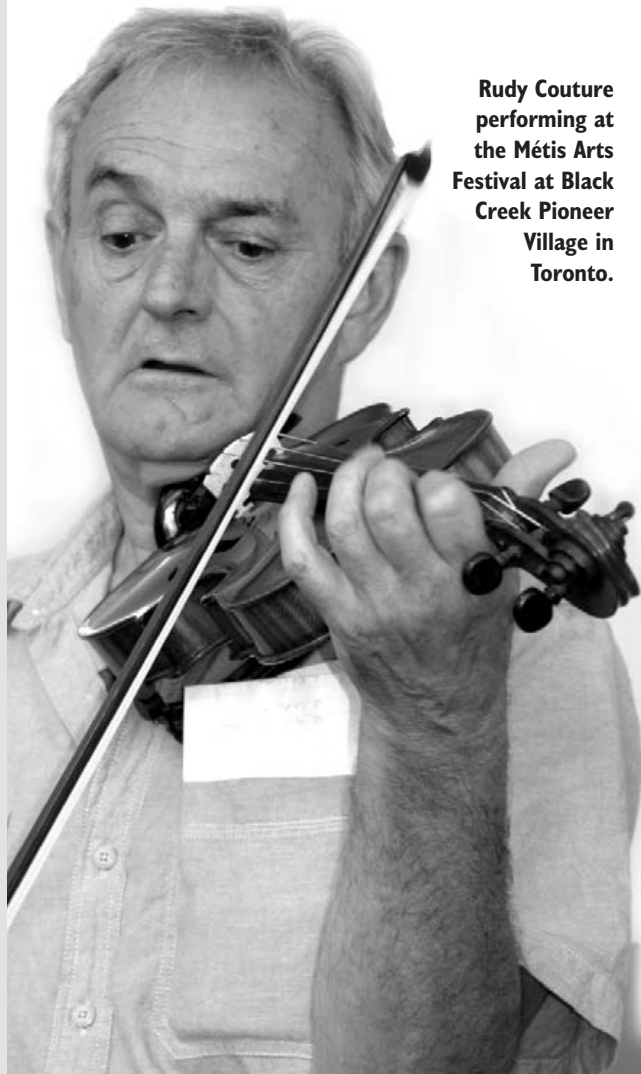
And when I've finally made it, No doubt, I'm gonna tell the world, About the passions and the dreams, Of this little small town girl.

After all the sleepless nights I've had, And all the sweat and tears, I'll know that it's all worth it, Because it's still me who's standing here.

MÉTIS ARTS FEST

— BY BONNY CANN —

Rudy Couture performing at the Métis Arts Festival at Black Creek Pioneer Village in Toronto.



July 14th, 15th and 16th Black Creek Pioneer Village came alive yet again to the Métis Artists' Collective's yearly spectacular.

The first day was 'children's day' and brought in more youth than any Métis children's day in the past. Native Child & Family Services camp participants provided art work that was displayed at the main stage. The theme of their art work was music and dance.

Some of the highlights included main stage performances featuring James Cheechoo's fiddle accompanied by his wife Daisy on a Cree bearskin drum; singer-songwriter Sandy Scofield; Morning Star River, traditional drumming and dance; Ottawa Jiggers, On the Fly and Anne Lederman, fiddler extraordinaire, singer of songs old and new, composer, improviser and multi-instrumentalist.

A variety of workshops were also conducted by the likes of singer song writer, Dr. Annette Chretien; Nukariik, Inuit culture and music performers; Rudy Couture, Owen Sound Métis fiddler; Sweet Water Women, drumming; and the Métis Fiddler Quartet, consisting of Alyssa, Conlin, Nicholas, and Danton Delbaere-Sawchuk.

A variety of demonstrations was



MNO President Tony Belcourt and Toronto City Councilor Jane Pitfield.

available too. We were very pleased to have Mme Guilbault-Lanoix sharing her extraordinary sash weaving techniques with us again this year, and Mr. Joe Paquette to provide Fire by Friction and traditional story telling. Thank you to Fire Keeper, Denis Therrien for his hard work.

Congratulations to the Métis Artists' Collective and Black Creek Pioneer Village!

They are looking for volunteers, performers, visual artists and vendors for MAF 2007 which will be held July 21st (Kids Day), July 22nd and Sunday July 23rd.

MNO TRAINING INITIATIVES SUCCESS STORIES:

A very large 'thank you'

ED McCARTAN is a long-time citizen of the Métis Nation of Ontario and has sat on the Hamilton Métis Council. He is a strong advocate of Métis traditions and culture and works diligently at acquiring skills and knowledge at every opportunity. The McCartans originate from the Midland/Penetang region, from the Drummond Island Métis commu-

nity. He and his wife have two children, both now in their teens. Whenever possible, Ed volunteers to assist people in any way that he can. The staff in the Hamilton office are proud that, as well as successfully completing his intervention, he excelled at his studies and made the Dean's list at the college. — **Kathleen Lannigan**

I know this is a little late as well as long over due, however, the purpose of why I'm putting together a letter, is to recognize the professional work of Kathleen Lannigan. Not only does she, coordinate the Training Initiative Program for the Hamilton area Métis residents, she utilizes all the program has to offer in a caring and meaningful manner, which I found was extremely beneficial.

In February, 2005, I started a Utility Operator Program, at Mohawk College (Stoney Creek Campus) to re-enter the skilled

trades—having not worked in the previous 18 months my practical and technical skill needed revamping. Part of the program contained a three month work term, which I completed at Hamilton Health Science. The other parts of the program focused on Low Pressure Boilers, Residential Air Conditioning, Gas Tech. #3, Oil Burner Tech. #3 TSSA. License, and Water/Wastewater Collection and Distribution.

I have completed the program and with the support of my family and the Métis Training Initiative Coordinator, you

will be happy to know that I have graduated with honours. The hard work I invested in myself has bounced back in a very positive approach to the next achievement, which was finding work and after having secured employment at the Canadian Pacific Railway (fuel clerk) since January 06. There have been many job opportunities since, (interviewed by Halton Municipality Re: Plant Operator, and successful testing at the City of Hamilton Re: Plant Operator).

To cap everything off, I now have accepted a millwright

position with Hamilton Health Science starting June 5th /06.

Wow! Is there a thank you large enough? I appreciated everything the Training Initiative Program has offered. It's renewed my confidence and the shot of self-esteem doesn't hurt either.

Yours truly,

Edward P McCartan
May 18, 2006

Kathleen Lannigan is the Regional Employment and Training Coordinator for Region 9.

'Catch A Fish Not A Buzz' program for youth

— BY ERNIE MATTON —

As we continue from my last column, one key topic for parents to explore is how to develop and maintain their natural leadership in the home. This involves good communication of values and appropriate expectations, active listening to their children's concerns, and good family problem solving. Parents may feel particularly vulnerable and face a myriad of new child rearing issues when their children approach adolescence.

Because youths experiment with drugs for the same reasons that they engage in other nega-

tive behaviour, the most effective prevention programs concentrate on helping them develop constructive ways to manage stress in their lives. They present factual information about the consequences of drug, alcohol, and nicotine addiction, and demonstrate the fallacy of the belief that drugs can alleviate their pain.

Good programs offer skills building curricula, which cover clear communication, anger management, conflict resolution, and self-esteem. Afternoon and weekend programs, considered essential by many experts, provide a safe place for youths to spend

“...the most effective prevention programs concentrate on helping them develop constructive ways to manage stress in their lives.

time when their families are not home. There, they can engage in sports and other group activities that allow them to feel good about themselves, and receive educational support.

Schools are also encouraging students, staff, and parents to recognize the many positive experiences that families provide, and they are expanding the definition of 'family' to include blended, single-parent, extended, and foster families. The goal is to encourage family closeness and support, satisfying the needs of youth that otherwise might drive them to gang membership.

Fishing is a common thread between the generations. Most people you talk to have come into contact or have actually participated in fishing activities. I have created a program that is not intrusive and helps kids to

learn by not learning.

And Remember, 'Youth don't care how much you know; they want to know how much you care'

For comments or inquiries:
ernie@catchafishnotabuzz.com
www.catchafishnotabuzz.com
Ph: 706-533-1579

Catch A Fish Not A Buzz
Box 5177
Penetanguishene, ON, L9M 2G3

Ernie Matton I.C.A.D.C., is an Addiction Behavioural specialist from the Midland area.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS – GREY-OWEN SOUND:



From left to right: **Senator Leora Wilson, Malcolm Dixon, Keith Wilson (under the canoe), and Louise Chase.** Photo courtesy of the Sun Times, 23 October, 2006.

Métis portage for local Education Centre

BY SENATOR LEORA WILSON

The Grand Opening of the Outdoor Education Centre near Wiarton featured a procession that led to the newly completed facilities. This procession followed a small portion of the old portage route between Lake Huron and Georgian Bay. The idea was to represent all the ways that that land had been used up until the present time. The canoe was loaned to the

Centre by Parks Canada, and was built by First Nations people at Tobermory, under the direction of Lenore Tobias-Keeshig, a Parks Canada employee, who is also a noted author of aboriginal stories and children's books. The Métis carried the canoe for the first leg of the procession, then it was handed over to the school principals, who in turn passed it to the teachers' group. The procession was joined by the school children, and made its way to

the new building where an opening celebration was held, and a ribbon cutting ceremony observed. The Métis were proud to be part of this day, and even more pleased to be featured on the front page of the *Owen Sound Sun Times*.

There have been many positive comments on this picture, including: "It was almost eerie; it could have been an old, old picture. You were walking in the footsteps of your ancestors."

LOUIS RIEL DAY 2006 -- TORONTO

continued from 3

me to forgive and forget that Ontario and this legislature placed a bounty of \$5000 on Louis Riel's head in 1872. It caused Riel never to be able to take his place in parliament, even though he was elected three times to represent the riding of Provencher."

President Belcourt stressed that in spite of past injustices the Métis people remain strong, even though our struggles are not over.

"We have had a dark period since then when many of our people, particularly in this province, had to go underground and not stand tall and proud as we do today," said President Belcourt. "But the Métis people have persevered and we're here. Louis Riel left us a great legacy."

President Belcourt then spoke about the eight First Nations' leaders who were hung at Battleford, SK on November 27, 1885, for their part in the Métis North-

west Resistance. President Belcourt paid tribute to these unjustly persecuted men and presented Chief Beaucage with a memorial plaque in their honour. (see sidebar on page 3 for more)

"I want to thank Tony for the kind invitation to be here," said Chief Beaucage who then spoke about the traditional relationship between the Anishinabek Nation and the Métis Nation. "I am honoured to be here and I am hon-

oured to call him and you my friends."

Other dignitaries paid their respects to the memory of Riel with speeches: Garfield Dunlop, MPP for Simcoe-North; Steve Peters, the Provincial Minister of Labour; Michael Prue, MPP for Beaches-East York and Anita Neville, MP for Winnipeg South Centre.

A feast followed and the Spirit of Louis Riel lived on.



MNO President Tony Belcourt presents Anishnabek Nation Grand Council Chief John Beaucage with a plaque to commemorate the eight First Nations men hanged with Riel in 1885.



A LITTLE HELP FOR HEALING HANDS

∞

NEW FUNDING OPPORTUNITY FOR MÉTIS STUDENTS PURSUING HEALTHCARE CAREERS!

The Métis Nation of Ontario is offering scholarships, bursaries and training assistance to Métis students pursuing careers in health

As of January 15th, 2007 more information on eligibility requirements, a list of eligible health professions and the application process will be made available online at:

www.metisnation.org
or by calling us at: **613-798-1488 xt. 113**
or toll free at: **1-800-263-4889**






This unique health education initiative has been made possible through a partnership between the Métis Nation of Ontario, Métis National Council and Health Canada.



MARION LARKMAN

1926-2006

It's hard to imagine an Annual General Assembly or a Riel Day without Marion Larkman; she has always been there with her sparkling eyes and her determined chin.

When the *Voyageur* interviewed Marion in 1998, she recalled some of the events of her long life. She spoke about walking 11 miles to school and 11 miles home, everyday. It took her about three hours each way. Of course, that was only during the good weather. In the winter, the 11 miles was often impossible because of the depth of snow in the Burleigh Falls area, and Marion would then continue her schooling by correspondence, and in the evenings by coal oil lamp. In addition, she helped her dad skin and dress as many as 150 muskrats a day for the month or so that those animals could be trapped each year. When not trapping, her father made handles for axes and hammers from the local hickory, which he then traded for winter supplies, such as potatoes, turnips, and other staples.

English was the language used at school, but Ojibway was the language

used at home, and Marion maintained her fluency in Ojibway. Her family history was truly Métis, a blend of Ojibway, Cree, French and Irish.

When Marion reached the age of 11 her father decided that it was time for her to go to work, so she did. Because her father hunted and trapped for a living, she went to work for the local fur buyer, and then for a short time she worked in the General Electric plant in Peterborough.

In 1939 the Second World War started, and Marion joined the army. By that time she had learned to recognize opportunities and to seize them when they arrived--and the army had lots. While in the army, she completed her grade ten and learned to be a switch board operator, but more important in terms of future jobs, she became a certified butcher and a chef.

After the war, Marion returned to Burleigh Falls and married a young man she had known in earlier years. Together they produced 12 children. However, being a mother did not mean that Marion could forget about earning a living. Over the years she was a chef in a variety of summer

resorts, and then worked for 20 years or so in Toronto. At one point she worked in the post office on Front Street all day, and then walked next door to the Union Station and cooked all evening.

Despite her busy life, Marion was active in Métis and non-status Indian concerns since the early 70s. She was one of those who threw her energy into the fight for Bill C31. She worked with Tony Belcourt, President of the MNO, for many years. In fact, she recalled when, in 1970, at White River, she and Tony won a prize of \$50 for baking the most original and best tasting bannock of the day. She remembered Tony digging a hole in which the fire was built and then baking the bannock under a blanket of cedar boughs.

Marion was a founding member of the MNO and one of the four original Senators on the PCMNO. In 2001, she was presented with an Eagle Staff made by Metis artist David Hannan. In 2003 she received the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal. She was well known and well loved. We will all miss her.

— BY LINDA LORD

We must let her go to the red road of life,
The one that leads across the sky.
It's the way you live
That will help you get
To walk on that red road of life.
from Red Road of Life, by Lawrence Martin

We mourn the passage of the beloved matriarch of the Métis Nation, Senator Marion Larkman. I offer the prayer below on behalf of the MNO Senators. — SENATOR RETA GORDON

Bell ispre, ki kii tayp wawshan not soeur Marion a kiya.
Great Creator, you have called our sister Marion to you.

Ki ka kway chini tinan por la bienvenue de not soeur,
We ask that you welcome our sister.

I offer this sacred tobacco as I offer the prayer for the fallen warrior as
she has gone on her long trip across the dark waters.

Her spirit is now free from all that has pained her. We thank Grandfather
from the east who gave Marion the light to guide her on her path.

We thank Grandfather from the south who gave her the warmth along
the different paths that Marion chose throughout her life.

We thank Grandfather from the north who gave her strength
over the long cold years of her life.

We thank Grandmother Moon who protected her
with her soft moonbeams as she slept.

We thank Grandmother Sun that helped to nourish her
and allowed her to grow strong.

Oh great Creator, may you send down the blessing of the rain, the soft
summer rains to fall upon Mother Earth so that the little flowers may
spring up to shed their sweet fragrance above Marion's resting place.

May Mother Earth be soft under Marion as she rests upon it, tired at
the end of her days.

May Mother Earth rest softly over you Marion, that your spirit may be
out from under it quickly and up and on its way to the Creator.

Ki Kiipihkotama saanli bon repos chere soeur. Long rest dear sister you
have earned it. Hay ya Hay ya tashay.

Métis students win Canada Millennium Scholarships

The Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation, is a private, independent organization created by an act of parliament in 1998. The Foundation distributes \$340 million in the form of bursaries and scholarships throughout Canada each year. Since 2000, the Foundation has delivered 670,000 bursaries and scholarships worth more than \$2 billion to students across Canada. For a complete list of this year's laureates and more information about the Foundation and its programs, visit www.millenniumscholarships.ca.

Among the more than 1,000 Canadians who received a prestigious excellence award this year, were six Métis students. Recognized for their community involvement, demonstrated leadership qualities and interest in innovation, as well as their academic achievements, are Sinèad Charbonneau, (Medicine Hat, AB); Terrilyn Dallyn, (Meadow Lake, SK); Kelly Graves, (Port Moody, BC); David Lussier, (Winnipeg, MB); Chelsie Scragg, (Saskatoon, SK); Christopher



CANADA MILLENNIUM
SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

Sowden, (Port Alberni, BC).

Selected from more than 9,000 applicants, this year's 1,051 entrance award winners were recommended by regional committees of volunteer assessors and subsequently approved by the Foundation's Board of Directors. There are three levels of entrance awards:

National—100 awards of \$5,000, renewable for up to three

additional years, to a maximum of \$20,000.

Provincial/Territorial—240 awards of \$4,000, also renewable for up to three additional years, to a maximum of \$16,000.

Local—711 one-time awards of \$4,000.

Local and regional awards are distributed in each province and territory based on their share of the Canadian population, while

national awards are allocated to the most exceptional applicants across the country (42 in Ontario), regardless of provincial and territorial quotas. Nearly half of the students who received awards were residents of Ontario.

If you are a highschool student why not check out the Foundation? These financial offerings are not loans, and will not have to be repaid.

MORE INFORMATION AT:
www.myopportunities.ca

Métis-owned tattoo studio still going strong



PHOTO: Bonny Cann

The staff of Artistic Integrity Tattoo Studio in Toronto with owner Ian Greening (right).

INK & INTEGRITY

— BY BONNY CANN —

A visit to 'Artistic Integrity' found Mr. Ian Greening at work. Between booking appointments and working on his next design, the shop was busy. Mr. Greening received a Métis Cultural Economic Development Grant almost six years ago and was then able to open the doors to the home of Artistic Integrity at 314 Lakeshore Blvd East, in beautiful Port Credit, Mississauga, Ontario. He has since contributed to his local community by sponsoring little league teams and giving presentations to college students on entrepreneurship.

In June, he won an award for one of his designs that was entered in competition at this year's International Tattoo Conference here in Toronto. Mr. Greening beat out the likes of designers from Miami Ink, a well known TV program.

When I went to see Mr. Greening a few years ago for an update, he was creatively working on designs that really made statements. During my recent visit his growth as a designer was obvious. His tattoos today not only make a statement but tell entire stories! One can see from the winning tattoo that the complexity of his work has grown and he

“
Ian Greening is the very first to remind everyone that he got his start because the Métis Nation of Ontario believed in his vision.”

deserves to win in competition for the designs he is currently producing.

Mr. Greening continues to run a well organized shop with a great deal of care going into the health and safety aspect of his work. The work space was spotless and the sterilizers and other required equipment were up and running during my visit. There are now three full time staff, two tattoo artists and a piercing expert.

Mr. Greening is the very first to remind everyone that he got his start because the Métis Nation of Ontario believed in his vision. Recently, when being interviewed by Rogers Television, he publicly thanked the Métis Nation of Ontario and Bonny Cann, former CDO from Region 8, for assisting

him. It is his belief that because the Métis Nation provided initial funding to him, other agencies were willing to follow in the Métis Nation's footsteps. With our support Mr. Greening was able to apply to Aboriginal Business Canada and received further funding from them as well. He is presently working on a proposal that he hopes will assist him in upgrading equipment and he would really like to purchase a permanent home for Artistic Integrity. Considering the building isn't for sale at this time that may mean a move down the road.

Once again, the Métis Nation of Ontario would like to congratulate Mr. Greening on the success of his business and wish him the best of luck in the upcoming competition in Montreal. We are very proud of you and our involvement in the success of Artistic Integrity and hope that you have a very prosperous next 25 years!

If you are looking for a fabulous designer for a tattoo or know someone who wishes to explore the possibilities, contact info is as follows:

Artistic Integrity Tattoo Studio
314 Lakeshore Rd. East
Toronto, 905-891-5115

Looking for Métis people with leadership skills?

BY SHARON MCBRIDE

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is currently looking for leaders in the Toronto area to help develop a chartered community council within the Métis Nation of Ontario.

This is a great opportunity to help develop transferable skills for the work place while furthering the agenda for Métis rights, programs and services to Métis people within the GTA. The rewards are many; it is exciting to be a part of history in the making as we do our part to build a stronger Métis Nation within the GTA. Assistance is provided by the Métis Nation of Ontario who supports councils in their development, so you would have a strong team with excellent experience behind you. Let's expand our Métis family in the GTA and have fun while meeting new people and working together.

As the Region 8 Councilor I have received some inquiries and would like to put out the call to all citizens. If you are interested please contact:

Sharon McBride
PH: 905 846 8645
sharonm@metisnation.org.

A Hamilton Health Staff hello

— BY CHRISTA LEA GRAY —

I would like to remind the community of the move to the new building—not a big move though, just next door from MNOTI. Our address is 443 Concession Street. We are settled in now—almost! Southern Ontario Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative (SOADI) is also housed in the same location as well as council. Drop in and visit.

Kathleen Laforme of SOADI and I are planning our 2nd Annual Diabetes Fair which will be held again in March 2007.

Great news! The Canadian Diabetes Association (CDA) has come aboard to support the event. Miigwech to all the other organizations for the huge effort they put forth last year in helping sponsor the event; hope to see you this year. We are calling on anyone who would like to take part this year by way of donation of your time or door prizes or to set up a display table, to contact either me or Kathleen.

christag@metisnation.org
urbanhorseshoe@soadi.ca

Christa Lea Gray is the MNO's Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Coordinator for the Hamilton Region.

TIMMINS DIABETES PROGRAM UPDATE:

Helping Hands

— BY RICHARD AUBIN —

Our MNO-Timmins Diabetes Program has been very busy and productive this past year. Many new activities have been taught and learned by those involved in this program. We continue to invite our people to call in and see the variety of resources we have to offer. Volunteers are always welcomed and appreciated. Please lend a supportive helping hand for your community.

I would like to extend my

best Christmas Wishes to you and yours. May this be a happy and safe holiday for everyone. This will be an extra special Christmas for me as I will be a grandpapa for the first time. The due date for my sympathy labour pains is September 15 so by the time you have read this I will be spoiling the little one. No diaper changes – thank you much – that's for the new parents Eric and Julie.

Richard Aubin is MNO's Diabetes Program Coordinator for the Timmins area.

Credit River Métis reach out to First Nations

Maanjidowin Committee recognized by Ontario Heritage Trust for efforts to link communities

— BY LINDA LORD —

Last year the *Voyageur* did a feature article on Credit River, New Credit history, and the Maanjidowin feast which was held on August 2nd, 2005. At this gathering, the Métis Nation joined the Mississaugas of the New Credit to remember the signing of Treaty 13 and 13A.

On September 27th, 2006, the Maanjidowin Committee received a Certificate of Achievement from

the Ontario Heritage Trust (OHT).

Commenting on the achievement, President Belcourt said: "The relationship you have developed with the Mississauga's of Credit River is an outstanding success of our stated objective to develop good relations with First Nations. It is an extension of the efforts begun in our Nation to Nation relationship with the Anishenabek Nation. It is a wonderful example of the good will and recognition brought upon



Sharon McBride is the PCMNO Councilor for Region 8. Ryan is Sharon's son.

the Métis Nation by establishing these relations at the community level."

Following is a quote from the nomination submission.

Aboriginal cultures and customs are important in understanding the foundations of the city, and are the roots and building blocks of every nation. Through the Maanjidowin, the community as a whole gained a better understanding of the origins of the different aboriginal groups within the Mississauga area. The committee was able to relay historical facts, as well as cultural information, increasing both heritage knowledge and consciousness throughout the entire city. By providing the community with the opportunity to learn more about the heritage of the city of Mississauga, the Maanjidowin committee encouraged a better understanding of the importance of First Nation

Groups and Métis as part of that story, but increased better appreciation of personal heritage for those who participated....

If heritage is the inheritance of everything we value and wish to preserve for future generations, the Maanjidowin committee has begun a legacy creating the foundation for greater collaborations between the city of Mississauga and its aboriginal founders. Once we begin to understand the importance of our past, we can provide both awareness and education about present surroundings and issues, thereby influencing the direction and heritage consciousness of future generations.

Congratulations to Sharon and Ryan McBride!

NOTES FROM THE REGISTRY:

HARVESTERS' CERTIFICATES RENEWAL

BY KAROLE DUMONT-BECKETT

The August 31st deadline for the renewal of our harvesters' certificates was met successfully. A little over 94% of the renewal applications submitted was approved. Some applications are missing documentation to complete the approval process but they are expected to be completed shortly. Questions about Traditional Harvest Territory (THT) and Treaty 3 arose frequently during this exercise and I would like to take this opportunity to clarify two important issues.

Traditional Harvest Territory is not a choice; it is determined by where one's Métis ancestors were settled and harvested in Ontario at the time of (or before) Government Effective Control (GEC). The time period fluctuates from region to region but in general it is the time frame at which city/town councils and government representation came into effect for that particular area.

TREATY 3 TRADITIONAL HARVEST TERRITORY

All applicants wishing to claim harvesters' rights under Treaty 3 must clearly demonstrate that their Métis ancestors either resided in that area at the time (or before) the treaty was signed, OR, that their Métis ancestors signed Treaty 3. The Registry recognizes the fact that many ancestors were forced to identify themselves as "Indian" or "White" and takes it into account when assessing an application. Please keep in mind that applications are approved based on the documentation on file.

CAPTAIN OF THE HUNT SIGNATURE

Your harvester's renewal application MUST be signed by the Captain of the Hunt (COTH) in your area of residence, not the Captain of the Hunt residing in your Traditional Harvest Territory. Applications submitted without your COTH's signature will

have to be returned to you.

Citizenship Applications: a few important points to remember

- Every application for citizenship submitted to MNO must contain all the documentation necessary to establish a filial link between the applicant and his/her Métis ancestor.
- Documents confirming Métis ancestry must also accompany the application.
- The Registry cannot use the information from one citizen's file to complete another's unless explicit consent has been granted in writing by the said MNO citizen.
- Requests for replacement cards should be submitted in writing. The form is available by mail, fax or from our website: www.metisnation.org. Please remember that the Registry can only accept your original signature in blue ink.
- Please write your name and the date on the back of your photos.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during the Harvesters' Certificate renewal exercise. We hope all our harvesters had a safe and successful Harvest Season!

Karole Dumont-Beckett is the MNO's Registrar and Director of the Registry.

URBAN MULTI-PURPOSE ABORIGINAL YOUTH CENTRES:



Aboriginal youth learn how to handle a kayak at Richard Lake in Sudbury.

Great summer for Sudbury youth!

BY GAIL CHARBONNEAU

As the seasons change, I would like to give you all a little information on what the Sudbury Métis Youth Centre did last summer. With the help and generosity of my community partners, the centre had a busy summer delivering workshops and events for the youth. Here are just a few of the activities our youth were able to attend:

- **Aboriginal Awards Banquet:** Youth receive achievement awards in many categories.
- **Youth Drumming:** Every Tuesday night the youth gather to drum, share stories and teachings.
- **Tobacco/Sage Garden:** Youth planted a tobacco and sage garden in the city. We had a very successful crop.
- **2nd Time Around Prom Dress Express:** This project was intended to dress a youth head to toe for graduation; we are recycling dresses for the less fortunate youth to wear on her special night.
- **Drumming for the homeless:** Our youth were asked to attend a BBQ for the homeless and drum at the mission at a night event that was held in their honour.
- **6th annual Earn the Bike:** Six youths earned bikes in exchange for 30 hours of community clean up.
- **Kayak course:** Twenty youths learned how to handle a kayak at Richard Lake.
- **6th Annual Cadet Camp:** Youth attend this camp to have fun, meet friends and learn about their culture.
- **1st Annual Métis Golf Tournament:** This year, Long-Term Care and the Métis Youth Centre partnered to fundraise; we raised \$300 to put towards youth workshops and events.
- **6th Annual Traditional Camp:** This year the youth camped out at Richard Lake where they were treated to a talk by MNR representatives about bear behaviour and bear attacks; a community Elder spoke about the responsibilities and duties of having a drum; a professor from Laurentian University talked about the five rascals, medicine wheel and teachings, and the sacred pipe.
- **Aboriginal Career Fair:** This event was held at the Cancer Care Unit at Laurentian Hospital to encourage Aboriginal youth to consider a career in the health care field.
- **2nd Anishinaabe-Kweg Water Walk:** The women and young ladies of the community got together to honour and educate the community and the schools about water pollution.



- **Kits for Kids Backpack Program:** This program through the United Way is an initiative to help families who can't afford school supplies and backpacks. Each youth receives a backpack filled with school supplies delivered to the families. This year the youth center was able to give 13 youth back packs.

Message from the Sudbury Métis youth worker: It gives me great joy to deliver healthy workshops and events for the youth to enjoy. To make an impact on one youth in a positive way will make a difference for the rest of his/her life.

This is my sixth year of understanding and giving what the youth would like in our community. Their participation and the kindness of my community partners has made this initiative a great success. Thanks to all who participated; have a safe winter.

Gail Charbonneau is the Sudbury UMAC Coordinator.

MÉTIS CANOE BUILDING

THREE CANOES

A group of Timmins Métis learns traditional canoe-building techniques

— BY RICHARD AUBIN —

Hello to all my Métis brothers and sisters. I was asked to submit this article that will promote the birch bark canoe building program that has now been going on for about two years. It was a challenging but very rewarding project that would not have been possible without the support of Paul and Len Rondeau.

The idea behind this project was to promote our culture, a traditional teaching and work born from the land, and especially to foster prevention and awareness of diabetes amongst the Aboriginal population. The amount of work involved in harvesting the materials and shaping them is an activity that generates good health.



CANOE ONE

Our first experience began in Whitefish, Ontario, where we secured the services of our instructor, Mr. Tom Byers, who has been building canoes in the traditional way for the past 14 years. You can log onto his web site when searching for birch bark canoes. He has to his credit about 28 canoes so far. These have sold for \$8,000.00 each.

Paul, Len, and yours truly spent three weeks in the summer of 2004 learning the art of canoe building. The time spent working averaged 12 hours per day. It was quite the celebration when the canoe was brought to life. This is a beautiful Ojibwa style canoe and she carries us very well with her sleek 15 feet of bark skimming on the water.

This canoe is presently hanging on display at the city library and generating a lot of publicity for our council. (See *Voyageur* winter 2005)



CANOE TWO

The second canoe that was built in 2005 was to serve two purposes. First, it was to hone our newly learned skills. (Surprising how much you can forget the first time round.) The second, and more important reason was to have the class in Timmins as a "Train the Trainer Workshop". Seven new participants from outlying areas attended the sessions



above: Richard Aubin and family try some old-school canoeing.
below: The Timmins birch bark canoe gradually takes shape.



with the goal of learning the basic skills and knowledge involved in building a canoe and to bring these back to their respective communities so that



the newly trained instructors could teach similar projects.

It took about two and a half months prior to this workshop to harvest the materials which con-

sist of bark, birch, and cedar. Finding quality wood is challenging.

When all the materials had been gathered the participants were contacted and we spent nine days cutting, shaping and lashing all fabricated items together with spruce roots and wooden pegs. Stitching and lashing was a very interesting process.

This second canoe was used as a fund-raiser with proceeds going to the MNO-Timmins community programs. The winner of the draw for the 15 foot canoe was Bonny Cann from Toronto.

During the same summer the Temiskaming Métis Community Council took on the challenge of building a canoe with the support of one of our trainers. Now the Cochrane Northern Lights Métis Council is in the process of collecting the wood to do the same. A ripple effect has begun!



CANOE THREE

Between January and June of 2006 we completed a third canoe with the participation of high school students during wood-working classes. Identical to the second canoe, this one was a fur trader style. The experience was priceless not only for the students, but for Paul, Len, and myself as instructors. During the work, whenever the opportunity presented itself, discussions on health and culture were shared.

We didn't have white spruce gum at the time to finish off gumming the canoe in order to waterproof the seams but this was completed by mid September. It is a mixture of gum and bear fat.

The canoe building project has brought numerous benefits. New partnerships have been formed; diabetes awareness raised; our culture promoted; our youth enjoyed the teachings; the media (both press and television) became involved. As you can see it grew and continues to grow. Bonny Cann will also promote our people with her new canoe displayed at community events down south and while paddling it on a quiet lake during her leisure time.

I have submitted some pictures with this article for your enjoyment.

Richard Aubin is the MNO Diabetes Program Coordinator in Timmins.



HAPPY CANOEING BONNY!

Bonny Cann was the lucky winner of a birch bark canoe built under the supervision of Richard Aubin. The canoe was raffled off, with tickets sold at the AGA and elsewhere. The MNO-Timmins Council would like to thank everyone for their support with the Birch Bark Canoe Fund raiser. All proceeds will go to the MNO-T Community Programs to support the people we serve.

When asked for her comments by the *Voyageur* Bonny had this to say:

"I would like to thank the Timmins Métis Council for the opportunity to purchase a raffle ticket on such a magnificent prize. Thanks to Nicole for selling me the winning ticket!

On a personal note, I would like to tell Richard and Wayde that this really does mean a great deal to me as I just recently learned that my great, great grandmother used to build birchbark canoes herself. I remember thinking when I learned this that perhaps she is the reason that I have yearned to have my own one day. Now I have one! I hope to use it to educate others in Toronto about our traditions as there are not many opportunities for such large examples of Métis craftsmanship available in Toronto. I will rent it out under strict supervision to other Aboriginal organizations, schools, museums etc. so that others will learn our history.

Thank you to Richard Aubin for the lifelong commitment to helping me to take care of her properly. I will be calling you as we are now connected for life! I also promised to put her in the water where she belongs from time to time and my goal is to take it back to where my great grandfathers hunted and trapped in Algonquin Park for a paddle down the river there. Again, a huge thank you to Timmins Métis Council and to the team that built my canoe. I am honoured to be the proud owner and promise to do my best to care for her for all time." — Bonny Cann

Sault Ste. Marie Urban Aboriginal Homelessness Coalition Drop-In Centre

The Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council in partnership with the Urban Aboriginal Homelessness Coalition is excited to announce the opening of the Aboriginal Drop in Center. The Center is located upstairs from the Sault Métis Centre, 26 Queen Street East (through the back entrance off of Albert Street).

Ken McLean, the program's outreach coordinator, is available Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for individual client consultation and assistance. If at all possible it is best to make an appointment with Ken beforehand.

The Drop-In Center will operate

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. The Drop-In Center will host a variety of activities including workshops, crafts and information sessions.

When visiting the Drop in Center you will experience a fun, friendly, safe and non-judgmental atmosphere where you

can sit back socialize, have a cup of coffee and a light snack while exploring your individualized options.

So, come on in; join us for a cup of coffee or tea and see where the experience will take you.

For information please contact Ken McLean at 705 941-9202.

The winter of 1869-1870 was an intense and tumultuous time for the women of Red River. Louis Riel had taken several of the local men captive who had opposed his actions, so there were many anxious and demanding circumstances for the women to deal with.

RIEL, REFLECTIONS AND RED RIVER WOMEN

BY VIRGINIA BARTER—These marvelous recollections of the women who lived through the Red River era, were published in a book, *Women of Red River*, in 1923. Some of the stories are humorous, others recount dramatic scenes of deception and adventurous escape, while some are deeply tragic, but all are a testament to the ingenuity and determination—and the absolute bravery—of the women of Red River during this extraordinary time • Louis Riel was certainly a romantic at heart. Mrs. Bernard Ross recalled being at Fort Garry when Riel raised the flag of his provisional government. She wasn't sure if he would let her pass, but "Riel bowed low, with his left hand on his heart, and said very gallantly, 'Ladies have always the first consideration, in war as in love!'" Here are a few of my favourite stories ...

BRANDY & BUFFALO ROBES

Mrs. Archibald Wright of Winnipeg recalled her husband being among the men imprisoned by Riel. They were newlyweds at the time and had not even had their honeymoon yet. Mrs. Wright and Mrs. Crowson used to take the prisoners food. On the day before Christmas Mrs. Wright was planning to smuggle in some good cheer. "I had a bottle of brandy, which Mrs. John Sutherland had given me for a cold. I carried it under my arm inside the sleeve of a dolman I was wearing. Riel's guards stood by me and were watchful, and I was in a perplexity. One of the prisoners, old Mr. Mulligan, was lying on the floor on a buffalo skin with another buffalo skin rolled up under his head for a pillow. I threw myself on my knees and put my arms around his neck and kissed him, and at the same time, slipped the bottle of brandy into his buffalo robe pillow. Mr. Mulligan was annoyed at my demonstration of affection. I tried to make my husband understand that I had put something under Mr. Mulligan's head but the guards watched me closely and I had to be very careful. The prisoners found the bottle after I went out. The next time I went in the men all joined hands and danced around me, to the great annoyance of the guards."

HIDING MR. ECCLES

Mrs. Black (nee Sutherland) recalled the events of those days and the bravery of her mother. She said her sister, Mrs. Eccles, and her husband lived with them during that winter. One day Riel's men came searching for Eccles. Her mother made him crouch under a chair, on which she sat with her voluminous skirts spread to hide him. He remained hidden in that way for a couple of hours while Riel's men searched the place for him.

Convinced he was not there, they waited for his return until finally they became tired and decided to leave.

THE DEATH OF JOHN HUGH SUTHERLAND

Unfortunately, all too often, conflicts like this escalate in the most unexpected manner, ending in tragedy for the most innocent among us. Such was the case for the Sutherland family who suffered the loss of their young son. Mrs. Sutherland was unceasing in her appeal to Louis Riel to spare the life of Major Boulton, the military man Riel held responsible for the death of her son. Where others had failed, she, and she alone, was able to change Riel's mind. This is the story of one woman's bravery and the recollections of her daughter, Mrs. Black.

One evening a young man named Parisien, a French-Canadian who was simple-minded, came down the road past the Kildonan church. He had been employed in Fort Garry sawing and chopping wood, and was on his way to his people, who lived across the river from St. Andrews. Some of Major Boulton's men seized him as a spy, and made him a prisoner in the schoolhouse. In the morning he managed to make his escape, running to the river bank where he took a gun from one of the sleighs that was standing near the church. Only a few minutes before Parisien's escape, the Sutherlands, who lived across the river were welcoming their father home from Fort Garry.

Mrs. Black recalled: "My father had persuaded Riel to set all the remaining prisoners free that morning. He said to my second eldest brother John Hugh, 'Jump on a horse and ride as fast as you can across the river to Major Boulton and Dr. Schultz, and tell them that all the prisoners are to be set free!' John Hugh ran out at once and started across for Kildonan on a horse. I remember well

how my mother cried with joy when my father came home that morning. We had not seen him for two days and two nights. The night before my mother had said that we might never see him again. He had been doing his utmost to prevent strife and bloodshed.

"Poor John Hugh was crossing the river when he and the half-witted and badly frightened young Parisien met. Men were running from the river bank in pursuit of Parisien, who raised his gun and fired twice at my brother. John Hugh fell wounded from his horse. Some of the men who were pursuing Parisien carried John Hugh to Dr. Black's house, while others seized Parisien and dragged him back to the schoolhouse. My uncle, William Fraser, after helping to carry my brother into Dr. Black's house, came over to our house, and my father and mother went away with him at once, and were away all day. My mother came home that night. She told us afterwards, that when she left John Hugh, whom they had put in Mrs. Black's bed at the manse, she knew he would not live until the morning, but she could not leave us children alone any longer. John Hugh died the next morning. Before he died he begged earnestly that young Parisien should not be punished for what he had done. 'The poor simple fellow was too frightened to know what he was doing,' my

"Jump on a horse and ride as fast as you can across the river to Major Boulton and Dr. Schultz, and tell them that all the prisoners are to be set free!"

brother said.

"The men who had seized Parisien dealt with him very roughly and talked of hanging him there and then. Dr. Black went out and saved the young man's life. I remember Dr. Black saying how pitiable an object young Parisien was as he saw him lying half unconscious with the blood streaming from a wound in the side of his head, which one of the men had given him with a hatchet. He died not very long after. By this time Major Bolton and many others were prisoners in the Fort. Riel had notified Major Boulton that he must be prepared to die at noon on the day after my brother's funeral."

THE FUNERAL

John Hugh Sutherland's funeral was attended by the whole parish. "When anybody died in Kildonan," said Mrs. Black, "It was your sorrow, if you were of Kildonan, but I do not think there was ever a funeral in Kildonan where there was greater sorrow shown than at my brother's. I remembered Dr. Black's daughter Margaret, who is now Mrs. Francis, crying and saying, 'Why was it one of our men?' She and I were schoolchildren of the same age. Her father, I remember, said to her gently that if it had been the death of a son of a family outside of Kildonan, it would have brought grief to some hearts all the same.

"The coffin was carried on men's shoulders from our house to the grave. To put a coffin on any vehicle would have been looked upon in Kildonan as showing a lack of respect to the memory of the dead. At every funeral the shrouded coffin was borne on the shoulders of four men, who were relieved every few minutes by men who took their places. The minister with one of the elders led the way....The distance to be travelled was not considered in paying this respect to the dead. (When Archdeacon Cochrane died at Portage La Prairie in 1865, his coffin was carried more than 70 miles to the graveyard of St. Andrew's.)"

RIEL RELENTS: SAVING MAJOR BOULTON

"On the morning after my brother was buried," continued Mrs. Black, "my mother was ill in

MÉTIS COMMUNITY COUNCILS NEWS:

MÉTIS MEET AT MOON ISLAND

— BY LOUISE GOULDING —

For the second time in the history of the Métis Nation of Ontario, citizens gathered for a meeting on Moon Island at Sans Souci.

Like other MNO Chartered Councils, the Moon River Métis Council holds regular monthly meetings. Since our council is relatively new and we do not, as of yet, have an actual office, our meetings are held in the houses of council members. It is difficult for me to offer my home to council because I live on an island year round, but I secretly longed to bring them out to my Moon Island home. Moon Island is at the mouth of the Moon River on Georgian Bay near Sans Souci.

I invited council to hold our June meeting at my home on Georgian Bay and adventurous as



left to right: **Councilor Dan Quesnelle, Senator Ruth Wagner-Millington, Councilor Larry Duval, President Louise Goulding, Councilor Irene Peel, Treasurer Lisa McCron, Women's Rep Verna Porter and Lynn Quesnelle.**

they are, they readily agreed to take the trip out. June 4th was warm and sunny, but a very windy day. The meeting went ahead as scheduled.

After a few wrong turns by some (there was much discussion regarding who is to blame for the wrong turns, but that's another story), council met at

Woods Bay and travelled by boat to the island, where the Moon River Métis Council began their first ever council meeting. It was an exciting meeting because council spent most of it discussing plans for our first ever National Aboriginal Day celebrations (see page 27).

After the meeting, councilors, their spouses and some of their children were treated to—what else when you visit me—a fish fry. A great time was had by everyone and I look forward to holding June 2007's council meeting! Thanks to council for the delicious salads and desserts.

By the way, the first time Métis gathered at Moon Island was back in 1994, just after the MNO's founding delegates' assembly. President Belcourt came to speak to us about this great Nation!

Louise Goulding is President of the Moon River Métis Council.

Weaving Our Communities

On June 19th Métis and First Nations came together at a two-day domestic violence conference at the Chippewas of Nawash First Nation. Among those in attendance were the Chippewas of Saugeen and Nawash and Métis communities in Southampton and Owen Sound. Notables in attendance included MNO President, Tony Belcourt; Vern Roote, Chief, Chippewas of Saugeen; Paul Nadjiwon, Chief, Chippewas of Nawash; Ralph Akiwenzie, former Chief, Chippewas of Nawash; Senator Roland St. Germain; and Senator Leora Wilson.

The conference, *Weaving Our Communities: Healing, Hope and Honouring*, was a project of the Grey-Bruce Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee.

We wish to thank the Owen Sound Sun-Times and Mr. Andrew Armitage for allowing us to reprint this article which appeared in the Sun-Times, July 13, 2006.

AUTHOR TELLS THE STORY OF A PROUD PEOPLE

— BY ANDREW ARMITAGE —

On a sunny August day in 2004, one of Ontario's distinctive blue and gold historical plaques was dedicated in Southampton's Pioneer Park.

A tribute to the fur trade along the Lake Huron coast, the plaque commemorates the Hudson Bay Company post of Saguingue. Here, company men, Métis and First Nations people traded in the early 19th century.

A year later, Patsy Lou Wilson McArthur, a retired secondary school teacher and descendant of North West Company voyageurs, has compiled and edited a history that retrieves an entire people from obscurity. Published by the Saguingue Métis Council, *Historic Saugeen & Its Métis People* (Epic Press, \$30) it is now available at selected bookstores and museums throughout Grey and Bruce Counties.

I have often been amused by local histories that credit Europeans as the founders of such towns as Owen Sound, Kincardine and Goderich. Careful lists have been compiled offering the names of the first white child born in a community or the first white woman to take up residence in one village or other. Automatically, I sputter, 'What about First Nations people or the Métis?'

When European newcomers arrived in the Queen's Bush, they were greeted not just by the Aboriginal people but also the Métis, one of several historical terms (michif, bois brule, chicot, half-breed, countryborn, mixed blood) used to describe people of mixed North American Indian and European descent.

Métis were at Southampton

before an HBC post was established there in 1826. In Goderich, they had arrived before the Canada Company, bearing names like Belhumeur, Deschamps, Andrews and Landreaux. In 1849, an Anglican clergy man visiting Sydenham (Owen Sound) noted, 'As you come up to Squaw Point, where a lighthouse is to be erected, you begin to see the houses of sundry French Canadian half-breeds, who squatted on or near the military reserve and who live chiefly by fishing and maple sugar making.'

According to David T. McNab's contributed article in *Historic Saugeen*, Métis is not a generic term for all persons of biracial descent. Instead, today Métis are defined by their distinct communities such as the Saugeen Métis Council and the Grey/Owen Sound Métis Council, both of which represent Métis in their traditional homeland of Lake Huron and Georgian Bay. Victimized by 19th-century racial labeling, today Canada's Métis have been recognized in both Canada's constitution of 1982 and in a recent Supreme Court decision.

Métis have been present on Georgian Bay and along the Huron coast for more than 200 years. They worked for the fur trade for both the HBC and independent traders, crossed the historic postage at the base of the Bruce Peninsula, fished the lakes, hunted in the forests, built boats, raised families and worshiped at St. Mary's in Owen Sound, St. Peter's in Goderich and St. Anne's in Penetanguishene.

One of the surprises in *Historic Saugeen and Its Métis People* is the number of retired Hudson Bay Company employees who made their way from fur

trade posts such as Ungava Bay, Fort Chimo and Moose Factory to Bruce County. Most were either descendants of Métis or married 'country wives.'

The most noted of them was Captain William Kennedy. Born in Cumberland House, Rupert's Land, the son of a Chief trader and Aggathas, a Cree woman, Kennedy is credited as being a co-founder (along with John Spence, another retired HBC factor) of Southampton. Recruited by Lady Franklin to search for her lost husband, Kennedy spent six years roaming the Arctic before retiring at a country gentleman to the Red River settlement.

Editor and historian McArthur also turns her attention to the Métis of Owen Sound and Big

Bay. The Métis, who flourished close to First Nations villages, made their way to the site of the future port years before the town was surveyed or Thomas Rutherford spent a first-winter there in 1840.

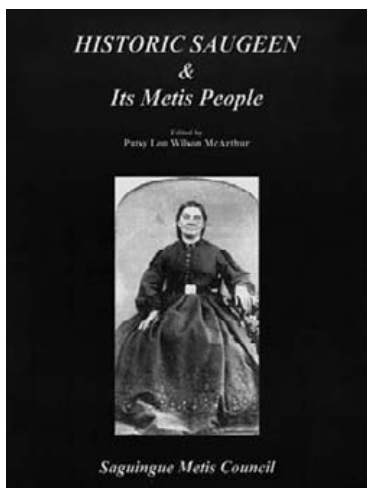
Among them were family names that can still be found in area phone books or as members of the area's modern Métis community. They had names like Couture, Lavallee, Desjardins, Jones, Boucher, Solomon, Payette and Faille.

Among the most legendary of Owen Sound's Métis community was Joe Couture. He was described in a 1909 Owen Sound Sun-Times obituary as being of 'Herculean strength and his titanic form made him a well-known figure, as he rowed up the river in his fish boat or struck the Bay street trail in winter with his load of provisions slung on his back in the manner of a pack.'

Allan H. Ross, an early resident of Leith, recalled that Joe's son, 'Young Joe,' 'was the best man in a fishing boat who ever sailed into Owen Sound harbour.'

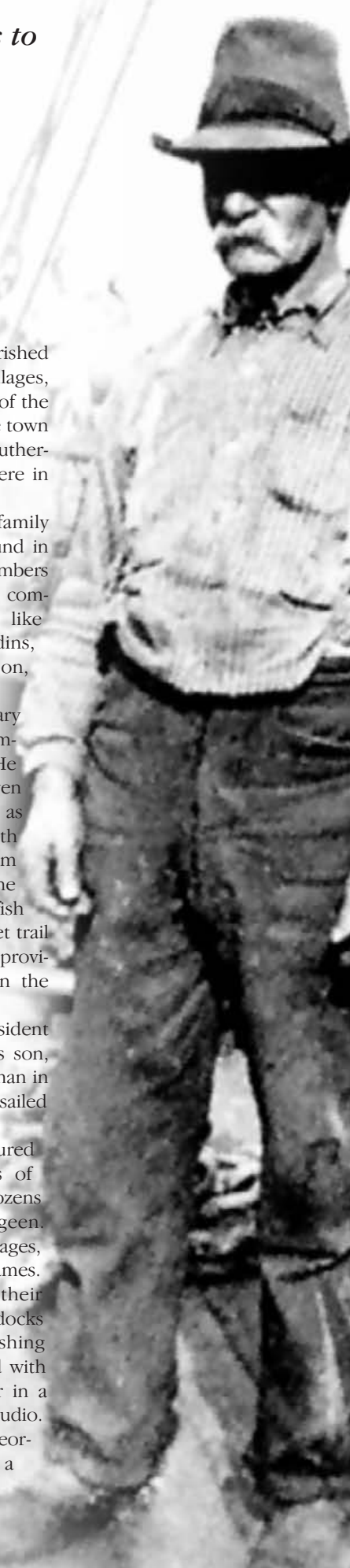
Editor McArthur has scoured many personal collections of photographs, including dozens of them in *Historic Saugeen*. They stare out from the pages, proud faces with familiar names. They stand in front of their homes, on the decks and docks of the waterfront, in fishing shacks and shanties, posed with fiddle, cars and friends, or in a nameless photographer's studio.

They are the Métis of Georgian Bay and of Lake Huron, a proud people who have reclaimed their history—even though they never lost it.



Historic Saugeen and Its Métis People (2006) Published by the Saguingue Métis Council. Edited by Patsy Lou Wilson McArthur. \$30 plus \$8 shipping and handling by cheque or money order, payable to Saguingue Métis Council:

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MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO TRAINING INITIATIVES:

Another active summer in Hamilton Métis offices

— BY KATHLEEN LANNIGAN —

This year, for the first time, I took my grandson, David Lannigan, to the 2006 AGA, and he had a wonderful time. You will see David's picture on the MNO website, sporting a very large, blue cowboy hat. He learned to jig this summer and has taken to it like a duck to water. He just

can't get enough of it. I wonder if the young 16 year old female fiddler from Manitoba, Sierra Noble, had any influence on him. David turned 14 this September 7th. It sure didn't hurt to have the music provided by another young person. He has expressed a keen interest in attending all the Métis events from here on in. I must tell you this makes

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Since the beginning of this year there has been a massive increase of interest in our programs and I have had a plethora of requests for funding.”

me very proud.

Since the beginning of this year there has been a massive increase of interest in our programs and I have had a plethora of requests for funding. Fortunately, we have Scott France, the Métis Youth Worker, and had Alysha Kirkby our summer student to field our telephone calls and assist with the office tasks. These

young people are a great asset to the office.

Some of you will know Scott from the AGAS where he has been active for many years working in the background to help make things run smoothly. Scott is Hank Rowlinson's son and has learned from his father an excellent work ethic. He works hard, takes direction well, and follows through on any task he is assigned. What more can you ask? Well let me tell you, when Scott observes a task that needs doing, he doesn't wait to be told, he just takes the initiative and does it. I can't tell you how much I appreciate this character trait because he is extremely observant.

Alysha Kirkby is a First Nations' student from Cathedral High School and Melissa Cabezas, (our former Youth Worker, one of the 2004 Métis Role Models and Judi Trott's daughter), recommended her as a Summer Career Placement (SCP). Hamilton Regional Indian Friendship Centre funded her placement and she was an excellent addition to the office-pleasant, hard working, always in early and possessing excellent interpersonal skills. I hope to be able to have Alysha back again next summer.

Of course, you are probably all aware that there is a person in each region working as the “Sport Leader”. Travis Richardson is working out of the Hamilton office covering all of Region 9. Travis has just completed a four-year degree in kinesiology (the scientific study of human movement) from the University of Western Ontario. He is quite a young man and is extremely industrious.

Melissa Myke is working with the council and has, in the past, been one of our summer students. She is lively and very creative. Melissa brings a fresh outlook to the office. She is generous with her skills and time offering to teach the staff crafts (beading and sewing) on her lunch hour.

Of course there are still Judi Trott; Christa Grey, from the Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Strategy (AHWS) program; Kathleen Laforme, from the Southern Ontario Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative (SOADI), and myself. Judi and I have got new titles: Judi's title is now “Employment & Training Officer” and I am called “Regional Employment & Training Coordinator”.

Kathleen Lannigan is the Regional Employment & Training Coordinator for Region 9.



SCOTT FRANCE



JUDI TROTT

CANADA DAY 2006 IN KENORA:

MAPLE LEAF MÉTIS

— BY JOEL HENLEY —

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the good citizens of the City of Kenora for coming to the harbour front and helping to make Canada Day a success.

When the Kenora Métis Council was approached by Buck Matiowski and the Canada Day Committee from the City of Kenora, about helping to co-ordinate Canada Day, and being the focus group of the day, we were very skeptical about taking on such a huge challenge with only a few weeks notice.

My competent fellow committee members—Theresa Stenlund, Marilyn Pearson, and Nina Henley—took control; had countless committee meetings; and made many, many phone calls. We were able to book two wonderful groups out of Winnipeg: The Halfpints, and The Norman Chief Memorial Square Dancers & Jiggers. The fabulous fiddling music of the German Family featuring their daughter, Allison, and our local musician, Jan Boutwell, kept the crowded tent of listeners tapping their toes. The wonderful music of Manitoba fiddling champ, Clint Dutiamé was also well received.

I would like to personally thank Adelle Gordon for her spoons demonstration in true Métis style, and a big thank you to Shirley Hanslip for her vocal talents, giving the dancers a much needed break. Our emcee for the day, Kenora Métis Councilor, Cathy Petrcek, dressed in formal Métis attire, kept the audience well informed of the upcoming events.

The parade that started off the day had our vice-president, George Sinclair, proudly carrying our Métis infinity flag and leading the Métis Nation of Ontario voyageur canoe. The canoe, pulled by Martin Camire, carried our own Senator Kay Lynch, dressed in Métis fashion, and fellow Métis citizens Carrie, Kylie, and Matthew Camire, as Matthew paddled with such determination. Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Chair, Gary Lipinski, made a wonderful testimony to all Métis citizens and thanked the City of Kenora for allowing us to be the focus group of the day. Finishing his speech, Gary and I presented Mayor Dave Canfield,



Senator Kay Lynch rides a voyageur canoe in Kenora's Canada Day parade.

and his council, with a Métis Sash, a book on Louis Riel, and a Métis infinity necklace.

We would like to thank Ted Biggs, dressed in full Métis attire, for so gallantly firing his cannon to truly start the day off right.

Thanks to Safeway for the beautifully decorated cakes for the public to enjoy, while many young volunteers handed out Canada pins and flags courtesy of the City of Kenora.

Many children enjoyed the fun train all afternoon—special thanks to Martin Camire for his engineering skills.

The furs and trapping memorabilia display along with the wealth of information provided by Greg Triskle was a huge success as well.

The voyageur games were available for the public to take part in, such as the sling shot shoot, the arm wrestling competition, and the children's land races. Prizes were awarded to the

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The parade that started off the day had our vice-president, George Sinclair, proudly carrying our Métis flag and leading the voyageur canoe.

winners. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the businesses in Kenora for donating some of the prizes given out.

I would also like to thank our crafters, Carol Bjarnson, John Paul LaVand, Wesley Williams, and Alvina Cimon, President of the Métis Council in Dryden, for bringing their beautiful arts and crafts for the public to admire and purchase for themselves.

Whether it was with their help in the kitchen baking bannock,

barbequing hamburgers, smokies, or hotdogs, selling the food and pop, organizing the voyageur games, doing demonstrations, storytelling, running around town for us, or greeting the public under the Métis information tent, this day was made possible with the help of the following volunteers: Freida Morrison, Roberta Fraser, Scott Dunford, Trevor Triskle, Danyelle Neniska, Tricia Triskle, Jodi Henley, Jody Parnell, Brandy Parnell, Mark Parnell, Matt Craven, BJ Hall, Cathy Petrcek, Dave Petrcek, Cindy Laliberte, Jeff Stenlund, Jamie Playfair, Scott Malmo, Sharon Livingston, the hard working members of Buck's Brigade, and of course, my committee members Theresa, Marilyn and Nina. Without the help of these fantastic volunteers, the day would not have been the success it was.

My compliments to you all for a job well done.

Joel Henley is the President of the Kenora Métis Council.

From the Highlands to the Fur Trade

THE JOURNEY OF THE MCPHERSON FAMILY



As a people, we the Métis know our history and our family genealogies better than any other Canadians. This came about because of our need to establish beyond doubt our place as separate distinct Aboriginal people of Canada. I take great pride in my ancestry, and like many Métis, have an intense curiosity to know and understand more about our fur trade roots. I have been doing research on my family history for several years, but one key question still remained for me: Why did the European half immigrate to Canada in the first place? Was it famine, war, or something blacker, a lot more sinister? I decided to try to find the reason and to identify the first McPherson in my Scottish heritage to emigrate to Canada. This has led me to discover some interesting and fascinating facts and has given me a new perspective on my family history. I would like to share some of those discoveries with you here. I hope that you enjoy reading and learning about the why's and where's as much as I did. **BY PIERRE LEFEBVRE**

below:

George McPherson and the family of Sophie Morrisseau at Lake of the Woods, 1872.

PHOTO: ARCHIVES OF MANITOBA

The descendants of this line among the MNO include: Lefebvre, O'Connor, Nault, Picotte, Courchene and others. It also covers two traditional territories, Abitibi Temiskaming and Rainy Lake Rainy River. They would also be signatories to Treaty Three.

THE JACOBITE REBELLION: On the death of Charles II, his brother, James VII of Scotland and II of England, succeeded to the throne. He was a Roman Catholic and a firm believer in the *divine right of kings*. Both stances made him so unpopular that in 1688 parliament invited William of Orange and Mary (James II's daughter by his first wife, a Protestant) to rule. In 1689 James VII and II was deposed. In the 60 years that followed there were five attempts to restore James and his descendants to the throne. Of these, three were major: 1689, 1715 and 1745.

Our story begins in 1745 in Scotland, during the 5th Jacobite Rebellion. On the arrival of Prince Charles in 1745, Ewen MacPherson of Cluny, who had been appointed the same year to a company in Lord Loudon's Highlanders, had taken the oaths of government and thrown up his

commission. He was one of the 600 MacPhersons who joined the rebel army after the victory at Prestonpans. Along. The MacPhersons were led to take an active part in the rebellion, chiefly from a desire to avenge the fate of two of their clansmen, who were shot on account of the mutiny of the Black Watch (now the 42nd regiment) two years earlier.

Clan Chief Ewen MacPherson of Cluny at first hesitated to join the prince. His wife, a daughter of Lord Lovat, although a staunch Jacobite, earnestly dissuaded

him from breaking his oath to government, assuring him that nothing that began with perjury could end well. Her friends reproached her for interfering and at his clan's urging he unfortunately yielded.

The MacPhersons were too late for the Battle of Culloden, where their assistance might have turned the fortune of the day had they not come up till after the retreat of Charles from that decisive field. At the Battle of Falkirk however, the MacPhersons formed a portion of the first line. In the subsequent devastations committed by the English army, Cluny's house was plundered and burnt to the ground. Every exertion was made by the government troops for his apprehension, but they never could lay their hands on him. He escaped to France in 1755, and died at Dunkirk the following year.

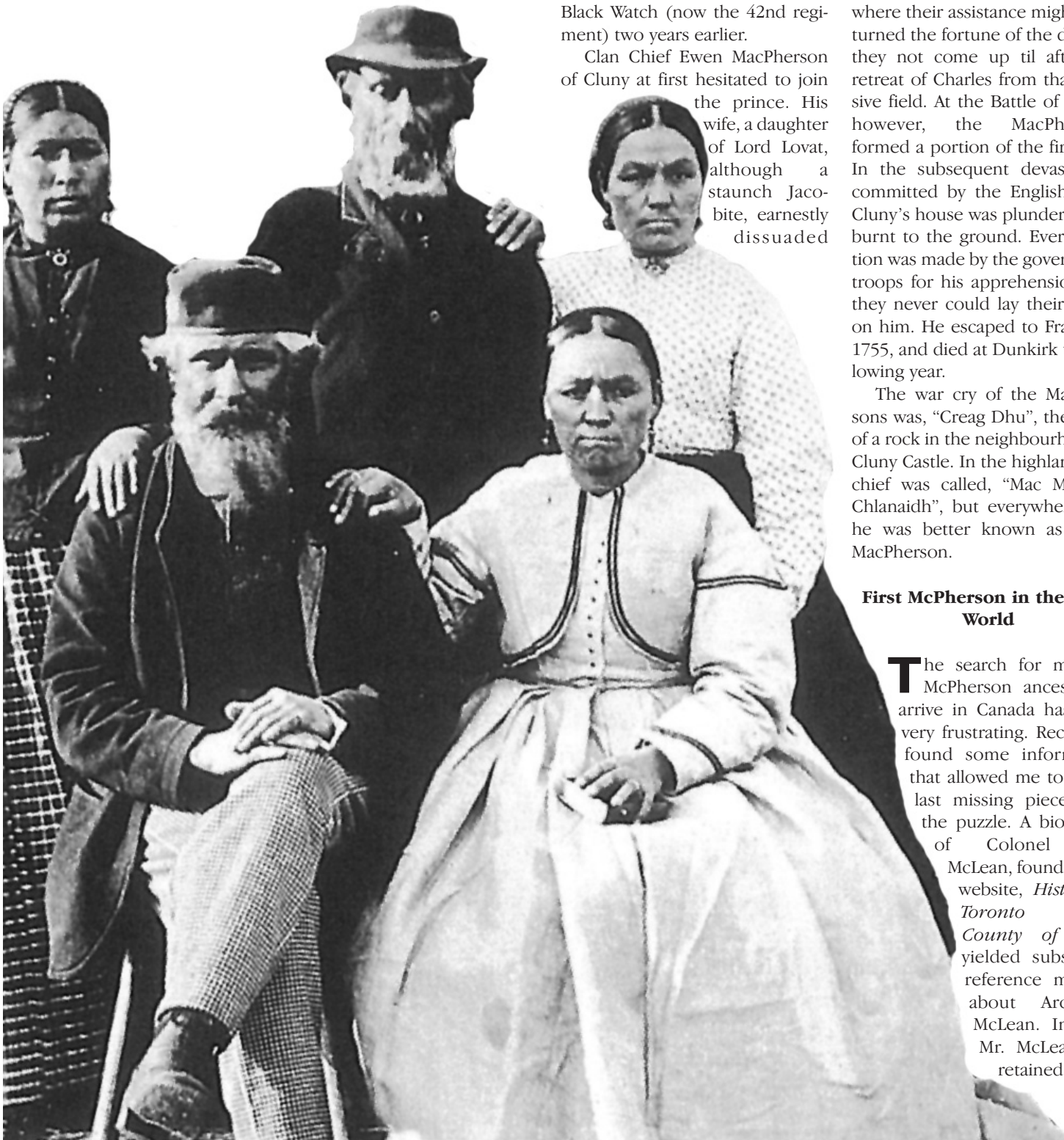
The war cry of the MacPhersons was, "Creag Dhu", the name of a rock in the neighbourhood of Cluny Castle. In the highlands the chief was called, "Mac Mhurich Chlanaidh", but everywhere else he was better known as Cluny MacPherson.

First McPherson in the New World

The search for my first McPherson ancestor to arrive in Canada has been very frustrating. Recently, I found some information that allowed me to fit the last missing pieces into the puzzle. A biography of Colonel Neil McLean, found on the website, *History of Toronto and County of York*, yielded substantial reference material about Archibald McLean. In 1817 Mr. McLean was retained by the

“
At the Battle of Falkirk however, the MacPhersons formed a portion of the first line. In the subsequent devastations committed by the English army, Cluny's house was plundered and burnt to the ground.”

North-West Company to take evidence relating to the difficulties between the North-West Fur Company and Hudson's Bay Company, which had led to the killing of Governor Semple and his men (Battle of Seven Oaks). Archibald McLean married Miss Joan McPherson, a daughter of John McPherson, Esq., of Three Rivers (Trois Rivières, QC). She was the granddaughter of the man who accompanied Dr. Cameron (a first cousin) to Scotland after the Jacobite Revolt of 1745. Dr. Cameron (brother of Locheil), was taken captive and was the last man executed at Tyburn, June 7th, 1753 for high treason in the Jacobite Revolt. Joan McPherson's grandfather was pardoned and offered a commission, which he declined. He immigrated to Canada where he assisted in the defence of Quebec as one of the defenders of the Sault-aux-Matelot, where Montgomery was killed. He was offered payment for his services and as compensation for his house, which was burned by a shell, but the old highlander replied: "I take nothing from the House of Hanover." Joan was also the sister of Andrew McPherson, the fur trader, my 4th great grandfather.





ABORIGINAL PEOPLES SURVEY

Don't be surprised if Stats Canada gives you a call asking you to participate in a survey of Canada's Métis, First Nations and Inuit populations.

The Aboriginal Peoples Survey (APS) was first conducted by Statistics Canada in 1991, but ten years passed before another was undertaken. The 2001 APS introduced for the first time a supplement specifically targeted to gathering information on Métis, designed by Métis organizations. Another APS will be conducted in 2006, which again will include a 25-minute questionnaire specifically for Métis. Data collection was set to start in October, with interviews to be conducted over the phone.

Although some people believe that we have been researched to death, this is in fact not the case. There are only two major sources of statistics on Métis in Canada: the Canadian Census and the APS. Until the APS came along, there was virtually no information on Métis health or living conditions in Canada, and

certainly none that could be scientifically compared with data on First Nations, Inuit, or the general population for that matter. In the post-Kelowna environment, attention is increasingly turning to developing viable and reliable indicators of what progress is being made to improve living conditions of each of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada, including Métis people. The 2006 APS will provide critical information that Aboriginal leaders, governments and others will use to inform policy and program decisions in the coming years.

While the census provides a wealth of information on socio-economic conditions, such as income, employment and household and family structure, the APS asks questions that were not asked in the census, concentrating on exploring educational, linguistic and health condi-

tions of Canada's Aboriginal peoples. Over half of the questions in the Métis Supplement are health-related. There are also questions on family background, and on experience with child welfare systems and residential schools. In all, the adult APS questionnaire is about 50 minutes long, including the Métis Supplement. A separate 30-minute Children's Survey, for children 6 to 14 years of age, will take place at the same time, while a major Survey of Aboriginal Children 0-5 years of age is being launched in 2006 alongside the APS.

What are your chances of participating in one or the other of these surveys? Well, it depends. Both APS surveys—adults and children—and the Aboriginal Children's Survey, are what is known as "post-censal" surveys. This means that they draw their samples from the 2006 Cen-

sus, from persons who said on the long-form census questionnaire (received by one in five Canadian households) that they were Aboriginal or that they have Aboriginal ancestry. Consequently, if you did receive the long form census questionnaire, the chances are very high that you will be among respondents selected to be in the APS samples. However, if you received only the short census questionnaire on Census Day in May 2006, then you definitely will not be part of the sample and the APS will pass you by.

The Métis National Council has for many years been calling on Statistics Canada to include a question on the short form census question-

naire that would allow people to identify as Métis, First Nations or Inuit. That way, we would all have a chance to be part of these surveys, while at the same time reducing the risk of respondent burden on the 20% who do receive the long form. Statistics Canada is examining this issue and promises to introduce changes to census forms in time for the 2011 Census.

In the meantime, those who receive a call from Statistics Canada to answer these surveys have a special responsibility. Your responses will provide the basis for the development of statistics on the entire Métis population, and for that, the Nation thanks you.

Check out the following web sites for more information:

www.statcan.ca/english/Dli/Data/Ftp/aps.htm
www.statcan.ca/start.html
www.metisnation.ca

MNO TRAINING INITIATIVES SUCCESS STORIES:



BIG WHEELS, BIG DREAMS

BY LINDA BENSLE

The Temiskaming Métis Community Council (TMCC) continuously assists our community members in locating funds for education and employment training programs. Jeremy Doonan chose to pursue a career in the transportation and construction industry. With assis-

tance from the TMCC and MNO-Training Initiatives he was able to enroll with the 5th Wheel Training Institute.

We would like to take this opportunity to say congratulations to Jeremy Doonan. Jeremy graduated on June 23rd, 2006. We wish you all the best Jeremy.

Anyone interested in pursuing a career in the transportation or

construction industry, should start with training that will lead to employment and advancement opportunities.

For program outlines, application forms and prices, call the Client Care Team toll free at 1-888-647-7202 or e-mail them at: info@5thwheeltraining.com.

You can also visit their website at: www.5thwheeltraining.com.

A great Aboriginal Day by shores of Georgian Bay

BY TRACY BALD

The Georgian Bay Métis Council hosted National Aboriginal Day celebrations at Bayfield Park in Penetanguishene. Approximately 200 people took part playing the games, enjoying the barbeque and music, and participating in beading demonstrations and craft workshops. Many thanks go out to those who made the day possible: Georgian Bay Métis Council members; Town of Penetanguishene; Heritage Canada; Penetang IGA; Penetanguishene Parks Staff; ELM Caterers; Burkvale Public School - Grade 3 class; Georgian Manor - seniors; Paul Ladouceur; Marg Raynor and all MNO program coordinators who participated; Mary Mackie, AHBHC; Tracy Bald, AHWS; Anthony Sauvé, Sports and Recreation; Louise Zoschke and Michelle Foster-Millard, LTC.



Salsa (medium hot)

1/2 CUP OF VINEGAR
2 FINELY CHOPPED MEDIUM ONIONS
2 GARLIC CLOVES
1 FINELY CHOPPED RED PEPPER
1 FINELY CHOPPED GREEN PEPPER
1 (28 FL. OZ.) CAN DICED TOMATOES
2 TBSP. SUGAR
1 TSP SALT
1 TSP PAPRIKA
1 TSP CORIANDER
1 TSP. CHILI POWDER
1 TSP OREGANO
1 CAN (5 OZ.) TOMATO PASTE
1 TSP VERY FINELY CHOPPED HABANERO OR JALAPENO PEPPER

Use a blender to chop onions, then the red and green peppers, then the tomatoes. Empty into a large cooking pot and add remainder of ingredients. Over medium heat, cook for 45 minutes; stir a few times. Fill sterilized jars. Ready any time.

Senator spreads the Métis word at Toronto police open house

— BY SENATOR GAIL LEBLANC —

The 22 Division of the Toronto Police and the D22 Community Police Liaison Committee celebrated police week on Saturday, May 13th, 2006. Their motto is "Together we're better: Working together for safer Communities".

This year the main attractions



were 'Ace' the Blue Jays Mascot, Al-Ex the CNE Mascot, and 'Officer Patroll' the Police Mascot. The police exhibits included motorcycles, personal water-craft, bicycles, the K9 Unit and the RCMP horses. Tours of the station were also available.

The crowd was entertained by the George Kash Band while enjoying barbecued burgers and hot dogs. Face painters turned the children into their favourite characters while clowns walked around blowing tiny balloons,

shaping them into little puppies and hats for the children.

The community had a chance to browse through the many kiosks such as: The Storefront Humber Inc. who give support services to seniors and the disabled; Child Find Ontario, where parents could finger print their children and get information on how to bring safety to their children; The Gatehouse a safe house for abused children (they also assist police in their investigations); "Go Train-Safety Village"

a miniature train village and officer promoting child safety around train tracks; an Aboriginal booth offering a display plus hand-outs. I must say that my booth with its many Aboriginal articles was not overlooked. The children enjoyed picking up the colouring books and games, and having a look at the many native articles I had on display. I was even asked by several parents and children to come to their school to do one of my Aboriginal presentations.

I wish to thank the Toronto Police and personally thank P.C. Michel LeBlanc for making this event such a success and especially for having a Métis presence. Feedback from those who attended indicated that they were very happy to see an Aboriginal kiosk. On this note, I have been asked to attend (and have accepted) again next year.

Please check the spring issue of your *Voyageur* for the date, place and time for this great event.

Residential Schools Agreement: Are You Eligible for Compensation?

— BY ANDREA STILL —

The Residential Schools Agreement approved by the federal Cabinet in May, 2006, is making its way through the rest of the approvals process. Nine provincial and territorial courts must consider whether the settlement is fair, reasonable and adequate before it can be finalized. Many survivors have objected to portions of the Agreement, leading some of the courts to reserve decisions. The result is, it will be a few months before all the decisions are released.

In the meantime, the advance payment application process is well underway. The deadline for applications is December 31, 2006. Eligible survivors who were alive on May 30, 2005, are entitled to a "Common Experience Payment" of \$10,000 to compensate for loss of language, culture and family life. Eligible survivors who were 65 years of age and older on May 30, 2005, are able to apply for \$8,000 of this money in advance.

For an application form call the Indian Residential Schools Canada toll free at 1-800-816-7293 or visit their website: www.irs-rqpi.gc.ca.

Important Information for Métis Survivors:

It is important to note in order to be eligible for compensation a survivor's school must appear on the list of approved schools. Notably, many schools attended by Métis are not included on the list. There is, however, a process to have your school added to the list. The addition of schools

will take place only after the courts have approved the agreement and it becomes final.

The official list of schools included in the agreement can be found at www.residentialschoolsettlement.ca.

If you do not see your school on the list, you can use the online form to request that your school be added to the list. You can also write a letter

requesting that your school be added to the list. Send your request to:

Residential Schools Settlement
Suite 3-505, 133 Weber St. North
Waterloo, ON, N2J 3G9

Provide the name of the school you believe should be added to the list and reasons why you think it should be added. You do not need to provide any documents or school records. Individuals and groups of survivors can request the addition of a school. If you have any questions about the addition of schools to the list, call 1-866-879-4913.



THE JOURNEY OF THE SPIRIT STONE

— BY SENATOR EARL SCOFIELD —

The journey of my National Aboriginal Health Organization spirit stone began in Winnipeg, in March 2006, at an Elders' conference to discuss land and water. On the last day of our conference the eight Elders were each given a bright colourful stone, approximately one inch in diameter.

Well, when I got home to Windsor I got out my bundle and smudged my stone, not knowing at the time that the Creator had a mission for that stone.

Now step back 62 years in time, to November 20th, 1944, into a Wellington two-engine aircraft belonging to the Royal Canadian Air Force. During a night cross-country training flight over Wales the plane crashed into Carreg Goch- Black Mountain in Swansea Wales.

It was a cold stormy night; the aircraft was icing up and the starboard engine was giving them trouble, so they radioed for permission to descend below the clouds. In doing so they ran into the mountains at full speed, exploding into a fiery death. The Welsh people living down in the valley saw the glow of the fire on the mountain. All six Canadian eagle airmen were killed. Five of them came from Quebec and one from New Brunswick. The navigator, Jules Rene Villeneuve, was my step brother, a Metis warrior born to Clara Marie Chartrand.

A young Welshman, about 22 years old at the time, went up to the mountain the next day and found the wreckage spread over a large area. He picked up a piece of a wing and found a picture of an airman.

After 60 years he asked his daughter if she could find out, who he was. She put the picture and info about the Wellington aircraft M.F.509 on the web and the stories started coming in.

A Mr. Wes Cross in Montréal, who works at McGill University,

picked up the story. He informed me he was going to Wales in May, 2006, to attend a memorial at the crash site with the Welsh people.

They erected a small cairn, made with the stones and rocks on Carreg Goch Mountain. While I was invited to attend the services, my legs not being too good I decided not to go. He asked me to send some object to be left at the monument. So I decided to send my stone.

A prayer was said over my stone for the spirits of these six fallen eagles of Canada. I put the stone in a bubble envelope and sent it to Mr. Cross in Montreal. There it was put into a small basket by the Aboriginal women at First Peoples' House of McGill University. They also sent small pouches of tobacco and sweet grass and sage. Lynn Fletcher and her co worker fixed it up, proud and traditional.

Mr. Wes Cross took the basket and contents to Wales to the mountain and hiked four miles to the monument. He explained to the Welsh people what the spirit stone meant and the other medicines. They were very interested and responded by sending me a stone, grey and flaky in the shape of a grouse. It is about two inches long with a little head sticking up.

I told the people in Montréal what I thought the stone looked like. The women at First Peoples' House told Mr. Wes Cross what the grouse meant. "Grouse: personal power; self-teaching; intuition; enlightenment; grouse medicine is the medicine of personal power.

“

Now step back 62 years in time, to November 20th, 1944, into a Wellington two-engine aircraft belonging to the Royal Canadian Air Force. ”

"The sacred spirit is one of the oldest known symbols of personal power. It can give you personal vision and enlightenment. Awaken your grouse medicine by meditating, and visualizing the spirit of energy surrounding you.

"Dancing with spirit movements will also release this power. Dance freely with drumming as your background (music). This will open a new flow of energy into your life. Dancing in a circle is the act of creation."

So, I got my drum, with the grouse stone in my left hand, my drum and my drum stick in the right hand and drummed and hobbled around in a circle. This I will do as often as I can. My NAHO spirit stone has journeyed to the mountain in Wales where it is at peace. Mr. Cross covered it up so no one would take it away.

Chee Miigwetch to all who helped in this journey.

Editors Note: For more information search for Carreg Goch on-line.

SENATOR UPDATE:

SENATOR SCOFIELD'S HECTIC SCHEDULE

BY SENATOR EARL SCOFIELD

It was a good Assembly in the traditional Métis country of Sault Sainte Marie. We had hot weather, wind and black sand.

All went well as far as I could see, with good workshops, especially for the young people. The Senators and Elders had an excellent forum at the Water Tower Inn—two days of solid comfort with many mermaids in the swimming pool.

There was a pretty good shuttle service, good food, fruit, and bottled water consumed by the gallon due to the extremely hot weather.

The voyageur games were tough work with lots of sweat, but we all survived. The voyageurs to St. Joe's Island had a great day, so they said, but needed a bigger pig to roast as some did not get any.

After the AGA it was off to Saskatoon for a conference sponsored by the National Aboriginal Health Organization on the subject of land and water. Four staff workers kept us busy, and when we had time, we were shuttled to Batoche to enjoy the music and jigging. While there, we were treated to all the BC salmon we could eat; the cooks and waitresses took good care of us.

There were many surprises while we were there. MNC President, Clem Chartier, had the emcee introduce me, so I had to speak. We made our way to Duck Lake to pay our respects to the murdered RCMP officer and her relations. Her flag draped coffin was in a big arena on the reservation. We were eight Métis veterans in our legion outfits and Métis medals. Her family thanked

us for coming and we were all glad we took the time to go. Then another surprise was that I got a shot on comrade Dumont's pool table; it was a nice unveiling ceremony.

The last day there we could attend church services or go to a pipe ceremony in Saskatoon at a private home, and that's where I chose to go. It was a traditional learning experience, and sweet music to my old ears to hear the Elders speaking the Cree and Michif languages. Of course, the time passed all too quickly and soon it was time to fly home like a good pigeon.

On September 16th we had a community parade in the oldest section of Windsor, called "the sandwich". There were 52 organizations in the parade. The local Aboriginal people were represented by 32 people in native regalia, a big drum on the back of a pick-up truck and dancers on the street. There was a teepee set up in a park with vendors. Mary Rose and I and some other people were in a trailer pulled by a pick-up, and the women were busy throwing candy to the kids watching the parade. The weather was good so we had another good time.

After that I went to the NDP Convention in Quebec City, which was opened by the Chief of the Wendat Nation. He smudged in four directions and speaking both French and English welcomed the delegates to the Huron-Wendat Territory. Dressed in traditional fashion, he presented Jack Layton with a small medicine bag. During two days of convention the 40 Aboriginal delegates elected two co-chairs for the Aboriginal Commission.



left to right: **Manitoa fiddler Sierra Noble, Senator Earl Scofield and his daughter Sandy Scofield.**

MNO TRAINING INITIATIVES -- INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING:

Dental student brings healthy smiles to north

BY DANIEL CHARLAND

My adventure into northern Ontario began the first weekend after completing my second year in the DDS program at the Faculty of Dentistry, University of Toronto. For months I had been planning this trip with the help of my classmate Marc Yarascavitch and contacts referred from the University of Toronto's First Nations House; it was now about to begin.

We drove from Toronto to Timmins on Sunday June 4th, and on Monday morning we took a flight from Timmins to Attawapiskat, a "flight-access-only" First Nation on the western banks of James Bay. Our purpose was to give oral hygiene education to the elementary school children of the com-

munity. Before departure from Timmins the first glitch had become evident; our luggage was not going to make it onto the plane with us, and we had to wait until Tuesday morning for the cargo plane to arrive with our teaching supplies. On Monday afternoon we got to know our host, Principal Vince Dumond and toured the community.

From a portable classroom at J.R. Nakogee School, we gave presentations on oral health, including an interactive plaque disclosing exercise and tooth brushing instruction; the youngest students also had a little arts and crafts session where they decorated toothbrush shaped bookmarks and brushing charts. Each class from junior kindergarten to grade seven participated.



“ In all we provided oral hygiene instruction to over 400 First Nation children over a span of two weeks. ”

We returned to Timmins on June 11. The next morning we drove four hours north-west to our second First Nation destination, Constance Lake. After meeting Principal Leo Grzela and a vol-

unteer coordinator, we set up shop in the life skills classroom. The day was not done yet; we set out to meet and plan with the Healthy Babies program coordinator Corrina Cheechoo.

On Tuesday morning our coordinator brought in the first group of six children. Over the next few days, groups of six elementary school aged students passed in and out of our classroom every 45 minutes. Our coordinator's assistance made it feel like a miniature factory producing educated and diligent young toothbrushers!

We ended our visit to Constance Lake with a parent education session at the local health center. We provided booklets for the parents and health centre operators outlining important facts and frequently asked ques-

tions (with answers) on infant, toddler, child and adult oral hygiene practices and technique.

In all we provided oral hygiene instruction to over 400 First Nation children over a span of two weeks. With the kind generosity of our sponsors (Dr. Yarascavitch and Sinclair Dental), we were able to provide a toothbrush and toothpaste to every student, as well as stickers and prizes to students in each session.

I would like to thank the Métis Nation of Ontario Training Initiatives program for funding this invaluable experience. I am proud to have an active role in educating children and promoting oral health in under-served communities in Ontario. I look forward to the continuing success of this preventive program.

SENATORS' SPOTLIGHT:

Leading our hearts down a trail of many joys



RETA GORDON
PCMNO SENATOR

SENATOR'S SPOTLIGHT

Dear Senators: As you read this column Mother Earth has spread her white mantle over the vast expanse of our Homeland. All of nature's growth has lain down for the long sleep.

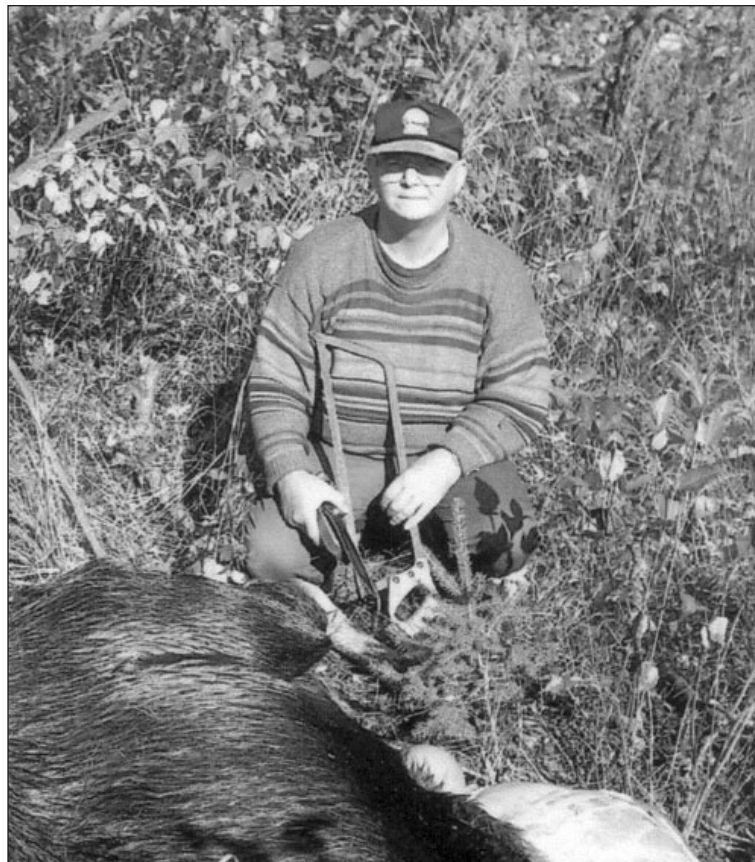
I seek your understanding for my inability to send you my monthly newsletter for October and November. I have been so busy representing the MNO, travelling, and attending meetings and conferences in Ottawa sponsored by various government departments that there simply was not enough time, so please accept this column as my newsletter. It seems as though October and November are always hectic times of the year in government circles with many departments hosting events. Because Ottawa Council Senator Lois McCallum and I live in Ottawa—the seat of parliament—we are invited to participate in many of these events.

When I implemented the "Senators' Spotlight" in the *Voyageur* it was not meant to be a column for Reta Gordon. What I wanted to showcase was what the Senators were doing in their communities. I would like MNO citizens to know that although the Senators are Elders they are

not just sitting in corners rocking away, rather they are rocking moshums and cheechums.

This time I am happy to share with you news that I have received from some of the Senators. Owen Sound Council Senator, Leora Wilson writes:

Owen Sound Council nominated Patsy Lou McArthur for a heritage community recognition award and she was honoured with that award. (See page 5) We proudly presented it to Patsy at our last council general meeting; Pat is with the Saugeen Council. The Owen Sound Council has moved to new headquarters. The space was the basement of a church, then a daycare, then empty for about five years. It was badly in need of cleaning and painting, which was accomplished by our dedicated council members and PCMNO Senator Rollie St. Germain and his wife Jane. It is now a place to be proud of, and we



Temiskaming Métis Council Senator, Ernie Levallee, reports that after only 15 minutes of hunting he bagged a 394 lb. moose, just five miles from home. Good shot Ernie!

are pleased to be part of this venture.

I congratulate all who participated in this task. I wish you well and may everyone who enters these premises be blessed. So much can be accomplished by the dedication of people such as these.

The week of November 6th was Aboriginal Veterans Week. MNO Veterans' President, Shaun Redmond, and I were invited to speak on Métis veterans in Ishkatow Lodge, at Health Canada. Shaun was the presenter and I offered the opening and closing prayers. On November 8th, Ottawa Council Senator, Lois McCallum, Shaun Redmond and I placed wreaths at the

Aboriginal War Memorial and did the same on the 11th at the Cenotaph. The following week, Métis Week, was celebrated at the same lodge and Senator Lois gave daily presentations on the Métis Nation. Her helper was Ottawa Council Women's Representative, Lynn Pantuso.

PCMNO Senator, Audrey Vallee and her husband Alan had a busy October. In a one week period they attended a trial in North Bay; the *Rendezvous* in Sturgeon Falls; and a few days later a reception held at Queen's Park in Toronto, at the invitation of Minister Papatello (MPP Sandra Papatello is Minister of Economic Development and Trade Minister Responsible for

Women's Issues in Ontario.) Audrey is advisor to the portfolio holder of the WSMNO.

Temiskaming Senator, Ernie Levallee, reports that after only 15 minutes of hunting he bagged a 394 lb. moose, just five miles from home. Good shot Ernie!

Windsor-Essex Senator, Earl Scofield has been his usual busy self. See page 24 for the details.

Oshawa Council Senator, Claire Kearns, underwent major surgery recently, but I am happy to report all went well and slowly but surely she is bouncing back. Keep well Claire!

Please remember in your prayers our warriors who are in war torn countries fighting for peace and democracy. May the Creator send down his angels to protect them.

At this time I am in Florida, but please be assured, I am not just resting by the pool. I still work a couple of hours a day by phone, e-mail, fax, conference calls, letters, and long distance calls. All of my contact information is below.

I close with this prayer for you and your loved ones—for Christmas, the New Year and many tomorrows.

May the Great Spirit watch over you, granting you peace and guiding your steps, and leading your heart down a trail of many joys.

CONTACT:

retag@metisnation.org
ph: 954-485-7464

You may also call head office in Ottawa (1-800-263-4889) and leave a message. I am in contact with the office everyday and I will call you back.

4711 NW 44th St.
Tamarac, Florida
33319 USA



Tobacco and a prayer

This is to remind hunters and gatherers of wood, or even flowers, that these gifts are part of the bounty given to us by the Creator, and when we take them, it should be with an offering of tobacco and a prayer. Senator Reta Gordon offers this prayer as an example for Métis hunters:

We give you thanks brother (deer, moose, etc.) for giving up your life in order to sustain ours. I offer you this tobacco to honour your strength and speed. We thank the Great Spirit for creating you—such a majestic animal. May your spirit soar forever in green pastures and peaceful woods. Miigwech.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:



left to right: **Garden River Chief, Lyle Sayers, Perry Boyer, President of the Sault Ste Marie Indian Friendship Centre, Curtis Hopkins and Batchewana First Nation Chief, Dean Sayers.**

TECH SKILLS

Partnership launches Aboriginal Information Technology Centre

What started as a dream for the Aboriginal community in Sault Ste. Marie became a reality in October thanks to a \$61,000 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF). Through the partnership of Batchewana Band Industries, Garden River First Nation, and the Indian Friendship Centre, the Aboriginal Information Technology Centre will be created. OTF volunteer, Perry Boyer, was joined by Garden River Chief, Lyle Sayers, Batchewana First Nation Chief, Dean Sayers, and President of the Indian Friendship Centre, Curtis Hopkins, to celebrate the good news with the community.

"Strengthening and expanding support programs for urban Aboriginal communities is part of our government's plan to achieve the best possible outcomes for all Ontarians," said Oraziotti. "This investment is a step towards helping members of Aboriginal communities in Sault Ste. Marie and area develop the skills they need to make positive choices and enjoy improved opportunities."

With the help of the grant, the partnership, lead by the Garden River First Nation, has been able to hire a general manager and start developing a business plan to create the Aboriginal Information Technology Centre. The aim of *the Centre* will be to provide computer training and business

development support to members of the local Aboriginal community.

"This *Centre* will allow our community members the opportunity to develop and enhance their technical skills which will lead on to technological career opportunities," said Barb Beer, Liaison Co-coordinator for the Aboriginal Information Technology Centre. "It will improve access to computer training opportunities from basic computer skills, to more advanced computer certifications."

The partnership came together in response to a feasibility study that was conducted in 2005. The study identified that there was a strong awareness in the community about the importance of computer skills for employment and business development and strong community support for the development of an Aboriginal Information Technology Centre.

For more information on *the Centre* and how to support the program, please contact:

Barb Beer, Coordinator AITC
(Batchewana First Nation)

Chris Folz, General Manager
(Métis Nation of Ontario)

ABORIGINAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CENTRE
PH: 705-946-6300 ext. 287

Following are some excerpts from an exchange of emails between **SENATOR RETA GORDON** and **Region 7 Councillor, PAULINE SAULNIER**. They were forwarded to me so that I might share them with readers of the *Voyageur*. Please note that anyone wishing to contribute to the *Voyageur* should contact me (Linda Lord). All of my contact information is always on page 2. — LL

A FRIEND IN DEEDS

Hi Senator Reta: ...I live by the simple rules that I need to say at least one nice thing to each of my children per day, and that I need to know as much about them as I do about my own boss.

If each parent took the time to do such things I truly believe today's society and our future would be in great hands.

I personally have a bunch of teenagers here at my house all the time and now have noticed that most of them are out working to earn for colleges and higher education. I have my eldest son Ben going to college in Kingston in his second year of college and it really saddens me that the active volunteer he was in GBMC (working in the office, cleaning offices, being a drummer boy, volunteering at many events, helping with store inventory, etc) is not possible in Kingston. He has tried to find out if he could volunteer or help in anyway on the *Voyageur* paper or do anything but has not been successful.

Senator Dora has her grandson Kyle LePage attending college in Toronto (he was also an active volunteer in the same fashion) but now has no support system to encourage continuation or to keep active within our Nation.

I trust that something should be done to keep our active youths involved and supported because they are important citizens of our Nation.

Ben mentioned that he has been participating with the First Nations at St Lawrence College and that maybe we should consider being able to provide some sort of assistance in conjunction with them....

Anyhow, I started on one topic and ended up somewhere totally different.

My grandmother always used to tell me that youths should always be doing something to keep them out of mischief and I still believe in this today.

I am well known in this community for taking in stray teenagers, who for one reason or another lost the road on their personal journeys.

I have had great success with this. I had a young man whose father had passed away when he was 12. He lived with his mother, sister and stepfather who would abuse them verbally. This young man came to me at the age of 17. He had dropped out of high school and was not looking for anything except to work to make money. I encour-

aged him to continue his education and to finish his grade 12 through correspondence courses. I helped him achieve his grade 12 while he worked full time at McDonald's restaurant. Through many discussions, he decided to continue his education and has enrolled at Seneca College in Brampton for his first year. He makes me real proud! He has grown in many ways as well; visits with his sister and mother, and has even made strides with his stepfather.

After he left, I had a young woman move in who was homeless. She stayed here for the summer and got cleaned up from the drugs. She has found herself employment as a waitress and has found love. She has moved in with her boyfriend for

he wants to do exactly. I trust he will figure it out. I look forward to seeing where his next step along the road will take him.

I just love being around our next generation—our youths—as they have so much knowledge and talent it is unbelievable.

There is another young woman who loves volunteering with me and my daughter Ashley at events like the *Rendezvous*. This young woman lives with her father (mother abandoned her when she was a baby)....She came to find me through coming here to visit my daughter, and has adopted me as her mom as she loves the way I talk with her and am open to answering any question she may have. She is a really talented artist. I asked

her to make me a portrait of Louis Riel for Louis Riel Day and she agreed to do that for me. I tell her this way I will always have something of hers when she is a famous artist like Van Gogh. She laughs and tells me I am nuts to believe this, but I reassure her that she can be anyone she wants to be as long as she believes in herself.

Well I suppose I have done enough story telling for one day. I think that the seven grandfathers' teaching helps teach our youths the basics of how they should treat us and vice versa. I read somewhere that any child who has more than two uncles and aunts will never do wrong. This has always remained with me as I think of my own youth

growing up and how I came from a small community and everyone had a straight line to my parents if I did wrong. I was lucky enough for my children to have the same opportunities. There is much to be said for having elders as part of the extended family. — **Pauline**

“

I asked her to make me a portrait of Louis Riel for Riel Day and she agreed. I tell her this way I will always have something of hers when she is a famous artist like Van Gogh. She laughs and tells me I am nuts to believe this, but I reassure her that she can be anyone she wants to be as long as she believes in herself.”

the time being, knowing that if she needs someone to talk to she can always call me or come for a visit. She now calls me “mom” and knows that she can return if things don't pan out.

My first candidate was a young man who came to me when he was 16 years old when his mother told him to get out. He has learning difficulties and is still attempting to finish his grade 12. I have managed to help him get involved with the Ontario Disability Support program so he can have money for food, rent and other things teenagers need. He will be finishing his grade 12 this year and this is quite an accomplishment. He goes and visits at his mothers some weekends to spend time with his younger brother. I have taken time to teach him about budgeting his money and making a few easy meals for himself. He has learned to do his laundry and is planning on continuing his education, but not sure what

Métis Style

Lee Hillman is an entrepreneur from Calgary who designed and is selling Métis ties. The ties are handmade of good quality silk. They are \$50 each, or \$40 each in orders of ten or more.

If you are interested contact Lee by email: kokumlee@shaw.ca or by phone: 403-271-9024



NEWS BITS:

**BC forges Accord with Métis Nation**

VANCOUVER—The Métis Nation Relationship Accord was signed recently by Tom Christensen, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation, and Bruce Dumont, President of Métis Nation of British Columbia. 'The Métis people have a significant role in the fabric of our province,' Christensen said. 'We are building a relationship and working toward closing the gap in quality of life between Aboriginal people and other British Columbians.' For more information: www.mpcbc.ca

Native musician brings powwow ringtones to cellphones

WINNIPEG, MB—Tired of hearing that same old "ring-ring" when you get a call on your cellphone? The sound of traditional native powwow music could soon signal your calls, thanks to a Manitoba musician. Michael Esquash Sr., frontman and lead singer with Spirit Sands Singers, an aboriginal singing group, will be offering the ringtones through his record label, War Pony Records. "I think it's going to be something big. I think people are interested in having a different ringtone — answering your phone in a crowded place and having powwow music going," he told CBC News. Full story: www.cbc.ca/story/canada/national/2006/06/08/powwow-ringtone.html

**Bison freed at Grasslands National Park**

VAL MARIE, SK—On a rolling stretch of prairie grassland, a stone's throw from nowhere, a circle that was broken more than a century ago was reconnected recently with the release of 72 pure-blooded plains bison to the land where their ancestors once flourished. The day was billed as a reconciliation of sorts - returning the prairie to the way it was before European settlers came and nearly wiped out the mammoth beasts. "I know a lot of aboriginal people are feeling very good today knowing that mistah' moostoos is running again in this part of the country," said Lyndon Tootoosis, a storyteller from the Poundmaker First Nation. Mistah' moostoos is Cree for big buffalo.

Xerox Aboriginal Scholarship Program

TORONTO, ON—Established in 1994, Xerox Canada's Aboriginal Scholarship Program was designed to assist the advancement of Aboriginal Peoples' participation in an increasingly technologically enriched workplace and the new digital economy. The program encourages the development of information technology skills and knowledge, thereby promoting the use of hardware, software and new technologies to support the Aboriginal community's economic aspirations with rewarding careers in the information age. Due to changing times, the scholarship program has evolved to now recognize young business leaders too.

A DAY FOR US

MOON RIVER MÉTIS CELEBRATE ABORIGINAL DAY

— BY LOUISE GOULDING —

On June 21st, 2006, the Moon River Métis Council celebrated its first ever National Aboriginal Day. Celebrating with us were 200 students, the public, and various dignitaries.

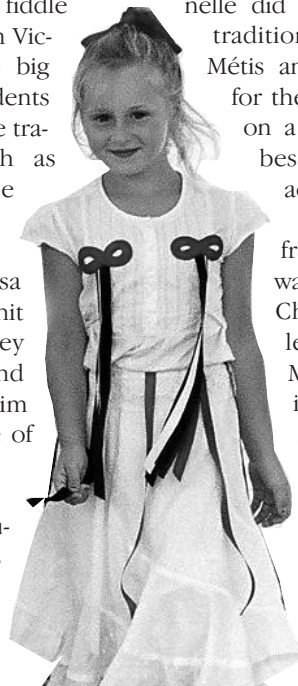
When I brought to council the idea of not only celebrating Aboriginal Day for the first time but using it as a way to teach youth in the area about Métis culture, council, as always, jumped in with much enthusiasm.

It didn't take our Women's Representative, Verna Porter, long before she had found the perfect place to hold our celebrations and to eagerly submit our proposal to Heritage Canada for funding to assist us in pulling this off. The day-long celebrating, teaching, learning and plain old fun was held at Muskoka Heritage Place in Huntsville. Management at Muskoka Heritage Place was excited and very willing to assist us in celebrating our heritage and they were instrumental in the success of the day.

The day was filled with Métis culture and tradition. The 200 students who attended our celebration were very enthusiastic and participated fully in the many demonstrations during the day. They were able to dance a jig with fellow student and Métis jigger, Victoria Spiers who was accompanied by amazing fiddle player Carl Tusz. Both Victoria and Carl were big hits. The many students were also able to taste traditional foods, such as smoked fish, maple syrup, and fish chowder. The fish chowder made by Lisa McCron was a big hit with the kids. They enjoyed listening and watching trapper, Jim Grisdale as he spoke of trapping and its relationship to the Métis. One of the students' favourite parts

of this demonstration was when Jim set off a trap or two and had the students guessing what pelt belonged to what animal.

The students also very much enjoyed Scott Carpenter's Métis Culture exhibit. He too had them guessing and playing with items from years gone by. Ruth Quesnelle did a demonstration on traditional clothing of the Métis and another highlight for the students was trying on a capote. One of the best parts of the day, according to the letters we received from many students, was spending time with Chris McLeod and learning all about Métis culture, including more games and hands on learning. Chris, as many of you already know, participated in the Canoe Expedition and in one of the letters we received from the students



**Jigging Champion
Victoria Spiers**

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY 2006 - SAULT STE. MARIE

CELEBRATION & SOLIDARITY

— BY MICHELE DALE —

I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank you for your participation in, and for your valuable contribution to our 2006 National Aboriginal Day activities. You made this cultural event a true day of celebration.

As with any event, there are always those special people that we must thank. These include:

- our honoured community Elders and Senators;
- Kim Streich-Poser and Dree Pauzé from the City of Sault Ste. Marie;
- Bea Shawanda, our master of ceremonies;
- Bernadette (Small Cook) Shawanda, Maheengun Shawanda and Liz Shawanda



Métis Nation of Ontario citizen Michel Blais gives a trapping demonstration.

from the Friendship Centre;
• Jim Hopper and Jean-Marie Allard from Miikana Partnership (division of Lucidia Studios);

• Paula Beemer;
• Patti Moreau, Liisa Lesage, Colleen Walls, Louise Blais, Ann Trudel, and Tammy Webb from

the Métis Nation of Ontario;
• our many talented performers who provided a day of high energy entertainment.

The success of Aboriginal Day in Sault Ste. Marie has demonstrated the power of partnership between our First Nations and Métis communities; we came to our meeting place and joined together in a celebration and solidarity for all cultures. At the same time, we shared as individual communities, our unique cultural differences that are woven into the history and traditions of our land and our people. Marsi, ekeepay-itootayan (thank you for coming)!

Michele Dale is the Health Services Coordinator in the Sault Ste. Marie area.

Ottawa's Aboriginal police officers honoured

— BY LOUISE LOGUE —

Six Aboriginal Ottawa police officers received Awards of Accomplishment from the Aboriginal community and D/C Sue O'Sullivan at a crime prevention symposium held in Ottawa in April 2006.

Constables Patricia Guerin, Garth Faubert, Jaime Dunlop, James Ramsay, Patrick Lafreniere and Sgt. Fredrick Vance were congratulated for their volunteerism and ongoing mentorship of youth. Our Aboriginal officers were asked to continue in their efforts to promote healthy lifestyles for all of our youth and families. Additionally, they were encouraged to carry with pride their Aboriginal heritage and culture through the challenges of ensuring community safety and



PHOTO: Elena Abel

Bev Souliere, MNO; Allison Fisher and Carlie Chase of the Wabano Center for Aboriginal Health offered an Honour Song to the officers. From left to right: Deputy Chief of Police Sue O'Sullivan and Constables Patricia Guerin, Garth Faubert, Jaime Dunlop and James Ramsay. Missing from picture: Cst. Patrick Lafreniere and Sgt. Fredrick Vance.

wellness.

These fine young Aboriginal officers are shining examples of the success that our Aboriginal youth can have when they apply their efforts to reaching their goals. Our officers were further

honoured with an Honour song by Métis Nation of Ontario employee Beverly Souliere who was joined by Allison Fisher and Carlie Chase of the Wabano Center for Aboriginal Health in Ottawa.

The Ottawa Police Service heralds itself as an 'employer of choice for all people'. The Métis Nation of Ontario is proud to support the Métis officers who have successfully joined the ranks of the Ottawa Police Service.

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2006 - SAULT STE. MARIE

Hi-tech Métis

Satellite high speed wireless Internet hooks up delegates at last year's Annual Assembly in Sault Ste. Marie

— BY NEIL TRUDEL —

When the 13th Annual General Assembly was to be held last summer at the Ojibway Tent and Trailer Park in Garden River near the city of Sault Ste. Marie, the only option for internet would have been dial-up. But that contained a problem in itself as the park has only one phone line and one public pay phone. To compound the problem, due to the location of the park, there was no DSL services, no Cablevision, and no wireless coverage.

A solution was found at Quattrra scs Ltd., a company that specializes in communications products and services in Sault Ste. Marie. A portable internet satellite system was installed at the park by John Trudeau, a service technician from Quattrra.

It was also interesting to note how quickly John set up the satellite dish on a portable stand, acquiring the direction and height of the satellite in the sky by eye, and then confirming and tweaking the direction slightly using a special measuring tool to increase the signal. He connected the dish to a satellite modem and within five minutes the modem had acquired and configured itself to the internet signal from Xplornet Internet Services. John also plugged in his laptop computer to confirm for us the internet signal was working and was set for high speed use.

Now that the internet was at the park it would allow us to achieve four main goals. Its main purpose was to provide a free



l to r: **Neil Trudel, volunteer MNO Region 4 webmaster; Senator Brenda Powley and John Trudeau, Quattrra SCS service technician.**

demonstration of the technology and services offered by Quattrra scs; two, to allow the Historic Sault Ste. Marie Council to disburse the free internet signal for general use and email by using wireless; three, to allow the local news media in Sault Ste. Marie to instantly upload their news coverage of the AGA, and four, to permit the MNO accounting department to connect back to servers in Ottawa.

However, before the Internet was used, and because security is always an issue, the MNO IT department helped out by connecting a SonicWall switch with internal security features for protection that provided two feeds, one for council and the other for the MNO accounting department.

The wireless network was also divided into two areas with a wireless hub being located at the park store and a wireless bridge link that re-transmitted the signal a distance from the store over to the big tent. It was nice to see folks sitting around the store using their laptops like an outdoor internet café and others online inside the big tent.

The bridge link to the big tent was made possible by using wireless bridges which were on loan from Martin Wyant, General Manager of the PUC Telecom of Sault

Ste. Marie. The PUC Telecom a few years back made headline news when it announced that it had tested and would distribute high speed internet over the power lines to home users.

The wireless network, which was also set up as a demonstration at the AGA for the MNO to consider for future AGA's was experimental and utilized all low powered equipment that is readily available. The wireless bridge towers that housed the equipment used some home engineering ideas created by me as everything had to be water proof. We even had some laptop users at the store who were surprised that they could connect to wireless at the big tent but with a weaker signal. However, one must remember that wireless is "line of sight" and is hampered easily by any obstruction, and without proper antennas distance is reduced.

Having satellite Internet and a wireless network at an AGA was a "first time event" for the MNO, but it wouldn't have happened without the donated help and equipment from Quattrra scs, PUC Telecom, Sault Ste. Marie Council, and the MNO. Everyone worked together to provide a fun week for those at the AGA, or should I say fun Internet.



ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY CAPITAL GRANTS PROGRAM

This program invests in the development of facilities that provide Aboriginal community services and encourage business activity. These facilities foster healthy lifestyles and skills development, especially among Aboriginal children and youth.

Eligible Applicants include First Nations, Aboriginal non-profit incorporated groups and Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Charter Communities sponsored by that Secretariat. Eligible Projects include those involving construction, acquisition, renovation and expansion of community, friendship and small business centres, and feasibility studies leading to the development of each. An eligible applicant community can obtain one-time infrastructure funds for each of: Community/friendship centre Small business centre to a maximum of \$500,000 (not to exceed 75% of the total eligible project costs). For remote, fly-in communities, a maximum of \$650,000 will be considered on a case-by-case basis (within 75% max. cap).

An eligible applicant community can obtain funding for a feasibility study for each

type of infrastructure project to a maximum of \$50,000 per project (not to exceed 75% of total eligible project costs). The program is comprised of two components.

The Ontario Native Community Infrastructure Projects component helps develop community and friendship centres that contribute to a healthy social base in Aboriginal communities. These facilities provide essential community services and activities.

The Native Small Business Centres component helps develop small business centres that support entrepreneurial activities and provide opportunities for business development in Aboriginal communities. These facilities support early stage growth of small businesses by providing rental space, shared services and business counselling assistance.

TIM SIM

720 Bay St Toronto, ON M5G 2K1
(416) 314-7217 tim.sim@osaa.gov.on.ca

SHANNON CORMIER

Program and Development Officer,
Agente de programme et de développement
Status of Women Canada – Northwestern Ontario Office
(807) 346-2903

www.aboriginalaffairs.osaa.gov.on.ca/english/economy/grants.htm

Ontario Métis Music



RAINBOW COUNTRY

Métis musician, Larry Coad, has produced a CD to promote "Rainbow Country". Think of it as a musical postcard. There are four songs (Sudbury, Espanola, Manitoulin, Area Code 705) and a photo fold-out. The CD sells for \$9.95 with a portion of the proceeds being donated to the Espanola Nursing Home. www.metismusic.com

MÉTIS FACES & PLACES - OWEN SOUND



Wikwemikong country singer, Al "Hardy" Peltier (left); Basil Johnston (middle), organizer and author of 16 books on native history and culture; award-winning Métis songwriter and producer, Larry Coad (right), celebrate Canada Day at the Kelso Beach bandshell in Owen Sound, ON.



For additional information on
Aboriginal Programming and
Student Services contact:

GEORGIAN
YOUR COLLEGE • YOUR FUTURE

One Georgian Drive, Barrie ON L4M 3X9
Tel: (705) 728-1968 Fax: (705) 722-1527
Native Community Liaison, Ext 1317
e-mail: bcharles@georgianc.on.ca
www.georgianc.on.ca/aboriginal

Anishnabe Education and Training Circle

- Aboriginal Student Advisor
- Visiting Elder Program
- Niwijiagen Peer Mentor Program
- AETC Resource Centres at Barrie, Orillia and Owen Sound campuses
- Native Community Liaison
- Shki-Miikan Foundation Year (New Road)
- Native Education: Community & Social Development Co-op Diploma Program



Indigenous News

FROM AROUND THE WORLD

ASSEMBLED BY MARC ST.GERMAIN



Inuit film opens Toronto Film Festival

Inuit filmmaker, Zacharias Kunuk's latest cinematic creation, *The Journals of Knud Rasmussen*, received the coveted opening screening at the 2006 Toronto International Film Festival in September.

The film, shot on location in the Canadian arctic with Inuit actors speaking in Inuktitut, is set in the 1920's with Inuit society on the cusp of immense change. It tells the tale of the last great Igloodik shaman, Aua, and his encounters and struggles with Danish scientists who have come to study his people.

Zacharias Kunuk's 2001 film *Atanarjuat: The Fast Runner*, also filmed in the arctic and acted by non-professionals in Inuit language, won the Camera d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival.

The Toronto Film Festival, an annual event for over 30 years, has become one of the premiere showcases of film in the world.

Brazil's Arara under threat of extinction

A federal prosecutor has ordered FUNAI, the Brazilian government's Indian affairs department, to draw up a plan to recognise the land of a group of Arara Indians.

The prosecutor stated that, "environmental crimes are being committed daily" on the Indians' land and that "the government's negligence is threatening the Arara people with extinction". The Indians live in the heart of the Amazon in a territory called Cachoeira Seca (Dry Rapids).

FUNAI will incur a daily fine of \$4,700 (US) if it does not present a plan within 30 days. It was supposed to have drawn up plans to demarcate the Cachoeira Seca territory by June 2005.

Source: *Survival International*



Nukak return to rainforest

The Colombian Government is returning the Nukak people to a 20,000 hectare 'safe haven', although that area is a fraction the size of their original reserve and in a region not part of their traditional territory. The nomadic Nukak took refuge in nearby villages last March when violence related to Colombia's long-running civil war chased them from their rainforest home.

The Nukak were contacted for the first time in 1988. Since then coca farmers and paramilitary and guerilla groups have encroached on their lands. The Nukak population has been cut in half since first contact.

Roberto Meier, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees representative in Colombia has urged armed groups to give indigenous people a wide berth. "We have warned repeatedly that indigenous groups in Colombia are at risk of violence and even of extinction amid the ongoing conflict."

Remains of indigenous Tasmanians returned to homeland

Two bundles of ashes, the cremated remains of indigenous Tasmanians, were recently returned to their traditional territory.

The remains have been held at the British Museum in London since the 1830's when they were taken to England by Tasmania's British governor. Last year, the British Prime Minister imposed a law that encouraged museums to repatriate Aboriginal human remains in their collections.

The Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre (TAC), a social service provider and advocacy agency, has been fighting for the return of Tasmanian ancestral remains for decades. The TAC will continue to try to persuade other museums to return remains, including skulls and skeletons from their collections.

Thousands gather to remember Maori queen

Tens of thousands of people gathered at Taupini Mountain near Hamilton, New Zealand as the Maori Queen, Te Atairangikaahu, was laid to rest on August 21st, 2006.

The 75 year old monarch's funeral services drew Pacific political leaders, Maori and others peoples from across New Zealand and were broadcast on television to an estimated audience of 450,000.

The Kingitanga or Maori King Movement was started in the 1850s by indigenous people on New Zealand's north island in hopes of uniting different Maori groups and creating a leader who would have similar standing to the monarch of the colonizing British. Today the Maori King or Queen is still a widely respected position of considerable prestige, although they have no legal powers.

The Maori King Movement was started in the 1850s by indigenous people on New Zealand's north island

The Maori monarch is appointed by leaders of Maori groups of the Kingitanga. Although the position is not hereditary all Maori kings to date have been descendants of the first, Potatau Te Wherowhero. Before Te Atairangikaahu's funeral services her eldest son, Tuheitia Pahi, was crowned as the latest Maori king.

Reflections, Riel & Red River Women

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

bed when Mr. Bannatyne and my mother's cousin, Vicky MacVicar, arrived in Mr. Bannatyne's cutter. He had driven down from Fort Garry as fast as the horse would go. I wish I could tell you how fine a character Vicky MacVicar was. She and Mr. Bannatyne had been pleading with Riel for the life of Major Boulton, who was a prisoner in Fort Garry with many others. He was condemned to be shot at noon that day. Miss MacVicar said to Mr. Bannatyne that there was nothing left to do but get my mother, and so they drove to our house post-haste.

Vicky said to my mother: 'Come, cousin Janet, you must get up and go to Riel and save Major Bolton's life!' She helped my mother to dress, and my father went with her to Fort Garry.

"They went into Riel's council chamber. Riel strode up and down the room and said, 'No, Mrs. Sutherland, Boulton must die at twelve o'clock! I hold him accountable for the death of your son, the first bloodshed since the resistance to my government began, and he must pay the penalty. A life for life! He is guilty of the death of a man born on the soil of this country and he must die for it!' My mother pleaded all

“

Riel stopped his pacing up and down, and resting against the end of the table, covered his face with his hands. At last he said, 'Mrs. Sutherland, that alone has saved him. I give you Boulton's life!'

the more earnestly, and besought Riel on her knees to give her Major Boulton's life. Riel stopped his pacing up and down, and resting against the end of the table, covered his face with his hands. At last he said, 'Mrs. Sutherland, that alone has saved him. I give you Boulton's life!'

"With that Riel went out of the room and went straight to Donald A. Smith, who had been using every argument and persuasion with him to save Major Boulton's life. After another interview with Mr. Smith, Riel went to the prison and told Archdeacon McLean, who was with Major Boulton, that the execution would not take

place, and asked him to explain to Major Boulton and the other prisoners that after a meeting of the council, which was about to be held, they would all be released. When Major Boulton was a freeman he came straight from Fort Garry to our house to thank my mother. He told her she was a very brave woman. No one can know the agony my mother went through in those terrible days. Major Boulton spoke the truth when he said she was a brave woman. She worked hard helping my father to prevent strife and the shedding of blood."

Bursary Awards for Métis Students

Financial assistance is available for Métis students pursuing post-secondary education through the Métis Nation of Ontario Bursary Program



for more information & regional office locations: **1-800-263-4889** or **www.metisnation.org**



▶ **DR. SUZANNE ROCHON-BURNETT** was a founding member of the Métis Nation of Ontario, the first Vice-Chair of the MNO and a board member of the Métis Nation of Ontario Cultural Commission. She was named to the Order of Canada and the Order of Ontario. She was a member of the Canada Council and the Board of Directors of TVOntario. She was a recipient of the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation's Lifetime Achievement Award and was the first woman inducted into the Aboriginal Business Hall of Fame. She spent her lifetime promoting Aboriginal artists and was a fiercely proud Métis woman. Sadly, Suzanne passed away on April 2, 2006. The Métis Nation of Ontario is proud to name her as the first recipient of the *Suzanne-Rochon Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award* in recognition of her outstanding service to the Métis Nation. For more information: www.metisnation.org.

THE SUZANNE ROCHON-BURNETT VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

was established to honour all volunteers in the Métis Nation of Ontario. One volunteer per year will be selected by a special group of panellists. That person will be named at each Annual General Assembly (AGA). The Volunteer of the Year will be featured in *Métis Voyageur* and on the MNO website and will have his or her name printed on all MNO promotional materials for the year between AGA.

PROCESS: A call for nominations will be made on Louis Riel Day (November 16th) each year. The deadline for nominations shall be April 2nd in each calendar year. All valid nominations shall then be forwarded to the Selection Panel for review. The panellists shall submit their ballot of their top three choices to the MNO Chief Electoral Officer by May 2 in each year. The Chief Electoral Officer shall compile a list of the top three candidates who obtained the most votes. In the event of a tie for the third place candidate, all candidates in the tie shall be included in the list. The list shall then be circulated to the panellists who shall then complete their second ballot vote by June 2nd. The Chief Electoral Officer shall compile the list of votes by candidate and forward to the President of the MNO, the name of the person who obtained the most votes. In the event of a tie, the panel shall hold a run-

off vote of those involved in the tie. In the event of a tie for the second time, those candidates shall then each be named Volunteer of the Year.

SELECTION PANEL: The Selection Panel shall consist of 11 MNO Citizens in good standing and shall include:

- The MNO President
- MNO Legal Counsel
- A Senator chosen by the Senators from amongst themselves at AGA
- Four Community Council Presidents chosen from amongst themselves at each AGA
- The Chair of the Métis Nation of Ontario Cultural Commission (or the Vice-Chair in the event that the Chair is named under another category)
- A member of the MNO Women's Secretariat (WSMNO)

- A member of the MNO Youth Council chosen from among themselves
- The current Volunteer of the Year

CRITERIA FOR CANDIDATES: Any MNO citizen may nominate a candidate by completing a nomination form by the deadline. Each candidate must consent to have his or her name submitted. Candidates should exemplify the volunteer contributions made to the Métis Nation and to their community in a way similar to the standards set by Suzanne Rochon-Burnett. The candidates will have given generously of their time and effort. They will have been strong advocates of the Métis Nation and will have established an outstanding record of unselfish commitment to the cause of their efforts. They will be seen as caring and giving individuals and someone to look up to. The candidates will have provided an extended period of service as a volunteer.

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL HEALTH ORGANIZATION:

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL ROLE MODELS 2006

Twelve strong, accomplished and motivated youths were named "Aboriginal Role Models" at an award ceremony held at Rideau Hall in Ottawa, on October 16, 2006. It was hosted by Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada.¹ The nomination call for 2006/07 Role Models closed in

May 2006. A new call will be made in January, 2007. *Lead Your Way!* is hosted by the **National Aboriginal Health Organization** and funded by Health Canada. The National Aboriginal Role Model Program aims to: Promote healthy lifestyles and self-esteem among Aboriginal Peoples; Strengthen Aboriginal identity; Create positive

public images of Aboriginal Peoples; Facilitate availability of Aboriginal Role Models to Aboriginal youth and communities; Influence behaviours and attitudes of Aboriginal youth toward healthy lifestyles; and Foster Aboriginal-inspired leadership.

¹Although five of the twelve recipients were Métis, none was from Ontario



Alexander Angnaluk, 13, is of Inuit and First Nations descent and is currently living in Cold Lake First Nation, Alberta. He is involved in a variety of sports including volleyball, basketball, track and field and downhill skiing. He especially enjoys science classes and recently won first place at the Treaty Six Science Fair. Alexander's goal is to go to post-secondary school for environmental sciences.



Alisa Blake, 28, is from Fort McPherson, NWT. She is of mixed ancestry including Gwich'in, Inuvialuit and Métis. Her inspiration is her son, Austin. In 2005, Alisa received the Aviation Career Development Bursary and completed her first solo flight in November 2005. Alisa is enrolled in the Professional Pilot Program with Sky Wings Aviation Academy in Red Deer, AB. She plans to return to her community and become a pilot.



Shane Byrne, 21, is from the Innu community of Natuashish, Newfoundland. He is currently the Recreation Assistant and coaches the local soccer team in his spare time. He has been involved in numerous sports and earned medals in judo, volleyball and table tennis. He is eager to share his culture and Innu-aimun language with other young people. His future goal is to compete on Canada's National Men's Volleyball Team.



Alberta Eashappie-Prettyshield is Assiniboine from Carry the Kettle First Nation, Saskatchewan. She can speak Nakoda. At 19 years old, she is a jingle dress dancer and was named "Senior Princess" of Carry the Kettle Pow Wow. She is also an aspiring actress and has appeared in such television shows as *Moccasin Flats* and *Corner Gas*. Her future goal is to become a teacher or marine biologist.



Chelsea Lavallée is a 15-year-old Métis from St. Ambroise, MB. She has been involved with the St. Ambroise Youth Steppers Square Dance Program since 2003, performing at many local and provincial events. She has honour roll standings in her school studies since 2001. Earlier this year, she received the National Métis Youth Role Model Award in the "Young Métis Leaders" category. Chelsea aspires to become a veterinarian.



Terry Lyall, 30, is an Inuk from Nain, Nunatsiavut, Newfoundland. Terry has always been involved in his community. He volunteered with the fire department, recreation department, Citizens on Patrol program and Big Brothers Big Sisters. In 1999, he graduated from the RCMP Training Academy and is currently an RCMP constable and a member of the Musical Ride. He has worked in several Labrador communities. Terry lives in Ottawa, ON.



Daniel McKennitt, 23, is from the Ojibway community of Sandy Bay First Nation, Manitoba. He currently lives in Edmonton, Alberta, where he recently obtained his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Alberta. He is enrolled in the University of Alberta's Department of Medicine, where he is studying to become a physician. Daniel has worked for many organizations including as a youth advisor for the Urban Multipurpose Aboriginal Youth Centre with the Department of Heritage.



Aisa Pirti is a 19-year-old Inuk from Akulivik, Nunavik, in northern Quebec. He lives an active and healthy lifestyle. He has been involved with the Canadian Junior Rangers, learning traditional ways of surviving on the land. Aisa has received 30 medals and five trophies for Inuit games in regional and circumpolar competitions, such as the Arctic Winter Games. Aisa speaks three languages: Inuktitut, English and French. He is currently attending post-secondary school in Montreal.



Megan Pizzo-Lyall is an 18-year-old Inuk from Taloyoak, Nunavut. She has volunteered on many youth committees and now holds a position as vice-president on the National Inuit Youth Council. Megan has also competed at the Arctic Winter Games in speed skating and on the women's hockey team as assistant captain. In addition, she coached a girls' soccer team that won the 2005-06 regional competition. Megan is currently attending the Nunavut Sivuniksavut program in Ottawa.



Derek Sanderson is a Métis from Winnipeg, Manitoba. At 17, he has found a way to balance his school work, a job and participation on various sports teams. He was recently selected to play as the starting tight-end for his high school football team, the Kildonan Eastside Eagles. He also enjoys playing baseball and hockey. Derek has maintained an 80 per cent average in his school studies since 2004.



Christine Smith, 19, is a Métis from Wabowden, Manitoba. In 2005, she received her Emergency Medical Responders License for the local paramedics. She is an Emergency Services Intern Attendant, recruiting youth into the ambulance service. Since Christine was nine years old, she has dreamed of becoming a regular member of the RCMP. This fall, she will be an auxiliary member of the RCMP, volunteering her time to accompany regular members on patrol.



Caitlin Tolley, 15, is Algonquin from Kitigan Zibi First Nation, Quebec. She received the Foundation for the Advancement of Aboriginal Youth bursary for her academic achievements, where she maintained an 82 per cent average for three years. She is currently a Secondary IV student at Kitigan Zibi School. Caitlin is involved in bantam hockey and a rock and roll band called, *The House Band*. She speaks fluent Algonquin and is a jingle dress dancer.

Voyageur hits Central America

— BY LINDA LORD —

WITH THANKS TO SENATOR GERRY BEDFORD

As one who loves to travel, I am always thrilled when the *Voyageur* manages to take a trip—the further and more exotic the place, the more thrilled I am. Our regular readers will recall that last January/February (2006) there was a story called ‘Gifts of Friendship’, about Senator Gerry Bedford’s trip to Central America. Gerry and his family visited the Embera tribe who live in Panama. While there, Gerry presented Chief Claudio Chami with tobacco and other gifts.

In chapter two of this story, now back in Canada, Senator Bedford sent them a *Voyageur*.

In chapter three, the Embera, with the help of interpreter Mylin Samaniego, sent some pictures back of them seeing themselves in the *Voyageur* and the following letter. (I have not edited the letter in any way.)



PHOTO: Gerry Bedford

Guide and interpreter, Mylin Samaniego and Chief Claudio Chami with *Voyageur*; young boy holds photos.

Dear Friends!

Thanks for the material you sent and congratulations to Coral for the baby!!!! I am glad the pictures were not lost in their way on the mail...that happens sometimes! I received the newspaper May 10th and I keep the pictures you told me. The rest I gave them to Embera. (May 14th) They love to see their pictures and even more their pictures on a news paper!!!! Before I gave it to the Chief Claudio, I translated the text into Spanish and wrote it in another sheet of paper that they kept. I am sending some pictures that I took for you to see their surprise. Mr. Claudio asked the young girl to write some

words for you (it seemed to me that he can only write his name) so I will send the short lines by mail. When he saw the pictures he told me ‘I still keep this tabbaco leaves as a special gift!’

I also had the chance to read the articles in the *Voyager* and learn more about the Métis Nation and how well organized you are. Now I understand your interest with the culture and traditions of the native people. That’s why you feel identified with the Emberas...because of the fight you also have to keep so many beautiful traditions alive!!! Amazing!!! Thanks once again for your attention and blessing always,

— Your friend,
Mylin

OBITUARY

Joseph Prevost

1913 - 2005

In Memory of Joseph Prevost who passed away September 27th, 2005, at the age of 91. Mr. Prevost was the son of the late Bruno and Marie-Louise (St. Pierre) Prevost; beloved husband of Yvonne Seguin of Noeville; loving father of Ernestine (late Albert of Toronto), Jacqueline Guerin of Noeville; Madeleine Rancourt (late Leopold) of Giralton; Raymond Prevost (late Juliette) (Cecile), Ovila Prevost, (Denise) of Hector Prevost (Pauline) all of Alban; Lucille Michaud (late Gerald) of Drummond NB, and Richard Prevost of Toronto.

Predeceased by his brothers Lucien (late Aurore Beaulieu); Jules (late Lorenza); Pierre; Gerard; Aldege and by his sister Lucia (late Donat St. Pierre); Theodora (late Leodas St. Louis); Germaine (late Ovila Turgeon); Marieanne and Padouvana.

Mr Prevost is sadly missed by his 16 Grandchildren, 11 great grandchildren, and 4 great great grandchildren, predeceased by one great grandchild.

Joseph Prevost was born on November 5th, 1913, in Quebec. In 1920, when Joseph was only seven years old, his parents moved their family to Ouellette, Ontario. At the age of 12 Joseph was withdrawn from school to help with the farm chores. He was ploughing and cutting wood for the stoves in the winter, while his father and older brothers were gone to the lumber camps. Throughout his labourious days Joseph remained devout to the church, and was an altar boy for many years. In 1928, when the construction of St. David’s Church was complete, 15 year old Joseph was asked to bring forth a sacred stone. It was a great honour to carry this commemorative plaque during its benediction.

In 1930, at the age of 17, Joseph went to the Gogama lumber camp. Eight years later, on September 26, 1938, he married his great love, Yvonne Seguin, daughter of Henri dit Laderoute and Eva Lafreniere.

These two shared eight wonderful children, many grandchildren and 67 love filled years of marriage.

In 1948, Joseph and his wife bought a big farm near the village of Noeville. Joseph owned a threshing machine which he used and loaned to many neighbours. In 1950 he began to work for the Department of Highways.

Joseph was also an expert fisher and hunter who loved being in the forest or on a lake. Sadly, in 1959, he had to give up his passion after a terrible accident broke his legs, but even this could not keep him away for long and soon he was back fishing and hunting.

In 1967, Joseph moved to Alban to work in the sawmill as a night watchman, where he worked until his retirement in 1978, at the age of 65. In 1983, he moved to Noeville with his wife. There, until his death, Joseph kept busy gardening, fishing and hunting.

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MADD
Mothers Against Drunk Driving™
Les mères contre l'alcool au volant™

Poem and painting by Métis artist, Timothy Mohan

My Child...Sorry my child; it is hard to say good-bye.
Wishing I could take these teardrops.
To throw them back into the sky.
I know you are resting; so far away.
Stretching your wings out; I wish you had stayed.
Living peacefully in another world; a different place.
Wishing I could make everything all right, to guide you along
your way.

Sorry my child, I wish we had another chance.
To give you my world, how I miss watching you dance.
And the pain I feel has opened my eyes to see.
That your soul is free; I know you're an angel watching over me.
I begin stretching my wings out, far into the night.
I know deep in my heart, everything will be all right.
The new day has begun and I know God has smiled on you.
Sometimes I feel lost, living in this world without you.

timothy mohan ©2006

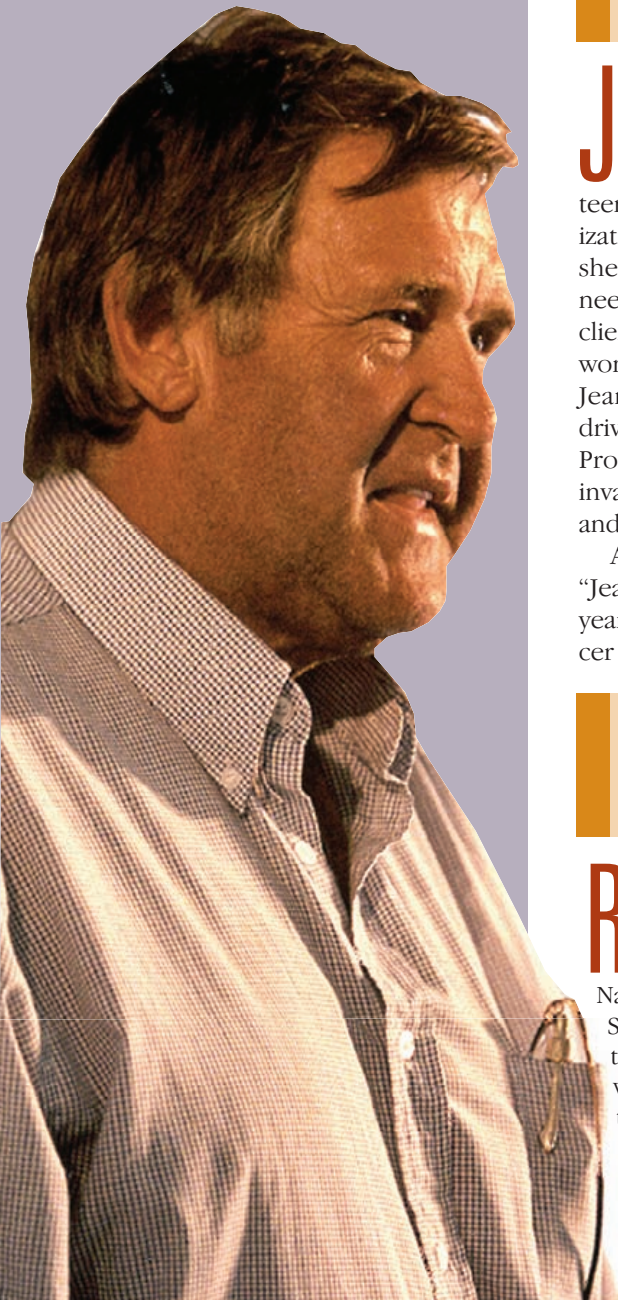


by **Tony Belcourt**
PRESIDENT
Métis Nation of Ontario

Our citizens volunteer selflessly in our cause to provide thousands upon thousands of hours of service every year. Some serve in elected positions on our councils and boards at the provincial and community level; some volunteer for community activities, such as Riel Day, fund-raisers, potluck dinners, or at our gatherings during the annual fall hunt. We are completely dependent on our citizens to volunteer for the Long Term Care program and to serve on our Training Initiatives' committees in order to provide these essential services to our people. The staff at the MNO also volunteer their time, going above and beyond to assist the Métis Nation.

Without this commitment we would not have been able to progress and realise the accomplishments we are so proud of as a people. While much attention is paid to the rights-based campaign we have been waging to ensure our recognition, our volunteers have been quietly plugging away, ensuring that the organizational and service delivery needs of our people are met. You are all to be applauded. We will do so at the AGA every year by highlighting one person who exemplifies the best of all of the qualities of our volunteers. We will continue to praise and value our volunteers -- Métis citizens to whom we are most grateful.

More information about the Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award on page 30.



Volunteers!

Volunteerism is the backbone of the Métis Nation

Lisa Pigeau, OTTAWA

Lisa is the Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Worker for the Ottawa Métis Community Council. **Average Hours Volunteered per month: 60**

Lisa was working as a mainstream home-based health services provider when a job posting for a Long Term Care worker landed on her desk in 1999. That was a busy year for Lisa, as after an eight year search to trace her Métis roots, she received her MNO Citizenship Card and was hired to work in the MNO Health Branch.

Her dedication to her job is exemplary, but Lisa only works for the MNO from Monday to Friday from 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. What does she do with her time off? She volunteers for the Métis Nation!

Like many of the MNO's staff across Ontario, Lisa goes above and beyond the call of duty for the Métis Nation. After leaving work you could find Lisa delivering donated furniture or clothes to clients in need, coordinating

Ottawa Community Council meetings, preparing for traditional workshops, providing emergency client services, or cooking traditional meals upon request.

"Since, the arrival of Lisa and her dedication the Ottawa Métis Community is growing. Two years ago I wasn't even aware that there were a lot of Métis in the Ottawa area; now I go to functions and see so many faces," says one MNO client.

"I look at it as 'pay it forward'," says Lisa. "Most people are only one step away from being in our clients shoes."



Jean Dorion, MIDLAND

Lisa is the Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Worker for the Ottawa Métis Community Council. **Average Hours Volunteered per month: 70**

Jean Dorion came to the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) when she was doing volunteer work for other organizations in the area when she heard that the MNO needed drivers for their clients. A perfect fit for a woman that loved to drive. Jean volunteered as a driver for the Long Term Care (LTC) Program from 1999-2005 and was invaluable to the clients of the MNO and to the program.

A client that knew Jean well recalls "Jean came to be part of our life 10 years ago when my husband had cancer and we would have to travel from



Midland to Toronto and even down to London for appointments. If it weren't for the MNO Program and the Volunteers I don't know what we would have done". These sentiments are common when talking to clients of the MNO.

Jean would do more for clients than just transport them to their appointments. Bingo was a regular event for some of the ladies, while even going grocery shopping was another. If a client needed a ride to do something other than just see the doctor, Jean would do this. Jean was always willing to invest the time, as would any member

of the Midland LTC Driving Team.

Another client said, "I live in the boon docks and Jean would come to my place weekly to check on me to make sure that I was doing ok. I don't know what I would do without the volunteers of MNO's LTC Program". As is normal with most volunteers of the MNO, family at times can be pushed to the sidelines. Jean's daughter fondly recalls, "at one point Mom was so busy we would jokingly make appointments so that we could see her".

Sadly, Jean succumbed to health problems of her own in 2006; she will be missed by all the people lucky enough to have met her.

JEAN DORIAN
1936-AUG 2006

Richard Sarrazin, SUDBURY

Richard serves as the President of the Sudbury Métis Community Council and is the MNO's Captain of the Hunt in Region 5. **Average Hours Volunteered per month: 160**

Richard Sarrazin recalls his proudest day was in 1999 when he found the link that proved his Métis ancestry and was able to receive his Métis Nation of Ontario Citizenship Card. Since then Richard has volunteered tirelessly. He donated his time to dry-wall and paint the new office space, takes time to drive clients of MNO Long Term Care program to appointments, he takes people on their errands and much more.

"They don't have a vehicle but need to get stuff done, I have the

time so I help them out," says Richard.

Being the Captain of the Hunt for Region 5, Richard is extremely busy as the fall hunting season approaches. Meeting with local Métis people over a coffee to ensure that their forms are completed properly to obtain an MNO Harvesters Certificate, is a daily ritual for Richard.

Richard is fondly known to those within the MNO as the man who will "harvest on demand", going out to harvest moose meat for the sick and elderly as well as for Métis Nation of

Ontario functions across the province, including Louis Riel Day in Toronto.

Richard says he is fortunate to be pensioned off so he can use his time to focus on his duties of being Community Council President. On average Richard is at the Council Office three to four days a week striving to strengthen the Métis Nation. Always approachable and willing to help out, Richard is one of many elected officials within the Métis Nation who selflessly devotes his time and energy to help our people. •••

Volunteer activity adds value to the Métis Nation

Volunteer activity adds value of \$1.15 million to MNO every year: Volunteer hours don't show up on end-of-year budgets but their value is indisputable. Using the *Volunteer Value Calculator* the total estimated salaries of MNO's volunteers would be **\$1,157,047.97** a year.

VOLUNTEER POSITION	# VOLS	ESTIMATED SALARIES
MÉTIS AWARDS COMMITTEE	17	\$ 17,278.21
AGA COORDINATION CMTTEE	10	\$ 41,925.52
CAPTAIN OF THE HUNT	9	\$ 50,155.20
REG. APPROVAL COMMITTEE	21	\$ 89,907.30
PCMNO MEMBERS	14	\$123,872.28
MNO STAFF VOLUNTEER	50	\$165,330.00
LTC VOLUNTEERS	88	\$290,712.58
COMMUNITY COUNCILS	174	\$387,866.88
TOTAL	383	\$1,157,047.97

MNO Volunteers put in thousands of hours per year: The MNO could not function without its hundreds of dedicated volunteers. The Long Term Care program alone has the benefit of 88 individuals giving their time to make the Ontario Métis community better.

MNO PROGRAM / AREA	# VOLS	TOTAL Hrs/Yr
LONG TERM CARE	88	16,896
AGA PLANNING COMMITTEE	10	2,080
CAPTAINS OF THE HUNT	9	1,800
PCMNO	14	3,472
COMMUNITY COUNCILS	174	13,920
MNO STAFF	50	9,600
REG. APPROVAL COMMITTEE	21	2,520
MÉTIS AWARDS COMMITTEE	17	204
TOTAL VOLUNTEERS	383	50,492 hours/year