

MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

Métis Veterans' Memorial Unveiled at Juno Beach

This past Remembrance Day, Métis Nation veterans, youth and dignitaries travelled to the Juno Beach Centre in Courseulles-sur-Mer, France, to dedicate a memorial to Métis who served in the world wars.

"We all owe a debt to the Métis Nation citizens who fought, who were wounded and who died defending their people, their country and world freedom," said Métis National Council President, Clément Chartier. "This memorial will help ensure their service and sacrifice will not be forgotten."

The memorial includes an exhibit highlighting Métis culture, the contributions of Métis soldiers, aircrew and sailors dur-

ing the world wars and features a Red River Cart--one of the most widely recognized symbols of the Métis Nation.

Over a dozen Métis veterans were joined at the Remembrance Day, November 11, 2009, dedication ceremony by President Chartier; David Chartrand, Manitoba Métis Federation President and MNC Minister for Veterans Affairs; and, the Honourable Chuck Strahl, Minister for Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and non-Status Indians.

"I am proud to participate in this historic event, where the sacrifices made by Métis servicemen and women are receiving the attention they deserve," said

“
WE ALL OWE A DEBT TO THE MÉTIS NATION CITIZENS WHO FOUGHT, WHO WERE WOUNDED AND WHO DIED DEFENDING THEIR PEOPLE, THEIR COUNTRY AND WORLD FREEDOM.

Clément Chartier
Métis National Council President

”

Minister Strahl. "I look forward to the November 11th special dedication service at Juno Beach Centre where on behalf of all Canadians I will thank Métis veterans for the contributions and sacrifices made during the two world wars, the Korean war and the battle in Afghanistan and peacekeeping missions around the globe."

President Chartier thanked Minister Strahl on behalf of the Métis Nation for his support, along with the Office of the Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Veterans Affairs Canada for their assistance in making the memorial possible and providing resources for Métis Nation veterans and youth to participate in its dedication ceremony. He also

thanked the Juno Beach Centre for their help and cooperation.

The renowned Métis dance team, the St. Ambroise Youth Steppers, performed at the dedication ceremony, and joined several other Métis youth as part of the delegation. David Chartrand said: "Our youth can learn a lot from the thousands of brave and selfless Métis Nation citizens who answered the call to serve during the world wars. The sacrifice made by Métis at Juno Beach, and on battlefields around the world, is a legacy future generations of Métis Nation citizens will remember with pride and gratitude."

More Juno and veterans coverage on pages 15-18



Photo:
Personnel of the Royal Canadian Navy landing on Juno Beach in Normandy, France on June 6th, 1944.

PHOTO: Archives Nationales du Canada



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

LOUISE GOULDING IS NAMED THE '09 WINNER OF MNO'S VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD
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AFTER POWLEY

GROUND BREAKING COURT CASE USHERED IN NEW ERA FOR MÉTIS RIGHTS
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LOUIS RIEL DAY

EVERY NOVEMBER 16th MÉTIS ACROSS NATION HONOUR LOUIS RIEL
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MÉTIS EDUCATION

SPECIAL SECTION ON MÉTIS AND THE EDUCATION SYSTEM
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Announcements

New Arrival

Happy New Year Happy Birthday

This is the “Year of the Métis”, and it has begun with a brand new Métis citizen. Kyler Michael Louis Wass was born New Year’s Day, January 01, 2010, at 3:50 A.M., weighing in at 8lbs 6oz.

Kyler was not the first baby born in Ottawa but the first baby to be born at the Queensway-Carleton Hospital.

Kyler is welcomed by proud parents, Mike and Jaye Wass of



Ottawa; proud grandma, Beth Peterson of Arnprior; proud first time grandparents, JoAnne and Colin Wass of Clayton, Ontario; and, first time great grandparents, Agnes Remillard and Joyce Wass both of Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Happy New Year to everyone! JoAnne Wass, PCMNO Region 6

New Staff

New health staff in Soo

The Métis Nation of Ontario is pleased to welcome Sandy Robinson to the Health Branch team. Sandy works as the Long Term Care (LTC) Coordinator in the Sault Ste. Marie (SSM) office. She brings to the table a wealth of community development experience and is an asset to LTC and the MNO.

Sandy previously worked for the YMCA on their Youth Gambling Project and has a host of community contacts in SSM. Since she started on September 4th, 2009, Sandy has been laying a good foundation on which to build the LTC program.

Sandy’s can be reached via email: sandyr@metisnation.org.

Obituary

In Memory of Marie Gendron

The moment that you died,
Our hearts were split in two,
One side filled with memories,
The other died with you.

Mom, who loved her Lord and Saviour and her family with all her heart, has stepped out of time and into His presence for all eternity, this 15th day of December, (2009) in her 92nd year. Her faith in Jesus Christ gives way to sight and her anticipation that the best is yet to come, yields to this realization. She is now in the presence of her Saviour whom she placed her faith and trust in so many years ago.

Beloved wife of the late Arthur Gendron (1988), loving mother of Laurie (Annette) Gendron; the late Lloyd Gendron (1993); Lorraine (Jim) Haun; Patricia (Derek) Farnan; Mike Gendron; Carol (the late Ken - 2003) Farnan; Charles (Cecile) Gendron; and, Debra (Ron) Denault; cherished grandmother of 28 grandchildren and 32 great grandchildren; sadly missed by her sister, Rachel McLaughlin, and by the many friends she had at church and at her weekly prayer meetings.

We all thank the Lord for her special love, kindness and the influence she had in all our lives. Besides having a large family which kept her busy, she was an avid gardener. Mom loved the outdoors, from picking berries to spending time in her flowerbeds.

She also loved nature, watching the boats go through the canal, feeding the birds and watching the squirrels. She loved to have tea with family and we will definitely miss her and our annual trip to St. Jacob’s market. Mom lived her life for those she loved. Until memory fades and life departs, you will live forever in our hearts.

The funeral service was held on December 18, 2009, at the Port Colborne, Brethren in Christ Church, with Rev. Brian Loft-house officiating. Interment followed at Oakwood Cemetery. If so desired, memorial donations may be made to the Sick Kids Foundation. Online condolences at www.armstrongfuneralhome.ca.

Marie Gendron is also remembered by her extended Métis family. “I have had the privilege and honour to have known Marie for about eight years. In the last two years, I got to know her and her wonderful family on a more personal basis as a volunteer for the MNO Health Branch, in which I had the privilege of visiting Marie and her sister Rachel each week and she has shared many of her stories with me. Marie will be greatly missed by all of us who have ever known her. I personally will miss her very much and our weekly visits where we had such good talks and fellowship.” Stephen Quesnelle, Volunteer for the Métis Nation of Ontario Health Branch.

THE MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

WINTER 2010, No. 60

editor

Linda Lord

design & production

Marc St. Germain

contributors

Barbaranne Wright
Chris Paci
Desneige Taylor
Donn Fowler
Glen Lipinski
Hank Rowlinson
Janet Leader
Joan Panizza
Lynne Sinclair
Raymond Tremblay
Rebekah Wilson
Reta Gordon
Scott Carpenter
Shawna Hansen
Stephen Quesnelle
TerryLynn Longpre
Tracy Bald

contact

Linda Lord, editor
RRI Hartington, ON
K0H 1W0

llord@kingston.net
NEW PHONE:
613-374-2305

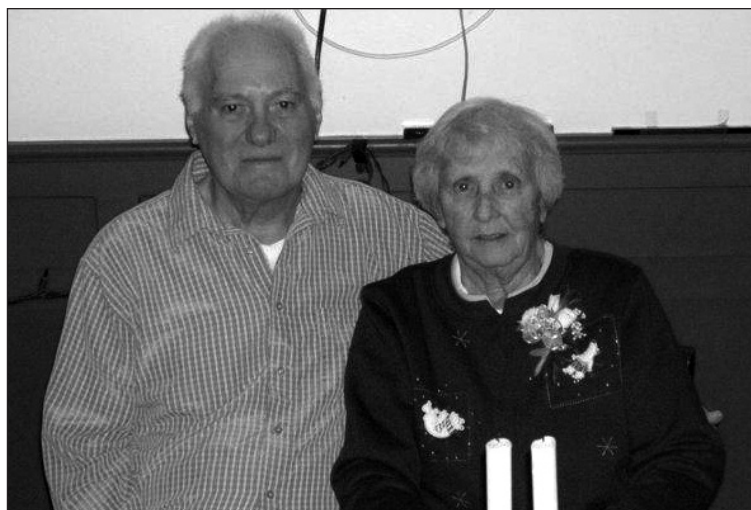
If undeliverable return to:
Métis Nation of Ontario
500 Old St. Patrick St, Unit D
Ottawa, ON, K1N 9G4
PH: 613-798-1488
marcs@metisnation.org
www.medisnation.org

**The next Voyageur deadline
is March 1st, 2010**

PUBLICATION #:
PM 40025265



60th Anniversary



Senator & Husband Celebrate 60th

Congratulations to Ottawa Senator, Lois McCallum, and her husband Walter who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on December 10th, 2009.

The McCallums have four children: Barbara, Lynn, Kelly and Peggy, as well as five grandchildren, and are soon to become great grandparents. Approxi-

mately 70 people, both family and friends gathered for a celebration brunch.

Senator Lois McCallum is one of the people who helped organize the founding meeting of the MNO under the guidance of Tony Belcourt. She is also the sister of Executive Senator, Reta Gordon, another founder.

Obituary

In Memory of Joseph Romeo Clement

A funeral for the late Joseph (Joe) Clement was held January 2, 2010, in Hamilton, Ontario. Surrounded by his family, Mr. Clement passed away on December 29, 2009, at the Hamilton General Hospital, in his 84th year. He was a loving husband to Carol Ann and devoted father to Marc (Peggy), Joe (Sherry) and Lianne and the cherished grampa of Andre, Joshua, Mathew, Briana and Nathan. Joe is survived by siblings Rita, Ernie and Henry and predeceased by his brother Rene.

Joseph Romeo Clement of Grimsby, Ontario, joined the Royal Canadian Navy in Hamilton, after lying about his age. He was only 17, but was anxious to join his brother who had enlisted six months earlier. By age 20, Joseph had been around the world. He saw action in the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans and returned home in 1946 with five campaign medals. They include the Burma Star, for rescuing members of the

Royal Marines in Burma, the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal, the 1939-45 Star, the Atlantic Star and the Victory Medal. A few years ago, Joseph was sent decorations from Ottawa recognizing his war service as an Aboriginal seaman.

His most cherished decoration came when he was presented with an eagle feather, which not only recognizes his Métis background but also binds him to all the other native warriors who served in foreign wars.

In November of 2005, Joseph travelled to Normandy, France, as one of 19 Aboriginal veterans who participated in the “Calling Home Ceremony”, to call home the spirits of his fallen relatives--an uncle and a brother-in law. During their trip, Joseph and his wife Carol Ann, located Joe’s uncle, World War 1 Veteran, Jim Clement’s grave at Menin Gate in Ypres and also found his brother-in-law, Ernest Freve’s grave at Leopold Canal.

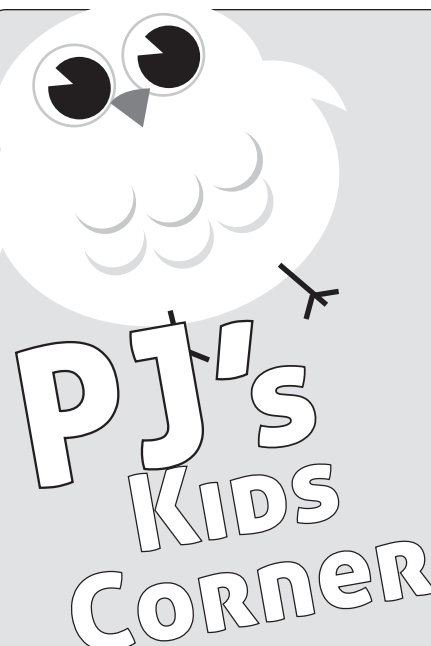
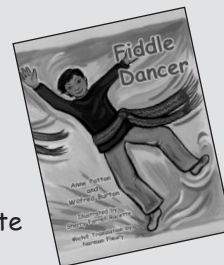
Summer is over and the cool crisp air is here.

I love to snuggle up in a blanket with a good book. Do you enjoy reading? What is your favourite book? Grab a blanket, your favourite book and enjoy your snuggle time.

PJ’s book of the month is called “Fiddle Dancer” by Anne Patton and Wilfred Burton. It is the story of Nolin, a young Métis boy. He is learning about his heritage while his moushoom (grandfather) teaches him to dance.

PJ wishes you a happy winter and happy reading!

If you would like to know more about this book, visit this site: www.willowawards.ca.



Métis Nation News

Premier supports MNO

BY JANET LEADER

On December 18th, 2009, Ontario Premier, Dalton McGuinty, called on Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his government to reconsider its position on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

On the previous day, December 17th, at a private meeting at Queen's Park, the Premier presented Métis Nation of Ontario President, Gary Lipinski, with a copy of the letter in which he made this request. The letter states that as Premier, he believes that the Declaration reinforces his government's commitment to "engaging in meaningful and constructive dialogue on the future of Canada's Aboriginal peoples" because of the significance ascribed to the Declaration by Métis and First Nations people.

The Premier goes on to say that reconsidering its position will help to demonstrate a willingness on the part of Canada to engage in real dialogue that will lead to transformative change in the lives of Aboriginal peoples in Canada.

"I am extremely encouraged both by the gesture and the lan-



left to right: **Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, the Honourable Brad Duguid; MNO Chair, France Picotte, and MNO President, Gary Lipinski, meet with Premier Dalton McGuinty.**

guage in the letter I received yesterday from Premier McGuinty," President Lipinski said. "This proactive approach to fostering a more positive relationship with the Métis proves once again the commitment on the part of the province to live up to the MNO-

Ontario Framework Agreement which was signed in November, 2008."

In the letter, Premier McGuinty also points out that Canada would not be alone in reconsidering its position on the UN Declaration. Australia has

already changed its position and signed on, and both New Zealand and the United States are reconsidering.

The letter was only one of several topics covered in the meeting which was also attended by France Picotte, Chair of the MNO.

Métis deliver important history lesson to Senate Standing Committee

On December 2nd, Gary Lipinski, President of the Métis Nation of Ontario joined Métis National Council (MNC) President, Clem Chartier, and the MNC Board of Governors for a presentation to the Senate Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs.

President Lipinski outlined the new era of Métis rights in the Province of Ontario resulting from the historic *Powley* decision. "This new legal reality must change the Crown's longstanding 'wait-and-see' approach to Métis rights," he said. "Wilful blindness or denying the existence of Métis rights is no longer an option if the federal government does not want to see even more Métis litigation and delays in Canada's economic recovery."

The president said the MNO's relationship with the provincial government has improved since *Powley*, pointing to the agreement which recognizes Métis harvesting rights and regional rights-bearing Métis communities in the province. This agreement remains the only one of its kind within the Métis Nation.

He added that the value of all the work being done by the province and the MNO on capacity building at the community level is diminished because "unfortunately, a key partner--the federal government--has been missing from this collaborative work. While there appears to be some federal progress on the Crown's duty to consult with First Nations, Métis communities continue to be excluded or they do not have the necessary capacity to effectively participate in consultation and accommodation processes. Both strategic and sustained investment by the federal government is required."

The president went on to say that access to and participation in economic development is key to Métis citizens and communities reaching their full potential. He concluded his remarks by asking the federal government to establish a Métis Capital Investment Corporation in Ontario similar to the ones for which they provided funding in western Canada years ago.

A complete transcript of President Lipinski's presentation is available on the web site at www.mctisnation.org.

Additional details on the MNC presentation can be found on the MNC web site at www.mctisnation.ca.

R v. POWLEY



PHOTO: Marc St. Germain

Six years after Powley

By GARY LIPINSKI
President, Métis Nation of Ontario

Greetings: As many of you are aware, Saturday, September 19, 2009, marked the sixth anniversary of the Supreme Court decision in *R. v. Powley*. This ground breaking decision ushered in a whole new era of Métis rights in Ontario and across the Métis Homeland. Many of you were part of the crowd which converged on Lafontaine for the Fifth Annual Métis Rendezvous that weekend. Regardless of

where you were, I hope you had a moment to remember Steve, Rodney and the Powley family for their personal sacrifice and commitment to the ongoing struggle for Métis rights, and to reflect on how the Powley decision has raised the profile of the Métis and contributed to the recognition of our rights as a distinct Aboriginal people within Canada. Affirmation of the right to harvest is a component critical to the already rich fabric that defines Métis culture.

It is fair to say that in spite of a tremendous amount of hard

work and sacrifice by many Métis, our pursuit of full recognition of Métis rights continues. There is still much work to be done with the province and especially with the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) to ensure the acceptance of those rights when they are asserted. We will continue to push forward on the priority issues that you have raised with your Captains of the Hunt at the MNO/MNR working table, and will report progress and movement as it occurs.

POWLEY DAY:

SSM Honours Métis Heroes

By SHAWNA HANSEN

This year our community combined Powley Day and Louis Riel Day, and what a merry day it was here in Sault Ste Marie on November 16, 2009. Those who stood out in the cold to watch our flag rise at City Hall were later greeted by the friendly staff at our offices who provided everyone with a wonderful feast of both traditional and non-traditional foods.

After a presentation on dual diagnosis and our culture we offered participants an opportunity to learn how to bead, and what the various types of beading were. Everyone was given a chance to create their own simple design and bead it.

In the evening, the Historic Sault Ste. Marie Metis Council provided our Métis community with a delicious dinner followed by live entertainment. There was a tribute presentation during dinner highlighting both Louis Riel's and the Powleys' accomplishments. The festivities touched both young and old as some participated in the Métis jigs and broom dances and the Burton Family along with other special guests provided music that made one and all tap their feet in time with the beat.

2010:

MPs pledge support for “Year of the Métis Nation”

It started in Saskatchewan when that province proclaimed 2010 as the “Year of the Métis”. Robert Doucette, President of the Métis Nation--Saskatchewan, said: “This respect and recognition will build bridges.” He was right. In fact it built a bridge that spans all of Canada. With unanimous support from all parties, the House of Commons passed a motion calling on the Government of Canada to use 2010 to celebrate the invaluable contributions of the Métis Nation which have enriched the lives of all Canadians.

“The Year of the Métis Nation will be an opportunity to commemorate the Métis who fought defending their people 125 years ago.”

Métis National Council (MNC) President, Clément Chartier, applauded the decision. “The Year of the Métis Nation will be an opportunity to commemorate the Métis who fought defending their people at the Battles of Duck Lake, Fish Creek, and Batoche, 125 years ago,” said Chartier. “It will also be a year of celebrating the Métis culture and heritage which now flourishes in this country.”

“It will also be a year of celebrating the Métis culture and heritage which now flourishes in this country.”

Events are being planned throughout 2010, and will be kicked off with the Métis Nation’s participation in the 2010 Vancouver Winter Games. The largest ever “Back to Batoche” celebrations will be held July 18 – 25th, 2010, in Batoche, Saskatchewan, site of the final battle of the Northwest Resistance.

“On behalf of all Métis Nation citizens, I thank the Members of Parliament for their support of this motion,” said President Chartier. “We are planning many exciting events in 2010, and I invite all the MPs, and all Canadians, to join us in celebrating the Year of the Métis Nation.”

President Chartier also thanked the Wascana Member of Parliament, the Hon. Ralph Goodale, for introducing the motion in the House of Commons.

MÉTIS NATIONAL COUNCIL | ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

2010 named “Year of the Métis Nation”

Seventy-five delegates from the council’s governing members met November 21st and 22nd, 2009, in Vancouver, BC. Several resolutions were passed including one pledging support to establishing a Métis veterans’ monument, another calling for a national Métis youth assembly to be held next year, and a further proclaiming 2010 to be “Year of the Métis Nation.”

The assembly received updates and reports on many issues important to the Métis Nation, including the current state of harvesting rights across the Homeland, and the progress being made in relations with the federal and provincial governments through the Métis Nation Protocol. Governance issues and the Métis Economic Develop-



MÉTIS NATIONAL COUNCIL
RALLIEMENT NATIONAL DES MÉTIS

“THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ONCE AGAIN SHOWS HOW COMMITTED OUR DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED GOVERNMENTS ARE TO STRENGTHENING THE MÉTIS NATION.”

Clément Chartier
Métis National Council President

ment Symposium, December 15th to 16th, 2009, in Calgary, AB, were also discussed.

“There are many opportunities and challenges in the coming years,” said President Chartier. “With such a productive assembly, I am confident we are prepared to move forward with an ambitious agenda for the Métis Nation.”

President Chartier thanked the Honourable Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis, for attending the assembly’s opening ceremonies and bringing greetings on behalf of the Government of Canada. He also thanked Commissioner Wilton Littlechild who came to discuss Métis participation in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. (see page 5)

Métis Nation of Ontario and
the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs
developing an Aboriginal business directory
to promote Aboriginal economic development

Aboriginal Business Directory

The Métis Nation of Ontario is working with the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs to develop an Aboriginal business directory to promote Aboriginal economic development and encourage partnerships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal businesses. Partners include the Métis Nation of Ontario, Chiefs of Ontario, Public Sector Aboriginal Business Association, Canadian Aboriginal and Minority Supplier Council, Canadian Advanced Technology Alliance, Ontario Power Generation and Union Gas.

In the next short while, an electronic registration process for Aboriginal businesses will be made available.

There are benefits to identifying yourself as a Métis business and registering your business. As you may be aware, many corpora-

tions, government and industry proponents have Aboriginal procurement policies and are looking for an inventory of Aboriginal businesses so that they may find an appropriate supplier of goods and services. In addition, non-Aboriginal businesses are often looking to partner with an Aboriginal business.

Registered Métis businesses will be housed in an electronic data base that will be accessed by corporations or businesses wanting to procure goods or services from an Aboriginal business, or partner with them in locations throughout Ontario.

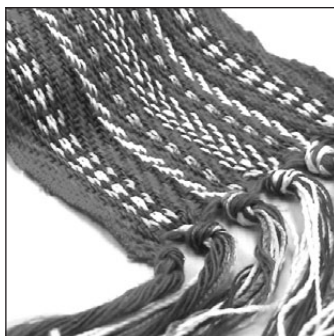
If you are a Métis business, or if you know of a Métis business, please contact Joanne Meyer, *Director Intergovernmental Relations* at (416) 977-9881 Ext. 101 or joannem@metisnation.org.

Métis Memorial for Ontario

The Government of Ontario-MNO Framework Agreement was signed in November, 2008. The *Framework* identifies a number of objectives including the recognition and preservation of the distinct history, identity and culture of the Métis people and their contributions to Ontario.

One avenue by which to recognize the historic and ongoing contributions of the Métis is by exploring the establishment of a Métis memorial.

The Métis Nation of Ontario has established a “Coordinating Committee” to manage the work



related to identifying potential sites and the establishment of a Métis Memorial in Ontario.

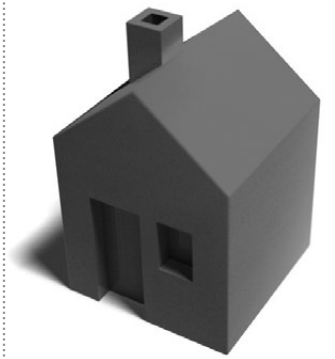
This fiscal year, ending on March 31, 2010, the Coordinating

Committee will oversee the work associated with a scan of research literature to facilitate the identification of possible Memorial sites in Ontario.

Métis citizens are encouraged to share any knowledge they may have about significant sites in Ontario that are of importance to Métis people and that may serve as an appropriate location for a Métis Memorial based on its commemorative value.

Please contact Joanne Meyer, *Director of Intergovernmental Relations* at (416) 977-9881 or at joannem@metisnation.org.

HOUSING:



Help for aspiring Aboriginal homeowners

First Nation, Inuit, Métis Urban & Rural Housing homeowner profiled

At the end of November, Rachael Anishinabie and her three children got the keys to their new home. Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services (OAHS) runs the new off-reserve FIMUR Assisted Homeownership Program which provides up to \$30,000 for eligible applicants with assistance for a down payment and other related closing costs.

When asked what this new home meant to her, emotions ran high. “It’s overwhelming,” said the mother of three as she wiped the tears of joy rolling down her cheek. “I’m really happy. My kids are really happy.”

Rachael is no stranger to happy endings. This First Nations’ mother brought home three medals from the North American Indigenous Games last year. Rachael is an avid runner and somehow managed to squeeze in time for training early in the morning and late at night. Don McBain, Executive Director of OAHS, comments: “The FIMUR Homeownership Program will help many Aboriginal individuals and families get access to safe and affordable homes.”

This funding is provided by the Province of Ontario from the federal off-reserve Aboriginal Housing Trust. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) was also able to assist by insuring the mortgages so that lenders could participate.

The FIMUR Homeownership Program provides an important boost to local economies McBain notes. “Whenever someone buys a home, there are economic benefits provided to many service providers. This includes real estate agents, home inspectors, mortgage brokers or bankers, and the list goes on.”

For more information on OAHS or the FIMUR, visit: www.ontarioaboriginalhousing.ca or Call 1-866-391-1061

ABORIGINAL WOMEN:

France Picotte speaks at Women's Leadership conference

BY REBEKAH WILSON

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Chair, France Picotte, shared some inspirational words with the audience at the 5th Annual Ontario Aboriginal Women in Leadership Forum in Ottawa recently.

A panel discussion about women and their rise to power in industry today was the featured event. The panellists included Emma Creese, manager of staffing and recruitment for Scotiabank; Holly Cooper who is an account executive for Aboriginal Business Consulting; Donna Cona and Mary Jane Loustel, national Aboriginal program executives for IBM; Mary Simon, President of the National Inuit organization, Tapiriit Kanatami; Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux, assistant professor in Aboriginal Studies at the University of Toronto; and MNO Chair, France Picotte.

The daylong forum encouraged women to use business networking and education to help advance themselves to positions of power.

Fluent in English, French and the traditional Métis language, Michif, France Picotte spoke of her transition from Timmins Métis Community Council Presi-



left to right: Master of ceremonies, Laura Booker with members of the Women in Leadership panel: Holly Cooper; Emma Creese; MNO Chair, France Picotte; Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux; Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami President, Mary Simon and Mary Jane Loustel.

dent to the first MNO Vice-Chair and eventually Chair.

She pointed out that her position as Chair of the MNO has little to do with her professional background as a medical laboratory technician. "It was a learning experience. It was a time when I thought to myself: I have to do what I need to do, what I want to do and what needs to be done."

Picotte ran for the provincial Chair position in 2008, taking

over from Gary Lipinski, who was elected President of the MNO. She says: "It's still a man's world. If you really want to move ahead, you have to be part of the man's world and you have to be there as an equal. Nobody is going to give you that. You've got to take it."

She jokes about her height, and it's true, France Picotte's personality is noticeably bigger than she is. "I don't know why I am who I am. It probably comes from

my mother and my grandmothers. Both my grandmothers were very strong ladies and my mother also."

A powerful and independent woman in her own right, Picotte advised that success lies in "having confidence in who you are, confidence in your ability and not being stopped at not knowing something. You have to ask, you have to know and you have to move forward."

The conference also recognized young women who are active in their Aboriginal communities by presenting them with financial assistance for post-secondary education. The two recipients of the Scotiabank Women Leaders Scholarship Award, Shayna Willis and Sophie Lavigne, each received a bursary of \$1000. Ms Willis is currently a Mohawk College student, studying to become a registered practical nurse and eventually a midwife. A University of Ottawa student, Ms. Lavigne, will use the bursary toward her final year of studies in human kinetics.

Following the award presentations, attendees were separated into groups to discuss what their respective businesses had to offer and how they could benefit from networking with each other. MNO Executive Senator, Reta Gordon, was also on hand to offer opening and closing prayers.

Women in Leadership (WIL) is a program created to encourage collaboration amongst women with excellent leadership skills and a desire to make positive change. WIL has been sponsoring women's forums across Canada since 2001.

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS | TRUTH & RECONCILIATION

GG hosts ceremony to re-launch Truth and Reconciliation process

BY RETA GORDON

On October 15, 2009, Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada; the Honourable Justice, Murray Sinclair, Chair of Truth and Reconciliation Canada; Marie Wilson and Chief Wilton Littlechild, Truth and Reconciliation Commissioners; along with Indian residential school survivors and their descendants; and church leaders participated in "Witnessing the Future", a ceremony intended to re-launch Canada's Indian Residential Schools Truth and Reconciliation process.

In attendance was the Métis Nation of Ontario's (MNO) own Executive Senator, Reta Gordon. The observance opened with words from the Truth and Reconciliation Commissioners. Following this, about 40 young people, mostly Aboriginal, each spoke of what they wished the future to look like. Then they paraded at the front of the gathering and put a small gift into each of two baskets, one held by an Inuit Elder representing his Nation and the other basket held by Reta Gordon, representing the Métis Nation.

"Then came one of the most heart wrenching gatherings I have ever attended. There were 10 Elders who told their stories in a video of the terrible time they spent in res-



PCMNO Senator Reta Gordon presents a Métis sash to Governor General the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean.

“It was such an emotional experience that even as I write this (two months later) I am doing so through tears.”

idential schools. The participants were all sitting in a row and each of them was accompanied by a grandchild. As they showed a clip of one woman sharing her story of how she suffered abuse, her granddaughter started to sob out loud as did the Elder, starting everyone in the audience crying, causing attendants to distribute tissues—even the Governor General needed one. It was such an emotional experience that even as I write this (two months later) I am doing so through tears. The pain of these little children is still held in the hearts of the Elders they are today. I cannot imagine what they must have suffered and continue to suffer every day.

"Following the closing, as the people exited everyone deposited a token gift in the baskets held by the Inuit Elder and me.

"We were then invited to gather in another grand ballroom for nibbles and cultural entertainment. The Governor General went around the room meeting and embracing all she encountered. When I took off my sash and presented it to her she said to me, 'Now you must tell me the story of this sash and the meaning of the different colours.' She is so very gracious and friendly and one can tell she is a 'people person'.

"It was a great honour to be invited to this event as a representative of the Métis Nation."



Métis Nation mourns death of former MMF President

Gary Lipinski, President of the MNO, expressed his sympathy to the family and friends of Senator Ed Head. Senator Head was a founding member and former President of the MMF.

"Senator Head was a committed advocate and through his efforts was able to make significant progress in advancing Métis rights in his home province," President Lipinski said. "Those gains, felt so profoundly in his home province had a ripple effect and Métis in Ontario and across the Métis Nation Homeland have also experienced significant gains from his efforts."

Senator Head worked as a trapper, diamond driller and guide before becoming involved in Métis politics. Along with Don McIvor, he founded Native Communications Inc. in Manitoba.

Elected president of the MMF in 1975, Senator Head was given the title of "Senator" in 2004 for his service to the Métis Nation. He was also named to the Order of Manitoba for his work in building the province.

FEDERAL RELATIONS | ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS WORKING GROUP

Government & Métis leaders meet

Cross-Canada cooperation on Aboriginal affairs priorities key to achieving concrete results



On October 29th, Aboriginal affairs ministers and the leaders of five national Aboriginal organizations agreed to work together, as the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group (AAWG), to improve the quality of life for Aboriginal peoples in Canada. It is the first time in four years a meeting of representatives from all senior levels of government and national Aboriginal organizations has taken place to address a broad range of issues, over and above the current challenges of the economy facing First Nation, Métis and Inuit peoples.

"This is our generation's opportunity to ensure that we bring real and substantive change to the quality of life for the next generation of Aboriginal people. This can only be achieved by closing the socio-economic gap that exists between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in Canada. Through a revitalized historic process, we will work collaboratively on the most critical challenges facing Aboriginal people - education and economic development. Through this new national process, it is my hope that our work will lead towards a future First Ministers' Meeting," said Brad Duguid, Ontario Minister of Aboriginal Affairs.

The creation of the working group, with membership from all provinces and territories, and the national Aboriginal organizations, fulfills a direction from all premiers in their discussions last summer in Regina, SK, with the five national Aboriginal organization leaders.

Ministers and leaders confirmed that establishing a strong and enduring working group process of provincial and territorial ministers responsible for Aboriginal affairs and national Aboriginal leaders is critical to improving socio-economic conditions for all Aboriginal peoples.

Further, they agreed that many priorities are shared between working group members and the federal government. Where policies and programs exist or are contemplated in shared priority areas, federal government participation will be critical to achieving concrete, measurable results for all Aboriginal peoples in Canada.

Minister Strahl thanked the provincial, territorial and Aboriginal working group for inviting him to their meeting. On behalf



Ministers and leaders of the National Aboriginal Organizations meet in Toronto, Oct. 29, 2009

of the federal government, he looks forward to reviewing the recommendations of the working group and to working closely with the provinces, territories and Aboriginal organizations through the partnerships approach established over the last couple of years, which has already yielded results. The minister also said he would make his officials available to assist the working group officials.

The working group reiterated the premiers' call for a First Ministers' Meeting on Aboriginal issues, and committed to report its recommendations to them just before the next Council of the Federation meeting scheduled for August 2010 in Manitoba.

Ministers and leaders chose two priority areas to be dealt with through the working group's new process. These priorities include: education and skills training and economic development.

Education and Skills Training

Ministers and leaders agreed to work with ministers of education on specific priority areas identified through the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada, in addition to agreements and processes already in place. There would be an initial focus on K-12 education, with expanded opportunities on other elements along the lifelong learning continuum in the medium to long term.

Topics for further discussions could range from early childhood development to enhanced post-secondary opportunities for all Aboriginal peoples.

Economic Development

Increasing economic opportunities for Aboriginal peoples is

a key priority. The working group will focus on finding ways to explore, enhance and advance economic development in ways that respect the needs and interests of all parties concerned.

Topics could address areas such as impediments to economic development, supporting entrepreneurship, or improving trade opportunities and energy sources for Aboriginal communities and peoples.

Health & Well-being

In addition to the two identified priority areas, participants acknowledged that the area of health and well-being is fundamental to achieving progress in those two identified areas. Integral to this area is responding to the issues of violence against Aboriginal women, and missing and murdered Aboriginal women which requires a national, coordinated effort. They agreed that health and well-being would be discussed more broadly at a meeting of the working group in April 2010.

Recommendations adopted by the Working Group

1. That provincial and territorial Ministers responsible for Aboriginal Affairs and the five national Aboriginal organizations (1) leaders commit to ongoing dialogue by participating on the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group with a view to identifying and implementing concrete and tangible actions to improve outcomes for First Nation, Inuit and Métis peoples in the priority areas discussed at the October 29, 2009, meeting.

2. That education and economic development be tabled as topics for further exploration at

the meeting of Ministers and national Aboriginal organization leaders on October 29, 2009, with the aim of jointly selecting specific areas for further exploration and initial work.

3. That provincial, territorial and Aboriginal officials be directed to begin immediate work, with their federal counterparts, within the selected topics and return to the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group with recommendations for concrete and tangible activities that could be taken by governments and national Aboriginal organizations. This work would take the form of one or more discussion documents or action plans with recommended areas for actions to be tabled at the next Working Group meeting proposed for April 2010.

4. That provincial and territorial Ministers and national Aboriginal organization leaders connect the work of the Working Group to other forums and processes as appropriate; and work toward a First Ministers' Meeting on Aboriginal Issues in 2010. The First Ministers' Meeting would serve as the key vehicle to launch a plan to achieve concrete and tangible outcomes for First Nation, Inuit and Métis peoples consistent with the objectives of each of the parties.

5. That special attention is paid to the need for a distinctions-based approach for First Nations, Inuit and Métis where appropriate, and that this approach should fully integrate the needs and perspectives of women, urban populations, youth and other issues.

MÉTIS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Métis Nation leaders, Minister Strahl meet to discuss economic development

The Honourable Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-status Indians, and Métis National Council (MNC) President Clément Chartier, together with the MNC Board of Governors, the Métis Settlements General Council and Aboriginal Affairs Ministers from the five western-most provinces met in Calgary during the week of December 18th to discuss Métis Nation economic development.

This meeting of Ministers and Métis leaders stems in part from the *Métis Nation Protocol*, signed in September, 2008, by President Chartier and Minister Strahl. The Protocol commits the Government of Canada to work with the MNC and its governing members on issues important to the Métis Nation.

"This was a historic meeting that brought federal, provincial and Métis leadership to share best practices and discuss the economic development issues, challenges and opportunities facing Métis people across the country," said Minister Strahl. "Through our Federal Framework for Aboriginal Economic Development, we are committed to fundamental change in the approach to supporting economic development, one that finds concrete solutions to ensure that Métis, First Nation and Inuit fully share in economic opportunities across Canada."

On December 15, 2009, in Calgary, Alberta, the Ministers and Métis leaders discussed the challenges and opportunities of fostering Métis-specific economic development initiatives and programs. It was agreed they would meet again in 2010 and report back on tangible results achieved.

"Making Métis communities 'investment ready' is one area where the partnership of federal, provincial and Métis governments will pay the biggest dividends," said President Chartier. "The economic opportunities before us are great and I am confident we can, and will, work collaboratively towards their realization."

The meeting was followed by a two-day Métis Economic Development Symposium. Officials from the five western-most provinces, the federal government, the Métis National Council and its Governing Members, the Métis Settlements General Council and private industry discussed ways to more effectively utilize existing provincial and federal programs and services to support Métis Nation economic development goals.

(1) Assembly of First Nations, Métis National Council, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, Congress of Aboriginal Peoples and National Women's Association of Canada

PROVINCIAL RELATIONS:

Aboriginal Affairs Minister talks harvesting with Fort Frances Métis

During October, 2009, Ontario's Aboriginal Affairs Minister, Brad Duguid, had a chance to hear directly from Métis citizens about the challenges they face in the fishing, logging and trapping industries. The opportunity arose during a weekend visit to Fort Frances, the first of several community visits planned for the Minister by the MNO Lands, Resources and Consultations Branch. The visits are designed to bring Métis issues to the Minister in a personal way and provide an opportunity for him to engage with Métis citizens on a one to one basis.

A cool Fort Frances day greeted Minister Duguid and his Executive Assistant, Tamar Heisler, as they stepped off the plane. The visit was hosted by MNO President Gary Lipinski and Sunset Métis Council President Clint Calder.

The visit began with a tour of Fort Frances with stops at the Calder Memorial and Pither's

Point Park. Brian Tucker of the Lands, Resources and Consultations Branch joined the group and Minister Duguid was briefed on the history of the local Métis and the contributions of Métis families to the town and the region.

The second stop was at Blaine and Janice Tucker's commercial fishery. Blaine was at the controls as the boat sped across Rainy Lake to the fishery. First, the group joined Blaine to lift a commercial fishing net. Back at the fishery, Blaine gave a fish processing demonstration and a tour of the fishery facilities. Throughout the day President Lipinski, Blaine, and Brian used every opportunity to speak to the minister about the fishing, trapping and logging industries in the area with a focus on the challenges for Métis.

The final stop was the Sunset Country Métis Hall, where preparations were underway for the Fall Harvest Dinner. Minister Duguid and Tamar Heisler met with local Métis and were intro-



▲ Ontario Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, the Honourable Brad Duguid (middle), MNO President, Gary Lipinski (left) and Blaine Tucker (right) on the water in Fort Frances.

duced to wild rice harvesting and preparation, trapping and furs, and beading and sewing.

The visit, which was organized to demonstrate to the Minister and the province the New Relationship Funding (NRF) in action,

was deemed a success by the MNO. The Lands Resources and Consultation Branch has plans for many similar visits across the province. Not only is it an opportunity to ensure the province is made aware of the other NRF suc-

cess stories, it is also a chance to demonstrate the unique, community based governance structures that support the Métis Nation of Ontario.

ENVIRONMENT | CONTROVERSIAL DUMP SCRAPPED



Site 41 protest organizers recieve recognition

Last summer the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) supported the Council of Canadians and its efforts to have Simcoe County halt construction of the North County Landfill known as "Site 41".

"The Métis Nation of Ontario wants to add its voice to the growing chorus of individuals and groups who are strongly opposed to Site 41," said Gary Lipinski, MNO President. "We endorse the plan by the Council of Canadians to pursue appropriate legal action aimed at halting construction activity at the site."

Finally, on September 23rd Simcoe County councillors voted 25-3 to permanently scrap Site 41, the proposed garbage dump in Tiny Township that would have opened this past fall.

On November 26th, as part of World Peace Week, the YMCA of

Simcoe-Muskoka presented protestors Elizabeth Brass Elson, Vicki Monague, and Shelley Essaunce with the YMCA Peace Medallion. The women accepted on behalf of the Anishinabe Kweag and all of the peaceful protestors at dump Site 41.

The YMCA Peace Medallion recognizes the achievements of individuals and groups in local communities who--without any special resources--demonstrate in their lives and activities the values expressed in the World Alliance of YMCA's 1981 Statement of Peace, which states, in part: "Peace has many dimensions. It is not only a state of relationships among nations. We cannot expect to live in a world of peace if we are unable to live in peace with those close to us--even those who differ from us."

Martina Wahl, a team leader

at the Midland YMCA Employment Resource Centre, emphasized and praised the peaceful nature of the Anishinabe Kweag protest. "Weapons, drugs and alcohol were expressly forbidden at the camp," she said. "Those who offered to come to show support through force were turned away. Even when some protesters were arrested for blockading the gates, respectful and cordial relationships (with police) continued."

During the 137 days that the peaceful protest camp was in existence thousands of people became inspired to join in the cause to prevent the danger to the Alliston Aquifer.

A few thoughtful women inspired an immense political undertaking, while never varying from their original purpose of a small peaceful protest camp.

MÉTIS SENATORS:

SENATOR ONLINE

The next time you're surfing the web you might like to check out Durham Region's Art of Transition website (www.artoftransition.ca/?p=606). This link will take you to a short video of Senator Olivine Bousquet Tiedema of Oshawa, speaking about respect for the land.



ARCHAEOLOGY:

Bones of 1,000 year old Aboriginal person found on BC First Nation

Bones found at a Saanich B.C. construction site are believed to be the 1,000-year-old remains of an 18-year-old aboriginal person. An archaeologist who reviewed the site said, "We don't know if the bones are from one individual, or several individuals."

The bones, which include part of a skull, a knee and a leg, are being examined by the Provincial Archaeology Branch and the police in an effort to confirm the bones' heritage and whether more bones may be found at the site.

The property where the bones were discovered may have been an aboriginal settlement at one time and had been

designated as an archaeological site in October, 2008, when an Archaeological Impact Assessment was conducted there. Under the Heritage Conservation Act, the landowner was required to obtain a permit before digging. However, it seems that no permit was granted for the new-home construction.

It appears that the Songhees First Nation will take possession of the bones. Charges could be laid if the conservation act was violated.

For more information on the Songhees First Nation visit: www.songheesnation.com

2010 Olympic Torch Run

Métis youth carry Olympic Torch

The first of four Métis youths from Ontario who had the honour of carrying the Olympic Torch on one leg of the 2010 Olympic Torch Relay across Canada completed her run in Ottawa on December 12th.

Sixteen year old Jessica Contant from Cochrane was nominated by her community. She carried the torch at the beginning of the relay's Ontario leg, travelling with it from Gatineau, Quebec, to Ottawa. Contant met the relay convoy in Quebec and travelled by bus with several other torchbearers to Ottawa. She proudly carried the torch for 300 metres just as the sun began to set.

"It felt great carrying the torch," Jessica said. "It was an honour and I'm glad I was chosen."

Contant was met with cheers and a congratulatory cake by proud members of her family and the Ottawa Métis Council.

While in Ottawa, the torch made a stop at 24 Sussex Drive, where it was met by Prime Minister Stephen Harper's wife, Laureen, and his daughter, Rachel. A "cauldron lighting" ceremony took place on Parliament Hill, where members of the public gathered for hot chocolate, beavertails, and the lighting of Ottawa's Christmas display.

The grade 10 student is especially excited about being able to share her experience with her community and schoolmates through presentations she will be making in her hometown of Cochrane in coming months.

Following its time in Ottawa, the torch continued travelling west to Kanata and Carleton



Jessica Contant of Cochrane carries the 2010 Olympic flame in Ottawa on December 12, 2009.

Place. Meanwhile, Janine Landry was into her fourth week as a "Flame Attendant". She met up with two Métis youths from Ontario on December 29th when James Callaghan carried the torch in Collingwood and Alexander Young carried it in Midland.

PCMNO Youth Representative, Nicholas Callaghan, carried the

torch on the relay's journey from Timmins to Sault Ste Marie on January 2nd. On January 4th, Roxanne Derouard carried the torch between Thunder Bay and Kenora. Next, the torch made its way into Manitoba, en route to Vancouver for the opening of the 2010 Olympic Games on February 12, 2010.



Stephen Quesnelle poses with two of the 2010 Vancouver Olympic mascots at Welland City Hall during the celebrations for the Torch Relay.

A Métis man meets the mascots

"While I was walking around in the crowd talking to people I was asked to have my picture taken with the mascots," Stephen said. "It was a day I will never forget, and will never see

again; it was a once in a lifetime opportunity for many of us. I was also privileged to be able to share with the many who asked who I was and who the Métis people are."

Métis elder carries Olympic Torch

Of the many honours Métis Elder Elsie Yanik has received over the years, the idea of carrying the Olympic torch never entered her mind.

The Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic Games selected 92-year-old Elsie Yanik as the final torch bearer for the Fort McMurray leg of the relay on November 6. Yanik has received many awards for her volunteer work over the years including the Wild Rose Foundation Volunteer of the Year Award, the Lifetime Achievement Governor General's Commemorative Medal, four regional Aboriginal



Recognition Awards, and the Keyano College Distinguished Citizen Award.

"I thought it was a joke; one of my friends playing a joke," Yanik laughed. "I'm so excited and it's hard to believe. It's a great honour for me.... I just hope they don't ask me to run."

MÉTIS CULTURAL OUTREACH:

Aboriginal culture comes to life at FESS

Students at Fort Erie Secondary School (FESS) had a unique opportunity to experience and become engaged in Aboriginal culture during the fall of 2009. Over the course of six weeks, professional canoe builder Marcel Labelle constructed a traditional birch bark canoe on-site at the school.

Usually, the keel and ribs of such a craft are constructed first, using cedar planks split from a log. Then the "skin" is placed over the form. The birch bark skin is sewn to the gunwales with spruce root and then the ribs are inserted and the birch bark is stretched over the form. The seams are sealed with spruce resin. Only the outer bark of the birch tree is harvested, leaving the living layer intact. Typically, the bark is peeled away from the tree in long pieces--the length of the canoe if possible. The bark is like tough leather. It's difficult to tear.



Labelle described the project as a hands-on learning experience. "I will be giving students a chance to be part of this build from start to finish. They will be able to do everything from split-

ting the roots used to sew the canoe to constructing the ribs for the craft." Absolutely nothing is store bought.

FESS teacher, Rhonda Maracle-Gerritsen, says this project

dovetails with the school's Native Studies program. "First Nations people have a very proud tradition of canoe building. It will be very inspiring for students to witness first-hand the expertise, care

and traditions that are part of canoe building."

On Wednesday, October 28, the school held a celebration to honour the beginning of construction. Students from the Native Studies class joined with the Ohnia:kara drum group for an afternoon of song and dance.

The canoe build was an Aboriginal arts project funded through the Ontario Arts Council. Once completed, the canoe will be donated to the Niagara Region Métis Council.

Marcel Labelle is proud of his Métis heritage. His mother is Iroquois and French and his father is Algonquin and French. Marcel grew up in northern Ontario and spent most of his childhood on the trap line. This is where he learned how to live with and from the forest. Today, he builds traditional birch bark canoes and demonstrates his craft at many venues.

Community Council News

NORTH BAY MÉTIS COUNCIL:

Around Blue Sky

by **BRIAN COCKBURN**

On November 26th and 27th, 2009, Métis aged 55 plus hosted their social, bake and craft days at the Métis Nation of Ontario Centre at 101 Worthington St. East, North Bay.

While Lise Mallette, the Long term Care Coordinator, was crying in the kitchen (those onions), Senator Marlene Greenwood opened the session with a wing and a prayer, the wing was on a Christmas angel she was applying paint to, and the prayer was from Mel Jamieson sitting across from her. A number of crafts appeared over the next two days from the “grey owls” as they made gifts for their grandkids and friends: painted moose, wreaths, Christmas mobiles--there was even a handsome Elder working on duck decoys. Linda Krause from training introduced the owls to the art of box folding. Diane Bouffard and the grey owls plan to put on more gatherings come January and into deep winter. Contact: lise@metisnation.org

It is hard to believe that it is the tenth year of the North Bay Smiley Face contest, but Councillor Doris Evans was the first person caught smiling with the council's new smile mode camera. Previous winners, like Dan Shoult, will be hard pressed this year to keep up with smiling Walter Deering, President of the new council. The council and staff assembled for a number of Métis flag raisings at North Bay City Hall this year, and put on a great harvest day in Sturgeon Falls during



Elder bake and craft days at the offices of the North Bay Métis Council in November 2009.

September. December 9th was their annual holiday season open house featuring meat pies (all those onion tears).

The new 2009 council supported a project put forward by the previous council and accepted by Ontario Trillium Foundation. A volunteer committee was formed for the project, with Mel Jamieson as its chair. It is the committee's intention to collect local Métis history; assess the Métis identity in the North Bay area; and, to explore governance.

During meetings to be held in 2010, “Memory Harvest” will be looking for stories from Métis citizens in North Bay, Mattawa, Sturgeon Falls and one more location. Afterwards a webpage will be put up for the North Bay Métis



Councillor Doris Evans.

Council citizens to access, which will also include contact with the Health and Training branches at the Métis Nation of Ontario Centre.

Get on our email information list: cockburn@live.com.

HISTORIC SAULT STE. MARIE MÉTIS COUNCIL:

Métis colours fly with flags of all nations

by **JACK LEROUX**

Last summer the City of Sault Ste. Marie decided to honour its multicultural roots by installing flags representing the origins of its citizens. City Council approved a budget of up to \$50,000 for the project to erect 25 flagpoles in Clergue Park, adjacent to the Russ Ramsay Way entrance of the waterfront park.

The project was inspired by Sudbury, where 57 flags of various nations are proudly flown over the Paris Street Bridge, symbolizing multiculturalism, unity and peace and demonstrating pride and respect for all cultures.

On October 18th, 2009, the following flags were raised: First Nations, Métis, Canada, Austria, Belgium, Croatia, England, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Scotland, Ukraine, United



left to right: **Sault Ste Marie Councillor, Ken Smale; Vice-president, John Konawalchuk; North Channel Métis Council Senator, Jacques Leroux; Sault Ste Marie Senator, Brenda Powley; Sault Ste. Marie Youth Rep. Mitch Case.**

States, and Wales.

Métis citizens in attendance included: Sault Ste Marie Council President, Kim Powley; Vice-president, John Konawalchuk; Sena-

tor, Brenda Powley; Councillor, Ken Smale; Sault Ste. Marie Youth Rep. Mitch Case; and, North Channel Métis Council Senator, Jacques Leroux.

GREY-BRUCE PENINSULA MÉTIS COUNCIL:



The Grey Bruce Peninsula Métis community is expanding by amalgamating with the Saugeen community. We welcome all new members and pray that we can fill your needs with expanded services in the present office structure.

We are indeed fortunate to have hired an office coordinator to take charge of our gathering place. We welcome Melanie Hamilton, who will be the person you meet on the telephone or at the office if you visit in person. Melanie has been involved in the Métis community from a very young age and is no stranger to many of you. The office number is **519-370-0435**.

We appreciate those volunteers who have served the past two years, and thank them for their time and participation in vital community social, business and cultural events.

If you are self employed and

have a business of your own, you are asked to register it for future reference by calling Ray Racicot, our Protocol Committee Rep at **519-363-3663**. Métis specific companies are being sought to provide an Aboriginal presence in the workforce.

There are many educational stimuli available: for youth; for education in health care; for apprenticeships; for re-entering the workplace; for returning to school; for those needing to travel a distance to work; for those with disabilities, etc. The MNO website keeps you posted on educational opportunities.

— by **Senator Leora Wilson**

Tenders Welcome from Métis Businesses

Hydro ONE has requested a list of Métis businesses. If you know of any businesses in the Owen Sound Area please send them to Ray Racicot (knowledge@distributel.com) or call Alden Barty, Consultation Assessment Coordinator, Lands, Resources and Consultation, MNO Phone: 705-526-6335.

New Protocol Rep For GBPMC

Newly elected President Ray Racicot is doing our community proud as our GOSM protocol rep for MNO Georgian Bay Region and is heavily involved in local ‘Duty To Consult’ issues. It is hoped that as a result of the hard work of Ray and colleagues, the community at large will develop better awareness of our people and our place in the history of this area. ~ *Senator Leora Wilson*

Owen Sound & Saugeen Métis amalgamate

Hank Rowlinson represented the MNO at a general assembly of affiliated area Métis in Owen Sound on October 7th.

The key proposal was to amalgamate the former Saugeen charter with Grey-Owen Sound, so the territory could seamlessly sustain MNO representation.

The proposal received unanimous support and a new charter will be drawn up and signed. ~ *Senator Leora Wilson*

Another Successful Métis Summer Picnic

The Harrison Park Community Centre buzzed with activity on June 28th, 2009, as the GBPMC held their annual Aboriginal Day Picnic.

In advance of the picnic, past president Dixon held a bannock workshop. The bannock was served at the picnic, along with bison stew, venison stew, rice dishes, baked beans, many salads and desserts provided by community members.

The day of the picnic began with a downpour, but by the time we were set up, the rain had let up.

People arrived in everything from campers to motorcycles to mini scooters. We had seniors in their 90's, babies under one year, and many ages in between.

We marched to the hall for our grand entry with flags (Canada, Métis and Union Jack) flying proudly, joined by several invited dignitaries. Past president Dixon performed a smudge and Senator Wilson delivered a prayer. Senator St. Germain took a dish of traditional food to our ancestors at our historic Métis community, now Hibou Park.

The RCB Band and the Rudy and Jean Couture Band performed during the afternoon. We are fortunate to have these musicians among our citizens.

Our resident jigger began jiggling lessons outside, and gave basic instructions, avoiding the puddles, instilling hope that one day we will have a jiggling group who will go further and become more adept.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

CREDIT RIVER MÉTIS COUNCIL:



left to right: **Senator Joe Poitras** from **Oshawa Métis Council**; **MNO Vice-chair, Sharon McBride**; **Shannon Babcock** beside **MP Dr. Ruby Dhalla**; **Region 8 Councillor, Charlie Fife**; and **Credit River Métis Councillor, David Babcock**, with daughter **Emily**.



Jig on the Fly.



Senator Alis Kennedy demonstrates beading.

Peel Region hosts annual Aboriginal Celebration

This past June 6th, the Credit River Métis Council (CRMC) had a booth at the Region of Peel's event, "A Gathering – Peel's Aboriginal Celebration." Over 3,000 people attended the family event and the Credit River Métis Council made a huge contribution to its success.

Chief Bryan LaForme of the Mississaugas of the New Credit welcomed everyone to Chingacousy Park, on the traditional

lands of the Mississaugas, and MNO Chair, France Picotte, brought greetings from the Métis Nation of Ontario. Councillor, Joe Paquette, was in attendance as the Métis Elder; Vice-President, Clayton Cadeau, was a fire-keeper; Youth Rep., Kevin Alves, was stage manager; Senator Alis Kennedy did moccasin and beading demonstrations; Secretary/Treasurer, Judy Moreau, looked after the seniors' tent;

and, MNO Vice-Chair, Sharon McBride and Debbie Alves did medicine pouch and sash weaving workshops. Our two newest members, Councillor David Babcock and Councillor Donna Grenier, helped out at our booth and answered questions about the Métis. Special thanks go to Helen Lewis-Fitzgerald from the Region of Peel for including CRMC on the planning committee.

NIAGARA REGIONAL MÉTIS COUNCIL:

Friends with venison

"Abundance" is the only word to describe Harvest Dinner

by **TERRYLYNN LONGPRE**

On Friday, November 13, 2009, the Welland Health Branch Services, Niagara Regional Métis Council (NRMC) and citizens, held their annual "Harvest Dinner."

I can only think of one word that would describe this event in its entirety and that is "abundance." The number of participants registered was, 100. The number of attendees was 133. This surpassed all expectations.

As the guests registered they were greeted by the sounds of fiddlers and guitarists, courtesy the Welland Seniors Centre who donated their time to our dinner. Later on, Alicia Blore from Toronto joined our musicians with her amazing fiddling talent.

The potluck dinner brought a wide variety of foods that satisfied our hungry guests. There were roasts of venison, turkey, ham and beef, moose jerky, friendship soup, bannock, venison sausage stew, wild rice, wild

game pot pie, squash and many other dishes too numerous to mention, but greatly appreciated.

As the guests lined up to eat, it brought me back to a very recent time at the AGA when our citizens joined together to eat a hearty meal, share stories and make new friends.

MP Malcolm Allen, Councillors Rick Grenier and Mark Zupan were also on hand to share in our celebration. Special thanks to the NRMC for their contribution—especially Suzanne Matte



for working side by side with me until the end. Special thanks to Steve Quesnelle for providing the facility, PowerPoint presentation and the entertainment from the Seniors Centre.

I would also like to congratulate fellow workers Tammy Wintle and Rebecca VanderSanden and all the volunteers for their hard work and professionalism.

TerryLynn Longpre is the Aboriginal Health and Wellness Coordinator in MNO's Welland office.



Greetings and blessings by Niagara Region Métis Council President Rick Paquette (left) and **Marcel Labelle** (right).



MÉTIS ENGAGEMENT FOR ONTARIO POWER GENERATION NEW NUCLEAR AT DARLINGTON PROJECT

Ontario Power Generation (OPG) is an Ontario-based electricity generation company whose principal business is the generation and sale of electricity in Ontario. Our focus is on the efficient production and sale of electricity from our generation facilities, while operating in a safe, open and environmentally responsible manner.

OPG's 12,000 employees are from nearly every trade, profession and skill set. We encourage a culture of respect and we value each person's diversity, unique background, experience, perspective and talents. One example of our commitment is the \$4,000 John Wesley Beaver Memorial Scholarship, which is granted each year by OPG to two post-secondary students of Native ancestry (Métis, Status, Non-Status, or Inuit). Please visit the community section of our web site (www.opg.com) for more information on OPG's scholarship programs.

In 2006, OPG was directed by the province to begin the federal approvals process for new nuclear generation at an existing site, including an environmental assessment (EA). The proposed "Darlington New Nuclear Project" would involve the construction and operation of up to four reactors at OPG's existing Darlington Nuclear site in Bowmanville, ON.

To ensure that a Métis perspective was included in this EA, OPG established an Aboriginal Engagement Program which encouraged knowledge

sharing with communities and facilitated their involvement throughout the EA study process.

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), and the Oshawa and Northumberland Métis Councils have met with OPG staff on several occasions in the past year and have helped build a meaningful dialogue for this project. These meetings have helped OPG, the MNO and the councils achieve greater understanding of the project and how it may relate to Métis interests. The MNO and participating councils have recently identified "Traditional Ecological Knowledge" as an important area of work. OPG and the MNO have established a working relationship to document traditional Métis uses of plants found on the new build site.

On September 30, 2009, OPG submitted the *New Nuclear at Darlington Environmental Impact Statement* and *Licence to Prepare Site Application* to a federally appointed Joint Review Panel. These documents will be subject to a six month public and technical review by federal and provincial authorities, technical experts, the public and the Joint Review Panel, which is currently scheduled to be complete in May 2010. OPG will continue to work with the Métis community during this time.

For more information about the OPG New Nuclear at Darlington Project, please visit www.opg.com/newbuild or call our toll-free number at 1-866-487-6006.

Georgian Bay Métis Council Election Results

November 29, 2009

President	Allen Vallee (elected)
Chair	Ken Fraser (acclaimed)
Secretary	Dave Dusome (acclaimed)
Senator	Helen Bradley (elected)
Treasurer	vacant
Women's Rep	Patricia Taylor (acclaimed)
Councillor	John Paradis (acclaimed)
Councillor	Brenda Laurin (acclaimed)
Councillor	Roxanne Shank (acclaimed)

Riel Day

Métis across the Homeland Commemorate Louis Riel Day, Monday November 16, 2009

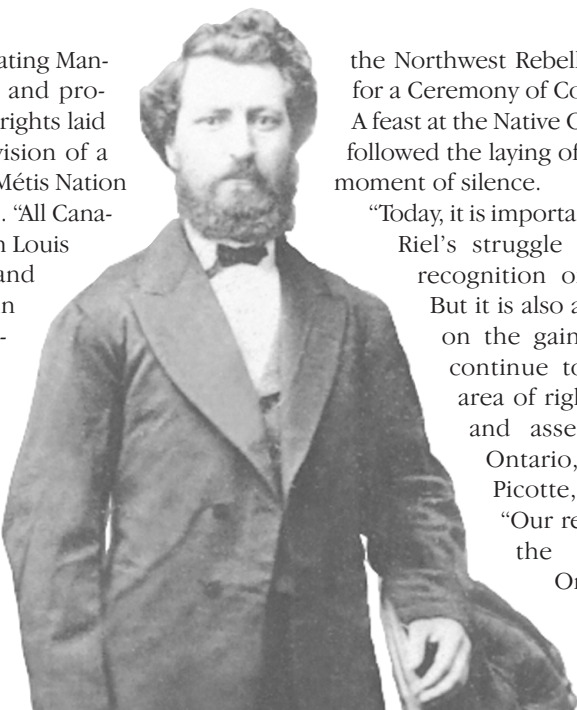
By **JANET LEADER**

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) joined other provincial Métis governments from across the Métis Homeland in commemorating Louis Riel. The Métis leader was executed by the Canadian Government on November 16, 1885, for leading the Northwest Rebellion.

"Today is a solemn day of commemoration for a man who paid the ultimate price in attempting to secure justice for Métis people and protect their way of life," said Gary Lipinski, MNO President. "While Riel's fight for justice on the battlefield is perhaps most remembered, it is also important to recognize the political gains he made through the establishment of a Provisional Government in Manitoba."

Riel's success in negotiating Manitoba into Confederation and protecting minority language rights laid the groundwork for his vision of a Canada that included the Métis Nation and protected Métis rights. "All Canadians have benefitted from Louis Riel's efforts to secure and affirm Métis rights in Canada," President Lipinski added.

In Toronto, the Honourable Brad Duguid, Ontario Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, joined President Lipinski for a flag raising ceremony at Queen's Park before marching with Métis veterans, Elders and a Legion Honour Guard to



the Northwest Rebellion Monument for a Ceremony of Commemoration. A feast at the Native Canadian Centre followed the laying of a wreath and a moment of silence.

"Today, it is important to remember Riel's struggle to ensure the recognition of Métis rights. But it is also a time to reflect on the gains we as Métis continue to make in the area of rights recognition and assertion here in Ontario," said France Picotte, MNO Chair. "Our relationship with the Province of Ontario continues to develop in a positive way as we

move toward reconciliation by building on the MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement signed one year ago in Toronto."

Once again this year, as it has for the past several years, the City of Toronto proclaimed November 16 "Louis Riel Day" in recognition of the Métis leader who was executed for being a persistent advocate for the rights of the Métis people and a symbol of native independence.

Meanwhile, the City of Ottawa issued a similar proclamation. Local MNO citizens joined dignitaries there for the raising of the Métis flag at the Ottawa City Police station.

Events were also planned for Thunder Bay, Oshawa, St. Catharines and Sault Ste. Marie.

NIAGARA REGION MÉTIS COMMUNITIES MARK RIEL DAY:



PORT COLBORNE • NOV. 16, 2009

left to right: **Women's Representative, Barbaranne Wright; President, Rick Paquette; Youth Rep, Andrea Paquette; Mayor, Vance Badawey; Vice-president, Derrick Pont with grandson Holden Shanks; Councillor, Amanda Pont-Shanks; Andre Reed.**



ST. CATHARINES • NOV. 16, 2009

left to right: **Councillor, Valerie Boese; Vice-president, Derrick Pont; Mayor of St. Catharines, Brian McMullan; Youth Rep, Andrea Paquette; Women's Representative, Barbaranne Wright.**

MÉTIS AWARENESS:



Riel makes overdue appearance in guide for new Canadians

By **LINDA LORD**

Like so many Métis, Louis Riel did not exist—at least not in the study guide which was given to new Canadians. However, that has changed. Riel is now included in *Discover Canada: The Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship*.

"When Canada took over the vast northwest region from the Hudson's Bay Company in 1869, the 12,000 Métis of the Red River were not consulted. In response, Louis Riel led an armed uprising and seized Fort Garry, the territorial capital. Canada's future was in jeopardy. How could the Dominion reach from sea to sea if it could not control the interior?" reads the section on Riel called "Challenge in the West".

"Ottawa sent soldiers to retake Fort Garry in 1870. Riel fled to the United States, and Canada established a new province, Manitoba. Riel was elected to Parliament but never took his seat. Later, as Métis and Indian rights were again threatened by westward settlement, a second rebellion, in 1885, in present day Saskatchewan led to Riel's trial and execution for high treason, a decision that was strongly opposed in Quebec. Riel is seen by many as a hero, a defender of Métis rights, and the father of Manitoba," it continues.

Three flags for Riel

By **BARBARANNE WRIGHT**

The Niagara Region Métis Council has been busy promoting Louis Riel Day within the Region for 2009.

On November 13th, the Métis flag was raised in Welland for the third year in a row. That evening we topped off the day with our Niagara Region Métis Harvest Dinner. Alicia Blore offered her talents on the fiddle with a backup group organized by the Health Care Team. Friends were made and a good time was had by all.

Thanks go out to our MNO staff and volunteers for helping to make this event a great success. We had a record turnout (nearly 100 people) and have found we will need a larger hall for next year.

On November 16th, 2009, at 11:00 A.M. we had a ceremony in St. Catharines for the second year in a row. That afternoon a number of Métis citizens and council members were present at Port



Colborne for the first flag raising to take place there. The weather was cooperative and we are thankful for all the Métis citizens and friends who supported these events. We could see many people looking on from the office buildings and the street. The Niagara Region has a great team

of dedicated citizens and volunteers who stay involved and try to attend events as they happen.

St. Catharines' Mayor, Brian McMullan has informed us, his wife has Métis roots to the Red River Settlement, and Mayor Vance Badawey of Port Colborne is a citizen of the Métis Nation of

Ontario along with his family.

We are growing in this area and are so proud to say: "We are Métis".

Barbaranne Wright, U.E. is the Niagara Region Métis Council's Women's Rep and Genealogist.

◀ **WELLAND NOV. 13/09**

lower row: **Mayor Damian Goulbourne; Vice-president, Derrick Pont; Women's Rep, Barbaranne Wright; MNO Public Relations, Glen Lipinski; Laurette Marion; Steve Quesnelle.**

Top row: **Welland City Councillor, Paul Grenier; Brian Wrens; President, Rick Paquette; Fritz, Jeanne Tamulynas, Carol Groulx.**



Riel's fate debated in the House again

On Riel Day, 2009, Pat Martin, Member of Parliament for Winnipeg Centre, used the following statement to appeal to parliament:

“Mr. Speaker, today I call upon Parliament to set the history books straight and reverse the conviction of Louis Riel for high treason and instead recognize his role as the founder of the province of Manitoba, a Father of Confederation and the champion of the rights of the Métis people.

Louis Riel was elected president of the territory that he named Manitoba and negotiated its entry into Confederation as Canada's fifth province on July 15, 1870. He was elected to the House of Commons three times. He was wrongfully tried, convicted and executed for high treason on this day of 1885, a case of justice and mercy denied.

It is consistent with history, justice and respect for the rights of the Métis people that the conviction of Louis Riel be reversed and that his historic role in the building of Canada be formally recognized, commemorated and celebrated, I suggest, by the placement of a statue of Louis Riel on the grounds of Parliament Hill.”

Mr. Martin's appeal, in turn, provoked the Dominion Institute to comment.

THE DOMINION INSTITUTE: Winnipeg MP Pat Martin says Métis leader Louis Riel was wrongfully convicted for treason 124 years ago in Regina, where he was hanged by the neck until dead. Mr. Martin is thus demanding that Riel's case be treated like all wrongful convictions. He wants his record cleared and his good name restored.

The validity of Riel's trial for the events known as the Northwest Rebellion was challenged at the time by the Métis and French-Canadians, who regarded his execution as victors' justice. As time passed, other arguments were advanced to show the trial was unfair, including the view that Riel was insane, or that the inexperienced government in Ottawa had caused the violence by ignoring the real grievances of the Métis, who were justified in defending themselves. The government should have known, for example, that cornered animals (and men) fight viciously when survival is at stake.

REFLECTIONS ON COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS:



Sudbury Métis Council members at Tom David Square, with John Rodriguez, Mayor of Sudbury

Métis flag raised in Sudbury

By **DESNEIGE TAYLOR**

The snow is here glistening brightly and winter activities have begun again. It's time to test and ready skidoos, get the sleds out and sharpen the skates.

This season the Community Wellness programs will be focussing on family violence, poverty, gambling and of course skating. It is important to remember that many of our clients cannot get out in the cold because they are afraid of falling and hurt-

ing themselves. If you can't exercise outside, remember to go outside at least once a day (even if you just stand by your front door) and breathe in the fresh crisp air.

The Sudbury Métis Council members were in attendance at Tom David Square, when John Rodriguez, the Mayor of Sudbury, declared that November 16, 2009, should be recognized as a day for the Métis people in Sudbury, in memory of Louis Riel who fought bravely for our Métis rights. In order to honour Riel we gathered

to raise the Métis flag after the declaration was read.

It is important to remember who we are and to be proud of all our cultural backgrounds. It is important to remember we come from a diverse country that offers freedom and nature's glory. It is important to remember to give thanks for the crisp air that comes only once a year and not at all in some countries.

Desneige Taylor is the Community Wellness Coordinator for the Sudbury Métis Council.

You can't tell a book by its cover

Over the last decade I have been honoured and privileged to represent our Nation at many assemblies, gatherings, government conferences, meetings, impromptu get-togethers, and parties. I have been welcomed in all corners of our Homeland and have been blessed with meeting hundreds of our citizens.

When it comes to the citizens, I have met tall ones, short ones large ones and small ones. I have met citizens who have little education and others who hold doctorates. I have met soldiers and politicians, teachers and labourers, retired people and those not yet started on the journey of a working person. I have seen those newly brought into the world and honoured those who have left it. I know many who are "straight", others that are "two-spirited", some who are spiritual and others with no spiritual beliefs. I have met some with physical disabilities and some who excelled in all sorts of physical pursuits. I have met some citizens who have struggled with addictions, be they problems with drugs, gambling, alcohol or other vices.

All of these people I have met-and others I may not have mentioned-have one thing in common; they are all proud citizens of the Métis Nation of Ontario. They are citizens proud of their heritage, citizens who rejoice in the collective rights of their nationhood.

The physical attributes of our



“It matters not that one has dark hair or dark skin ... What matters is that we are Métis.”

citizens may vary; none of us looks or acts the same as any other, but the one constant is that we are all Métis. We must look deeper than mere surface physical appearance to recognize our extended Métis family members. It matters not that one has dark hair or dark skin; it matters not if we are blond with fair complexions. What matters is that we are Métis.

I am proud to stand with my fellow Métis irrespective of their appearance. You can't tell a book by its cover; look past the dust jacket and the cover; look to the story deep within.

Reta Gordon is the PCMNO Executive Senator. She can be reached at retag@metisnation.org.

SUDBURY

Community Wellness activities in Sudbury

By **DESNEIGE TAYLOR**

The Sudbury MNO Health Branch put on a wonderful Harvest Feast this year. We were able to gather all kinds of donations for our penny table, door prizes, and the feast itself. The Sudbury Métis Council held an annual general assembly during the morning with France Picotte as our guest speaker.

We had a variety of goods on display from candy and jams to clothes. The Blues Brothers provided some great music and entertainment. Pumpkin carving was on the menu for the kids. A teaching was offered on how to prepare wild game. Great food and discussion were enjoyed by all. There has already been some discussion on how to prepare for next year's Fall Harvest Feast.

In this season of slippery winter ice and fear of falling simple exercise is important. Take a brisk walk; go hunting; or, pull your garden if you have not done so yet. Remember the importance of sharing mother earth's splendour and embrace what is before your eyes.

If there are any questions on upcoming events please contact the Sudbury Métis office at 705-671-9855 and be sure to ask for any of your health branch staff. Thank you for reading.

Grey-Bruce Peninsula Métis Council update

FROM PAGE 9

Many thanks to the youth (boys and girls) who sold draw tickets for the numerous prizes contributed by the community, and competently manned the sign-in table.

Our thanks, also, to the kitchen helpers, who worked to make the feast run smoothly.

We thank Heritage Canada for their generous contribution, to the youth, and to the community who participated. ~Senator Leora Wilson

September's Maandigeh ('The Gathering') a Success

The "Restoring the Circle" committee was formed in May, 2008, in response to the national Truth and Reconciliation process and the call for communities to provide events. This gathering was planned by that committee and was held in Owen Sound at the Harry Lumley Bayshore Community Centre on September 28, 29, 30, 2009.

On Monday there was a "look to the past", the history of people, of culture and a keynote address by Susie Jones on the impact of residential schools.

Evening entertainment was provided by Murky Waters, a group of singers from Cape Croker.

Tuesday was about "the present", a time to tell, listen and learn. There was a sunrise ceremony at the sacred fire.

An Elder and residential school survivor from Cape Croker shared his story. An "Ancestor Ceremony" by Diane Longboat, a presentation on Native Health by Jane McFadden, and several workshop choices rounded out the day. Evening entertainment was by a theatre group of young Aboriginal actors.

Wednesday was about "the future" and where we go from here. This included both large and small group events. There was a closing ceremony where all participants at the gathering joined hands in one large circle.

The impact of residential schools on our communities and individuals and the loss of Aboriginal family, culture and identity and how it effects all of us were shared at this gathering. ~ Linda Boyle

Grey Bruce Peninsula Métis Council members:

POSITION:	NAME:
President	Ray Racicot
Chair	Jeff Wilson
Senator	Leora Wilson
Treasurer	Malcolm Dixon
Youth Rep	<i>vacant</i>
Councillor	Peter Couture
Councillor	Terry Couture
Councillor	Peter Gendron
Councillor	Wilma Lindsay
Councillor	Delisa Schieven

Métis Health

THUNDER BAY:

Beading with Relish

Community Wellness activities in Thunder Bay

by **JOAN PANIZZA**
Community Wellness Coordinator

The Community Wellness office in Thunder Bay was an active place this past autumn. There were canning workshops where we made relish and pickles; a beading group has been meeting since October; and many programs have been run with our weekly breakfast program. The EIS (Electro Interstitial Scan) and Diabetes Awareness Days were well attended successful events. As well, we have been able to offer free foot care from Bay View Foot Clinic to our clients. If you are diabetic or have ongoing foot problems and need to use the services of a chiropodist contact Community Wellness to access this free service.

Plans for the next few months include a number of topics. We are lucky to have received a donation of pickerel for a feast. We plan on addressing such topics as addictions; family violence awareness; and, problem gambling.

On the lighter side, skating outings will be offered in the near future. Come and enjoy our beautiful winter in a fun, healthy manner. Our beading group will continue to meet. If this is something you already enjoy and would like some company, or if it's something you would like to learn how to do, contact the Wellness Coordinator to get more details.

If you would like more information about the programs offered by the Health Branch over the winter months, contact me at 807-624-5022. I will be glad to discuss what's being planned.

ABORIGINAL DIABETES EDUCATION PROGRAM | HEALTH RESEARCH PROJECT

New Diabetes project


The Métis Nation of Ontario Health Branch is happy to announce that it has recently completed Phase 1 of its ABDEP project reaching over 490 people in Métis communities across Ontario. The ABDEP is a provincially funded endeavour dedicated to presenting diabetes prevention information to Ontario's at risk Aboriginal population.

Shelley Gonneville, Aboriginal Diabetes Education Program, who is also responsible for provincial diabetes projects, devised this year's initiative to provide health status information to the province's Métis in October and November, 2009, (Phase 1) and January (Phase 2) at 14 sites (Bancroft, Chapleau, Cochrane, Dryden, Fort Frances, Kenora, Midland, North Bay, Ottawa, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, Timmins, and Welland). During these visits, participants receive educational material on diabetes prevention and lowering risks for complica-

tions as well as a two-part physical evaluation (the latter includes a basic health assessment along with an EIS Scan (see sidebar), a Health Canada approved Class 2 physical evaluation device). Participants are also given health improvement recommendations.

This project offers the MNO Health Branch Chronic Disease Surveillance Project a fantastic opportunity to gather its own primary health status and healthcare data on Ontario Métis while promoting the importance of research initiatives to the Métis at large. In brief, Mario R. Gravelle, Chronic Disease Surveillance Project Coordinator, will use the collected aggregate data from the ABDEP Research Project to examine the health status of the Métis, including lifestyle and socioeconomic factors that determine a person's health. This information will be divided by region, sex, and age group to see if significant differences exist. A report will be drafted following the two visits that will include recommenda-

tions for closing the health gap between the Métis and the province's non-Aboriginal population. The Ministry of Health and Long-term Care will receive the final report at the end of March, 2010, and a link to this material from the MNO web site will be provided in the *Voyageur* in the spring.



Electro Interstitial Scan (EIS): a computerized system that applies precise algorithms and proprietary formulae to generate on-screen, 3-D modeling representations of the human body's organs and organ systems. The scan monitors life style, nutrition, micro-nutrition, and estimated parameters of body composition and treatments for select diseases.

Phase 1 of the ABDEP Aboriginal Diabetes Education Program/Health Research Project was a resounding success with a groundswell of involvement. Local MNO Health Branch staff members were instrumental in recruiting participants as well as providing excellent diabetes-related activities, presentations, informational material and giveaways. We especially want to thank Senator Micheline Boisvert and Women's Representative, Lise Bouchard, who organized the event in Chapleau, and Senator Eugene Contant who did likewise in Cochrane.

During January we braved the winter weather to deliver Phase 2 to over 600 people, including Phase 1 participants who received their follow-up assessments.

by Shelley Gonneville (Aboriginal Diabetes Education Program) and Mario R. Gravelle (Chronic Disease Surveillance Project Coordinator)

Drugs and the Elderly

by **GLEN LIPINSKI**

The above headline does not seem to fit, does it? But, substance abuse among seniors has become a silent epidemic. There is an emerging interest and awareness around the problem of prescription drug abuse.

About 10% of seniors either abuse or misuse medications; another 10% abuse alcohol, and some mix both. Some seniors have started to self medicate by changing their prescribed medication levels, for example they may be prescribed one tablet twice a day but cut their tablets in half and only take one tablet, then sell the other one. This could dramatically affect the health and well being of that senior.

The problem is expected to get worse as the population ages, with the addictions foundation

predicting that the number of seniors who need addiction treatment will triple by 2020. A growing number of senior citizens are being charged with a crime that authorities say is escalating. Elderly people are reselling their painkillers and other medications to addicts.

When people are on a fixed income, perhaps drawing only a few hundred dollars per month--and they can sell their pain pills for \$10 apiece, they'll often take half of them for themselves and sell the other half to help pay their utility bills or buy groceries. Many people 60 years of age or older are selling prescription drugs to supplement their income.

Elderly offenders used to be rare. Now, many local jails face increased costs because they need to care for old and often sickly inmates. Older inmates require more care and attention

and thereby put a strain on the system.

Elderly people may be looking for a way to bring in a little extra money; we know college students and young people already do this. It's not much of a stretch to think that seniors could do it too.

One physician spoke of one of her patients, a reformed drug addict, who bought all his drugs not from a known dealer, but from elderly people.

Some physicians have turned to random drug screenings to make sure their patients are taking their prescription drugs instead of selling them. In addition, staffers routinely call patients and ask them to bring their prescription bottles in so that the pills can be counted.

Senior citizens may not always understand the seriousness of selling prescription drugs. They justify it because they're having a

hard time financially.

With today's depressed economy we are seeing an increased opportunity (in the selling of prescription medications) for people to make extra money. If you're seeing a disproportionate number of seniors selling drugs, it's because they are the people who are being prescribed most of the drugs.

Our seniors and our elders are important to us in our communities. We need to continually take steps to ensure that the safety and proper care of seniors and elders is at the top of everyone's list. We must all be vigilant and watch for any signs of abuse of medications. We need to listen to and pay tribute to our seniors, recognize their contributions and give them the respect and care they have earned.

For assistance or information on substance abuse contact your local MNO Health Branch Office.

Ottawa | Community wellness initiatives

by **LESLEY HAGAR**

This being my first article, I will introduce myself. My name is Lesley Hagar, and I am the Community Wellness Coordinator in Ottawa, and have been since March.

I've always felt that being Métis meant that something was being shared with me, something within my heart, that pulses through my veins, and includes years of history. Growing up in my home was rather "normal". Being Métis as well as First Nation wasn't something that we dis-

cussed often, but we were aware of it. I have to say though, when the fiddle started singing, and the guitars played along, they were soon joined by the sounds of spoons and tapping feet. The sound of the family laughing and singing are some of the happiest memories of my life, as well as something deeper than that moment--the years of history, the stories shared, tales told and remembered, always to be passed down to the next generation.

That being said, I am honoured to be able to join the Health Branch again, this time as the

Community Wellness Coordinator.

Since I have started I have had the opportunity to work alongside the Ottawa Métis Council, several other Aboriginal agencies, schools, police and even CAS. Each has shared little pieces of knowledge that I try so hard to hold on to. It has been quite an experience to meet each client, watch them walk towards completing their goals, be there to share in their journey, and to listen and learn from what their life paths have taught them. This position has been eye opening, and character forming. I have to

say I thoroughly enjoy what I am doing. I wear many hats.

Over the past few months I have been able to help with the Ottawa Métis Council's, first Annual Traditional Feast; Christmas Exchange program; diabetes workshops with Southern Ontario Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative (S.O.A.D.I); a health symposiums with Ottawa Public Health, Canadian Diabetes Association, Odawa Native Friendship Centre, Wabano Centre, the Inuit Centre, and Minwaashin Lodge; as well as helping spread information for H1N1 awareness and

lending a hand within the H1N1 vaccination clinics.

I hope to continue bridging gaps, extending my hand, listening to others, sharing knowledge and helping the Métis community's voice be heard loud and clear. There is talk of an Aboriginal art contest for youth being launched, as well as diabetes/health symposiums, and you can definitely expect some winter activities like skating, sledding, and building snowmen! I look forward to this path of meeting, sharing, learning and helping in any way that I can.

Volunteers

LOUISE GOULDING | 2009 SUZANNE ROCHON-BURNETT VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Honouring Her Ancestors

BY LINDA LORD

Is there anyone in the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) who hasn't at least heard of Louise Goulding? Probably not, and most of us recognize her at once. Louise has been around from the beginning. She was one of the founding delegates in 1994 when the MNO was born.

Long before that, she and her ancestors lived traditional Métis lives in the Georgian Bay area, a place where human history has been woven into bays and islands. Take a look at some of the names. Some describe possibilities: Hope Island; White Cloud Island; and, Partridge Island. Some are descriptive: Sandy Island; Green Island; and, Flowerpot Island. On the mainland one can find a Snug Harbour, a Honey Harbour and a Sawlog Bay. South of Parry Sound are Wreck Island; Frying Pan Island, and Sans Souci Island. Who would not want to live on an island called "Without Care"?

This is the home of one of the best known and respected families in the Métis Nation of Ontario—the LePage family of which Louise Goulding is a proud daughter. Her father, who passed away in November of 2002, Henri LePage, made a good part of his living as a commercial fisherman. In 1978 he bought some property on Frying Pan Island and opened Henry's Fish Restaurant. Henri wanted to be able to sell his fish without having to deal with a 'middle man'. I am happy to say that I was among those lucky enough to have had a meal at Henry's place. Fish caught by experts, cleaned by experts, cooked by experts and served by experts. You just can't beat that!

There are endless stories of Henri's life on the 'Watchers', the island on which he built a dock and house. Louise recalls that, "...There was also a fishing camp my family used on Giants Tomb Island which is relatively close to the Watchers. There were other camps. My father and grandfather were the only Métis fishermen to continue using the Watchers as a fishing camp. There is evidence at the Watchers that Indians once used it, for what, we are not sure. We've been told that the island is called 'the Watchers' because it is located out far enough in Georgian Bay that the Indians used to 'watch' for the enemy. There are canals on the back side of the island where it seems the Indians cleared rocks away in order to pull up their canoes. As children we called them 'canoe canals'. Most of my childhood memories come from the Watchers. I feel so 'in

touch' with my Aboriginal ancestors when I'm on the Watchers."

As the daughter of a commercial fisherman Louise, even as a youngster, pulled her weight. She says: "Although we enjoyed outings and lots of swimming, most of my time there (on the Watchers) was spent helping to lift the nets, set the nets, clean the fish, pack the fish, etc. When we weren't fishing we were repairing our nets, making leads and preparing the cork lines and lead lines for new nets. Of course, as a child I thought I was forced to work too much. I was the only kid in school who dreaded the summer holidays because I knew it meant lots of hard work. As an adult I realize it wasn't all that bad and am proud of every minute I spent helping the family with the fishing business. I grew up on fish, fried fish, steamed fish, fish pie, fish bouillon, battered fish, pan fried fish, smoked fish, fish eggs, you name it I've eaten it. I still love fish. Dad used to say 'fish eaters make better lovers'. It's gotta be true since he had 10 kids."

Louise is a living example of "love of family" and "devotion to the community". It is interesting to note that the family has amongst its genealogical treasures a copy of a marriage certificate indicating that Jean Baptiste Trudeau (Louise's ggg grandfather) was married to Angelique Papanaatyhianoncoe, an Ojibwa from Drummond Island.

It is Louise's dedication to her extended Métis family—the MNO—that has brought her some of the recognition she deserves, in the form of the Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award.

Louise has been President of the Moon River Métis Council since 2004. In addition to the work required of a council president she catches, cleans and cooks fish for community events; she encourages others to make donations; and, she helps Métis people obtain their citizenship cards.

Her involvement in genealogical research encouraged the Moon River Council to find funding for a research project of the area which led to the production of a 150 page book. *From the Straits of Mackinac to Georgian Bay: 300 Years of Métis History*, was unveiled in April, 2007. The book was so in demand, that only a few months after its release, a re-print was necessary (ISBN978-0-9782769-0-4).

Another extremely successful activity was the 2006 Métis (Aboriginal) Day festivities at Muskoka Heritage Place in Huntsville. The event saw a couple hundred school children receive a firsthand account of Métis history and cul-



ture. This flourishing partnership has resulted in the Muskoka Heritage Place adding a Métis exhibit to their museum.

Since 2005, Louise has been the Co-Chair of the annual Métis Rendezvous, an event that brings together more than 600 people a year to celebrate Métis culture. Throughout the planning stages she arranges meetings, sets the agenda and does a lot of the follow-up. During the event she can be seen running all over the place, making sure that everything is going smoothly. The Métis Rendezvous has become financially self-sufficient. The proceeds from the fish supper and various raffles cover the costs of not only the event, but also the cost of butchering the game harvested for the community, Métis Elders and others in need. Louise has been Captain of the Hunt for Region 7, since 1997.

Between 1999 and 2002, Louise was the Region 7 Councillor on the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO), and is presently a member of the board of directors of the MNO Development Corporation, but equally important are all of the hours willingly given to the community—hours that are unofficial and can't be easily categorized.

Someone said: "If I had to describe Louise LePage Goulding in a few words, I would need to say that she is a strong Métis woman who lives and breathes her culture, who takes pride in following Métis traditions, who continues to

mentor not only her growing family, but other Métis citizens, a woman who is always available to roll up her sleeves and assist others in almost any task for the good of the Métis Nation."

Another supporter commented that, "...Anyone who knows Louise understands that she can't just be a little involved in something. When she decides to be involved it's full speed ahead and don't stand in her way..."

Louise is a great role model and her love of the Métis culture and lifestyle is evident in the way she lives her life. As with her ancestors before her, much of her daily food comes from the waters of Georgian Bay and the lands that surround it. Like many Métis she is prepared to defend her way of life, as she did in a passionate speech about her family and the struggles endured yearly with the MNR by Métis harvesters. This speech, delivered at the Law Society of Upper Canada's Riel Day Panel, brought the audience to tears.

Throughout the Métis population we find strong families and a great sense of pride in family history. Working hard for the community; respecting others; giving more than you take; Louise Goulding/LePage/Trudeau exemplifies these old-fashioned values, and in so doing she brings honour to her ancestors who lived amongst the Thirty Thousand Islands on the eastern shores of Georgian Bay, and by extension to all Métis.

Congratulations Louise! We honour you.

“ Louise is a strong Métis woman who lives and breathes her culture, who takes pride in following Métis traditions, who continues to mentor not only her growing family, but other Métis citizens... ”

Métis Veterans

Métis veterans outside the Juno Centre last November in Normandy, France.



An Important Return

Métis veterans journey to Normandy, France to revisit Juno Beach

The number of Canada's known Aboriginal war veterans generally includes only "Indians" and "Inuit" who actually signed up during the First, or Second World Wars, or during the Korean War. However, there appears to be no complete record of the actual number of Métis men and women who--over the years--volunteered for service in Canada's wartime or peacetime armed forces. | BY **DONN FOWLER**

Accounting for all the aboriginals who served in the wartime Royal Canadian Navy (RCN), and in the massive infantry, armoured and artillery land forces--to name a few of such land action forces--and in the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF), would be an herculean task. There was apparently no record of the number of such serving "warriors" who were Métis-born and had voluntarily donned a uniform and served in Canadian war efforts. Moreover, there is no official record of the number of civilian Métis men, women, and children who also stood and served in support of their loved ones overseas.

It is no great surprise then that our war veterans, who well knew they were Métis at the time of their enlistment in the Canadian Armed Forces, chose to conceal their pre-1982 Aboriginal origins (and rights). It is also known that, while Canada was a colony of Great Britain, there were Aboriginal voyageurs who were hired as excellent boat-wielding volunteers in the Khartoum fracas along the Nile River in the late 1800s.

However, not until the South African War (the Boer War) were Canadians organised as an overseas fighting force. (One in which my Métis grandfather--for one--participated as an ordinary full time Canadian "career" soldier, both in the South Africa (Boer War) and in the 1914-1918 war in France. Yet his own father also saw military service in Canada as a volunteer in repelling the incursion of the Fenians from the United States. At the time, great grandfather lived in Ontario.

My own father had already enlisted in September 1939 and was overseas by December, but because of serious injury he was returned to Canada in 1943 on the hospital ship, "Lady Nelson", while I remained an overseas infantryman from 1940 to just before 1944 as a playing member of the Pipes and Drums of the 1st Battalion Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders, Canadian Army Active Force (CAAF).

I believe it necessary to relate this background so as to understand that, in Canada alone, there must be millions of our present total Canadian population who



left to right: **MNC President Clement Chartier (left), Manitoba Métis Federation President David Chartrand (right) and Aboriginal Affairs Minister the Hon. Chuck Strahl (centre) cut the ribbon on the Memorial to the Métis Veterans at the Juno Beach Centre.**

have not yet taken the trouble--for one reason or another--to become identified and officially registered as citizens of the Métis Nation.

Accordingly, when my telephone rang a few months ago, I found myself conversing with Executive Senator Reta Gordon of the PCMNO. That had been a kind of "get-to-know-you" call. At a later date, another phone call came from Maurice Sarrazin, President of the MNO Veterans' Council, who asked me if I was "...healthy and still mobile..." to which I replied affirmatively. "I'm still on my feet at 84..." Maurice told me who he was and that I had been one of the few Métis selected to go back to Juno Beach in Normandy, for a unique Métis ceremony, during the week of Novem-

ber 8th to the 14th, 2009. He went on to tell me that all the arrangements were made and the information was in the process of being mailed to my Brockville home.

Once overseas, Maurice handed me a gift of a striking but darker sash with "Métis Nation Veteran" embroidered on one of the sash's end pieces. Maurice also gave me a beautiful Louis Riel medal (#003) attached to a blue and white ribbon. I had been stunned by Maurice's first contact with me by phone, and at that time, I began to think more clearly of what it all meant to me: e.g. passport renewal; proper attire for the occasion; minimal baggage, and other miscellaneous but necessary domestic items to be attended to quickly concerning accommodation for my ailing

but wonderful wife, Eva; and a week's kennel stay for our beloved twelve-year old Hungarian Kuvaz, bitch, "Ryko Magyar Princess". I had all that completed by Thursday the 6th of November--the day before my 84th birthday. I was now able to organise for the great adventure of returning to Normandy. Without going into the minute detail, here's how that proceeded.

First, having the very generous particulars at hand from Ottawa, including a new Métis Sash--thanks to Monique Richard's quick action at MNO--and having set a timeline schedule for myself, I used some of my VIA-Rail points to travel to Ottawa on day one (November 8th). I departed the

MORE ON PAGE 16



The St. Ambroise Youth Steppers perform traditional Métis dance at the Juno Centre.

An Important Return | Métis veterans journey to Juno Beach

FROM ON PAGE 15

Brockville-Ottawa train one stop short of Ottawa and took the shorter drive by taxi to the Ottawa Airport.

Enroute to Paris, I was seated beside a quiet gentleman named Greg Taylor who turned out to be the group's official photographer, and the Communication Director of the MNC. Later, I would also meet Mr. Jason Leroux, a cameraman whose massive motion picture camera followed our tour throughout the entire week. We three had an occasional meal together.

While in flight, the pilot announced and explained why we few WW2 Juno Beach veterans were on board, and the passengers aboard immediately broke into rousing applause. It was during all this that I had brief introductions to Maurice Sarrazin and to Marie-Claude Jetté, the MNC Executive Assistant to the President, who performed exemplary work, keeping we older veterans "on track" and within her excellent and careful hands throughout the entire tour.

On arrival in Paris, the two waiting tour-buses were loaded; our tour guides efficiently took over direction and narration, and we soon arrived at our Paris hotel from where, after a quick breakfast, on the 10th, we would "embus" for the trip to the beautiful city of Caen, but with a preliminary look at Juno Beach. Later, would be our first of two overnights in Caen. We saw much of the remnants of the defences of 65 years ago and the sites of the extensive Normandy beaches, but especially the results of the allied attempt to build an artificial harbour with which to support the invasion. This is the famous but only partially finished "Mulberry Harbour" which was intended to provide our vitally necessary ammunition, vehicles and food supplies which were to follow shortly after a successful invasion. There were still several units of those amphibious units near the shore and many others further off shore that remained there as a testament to that huge allied endeavour at Courseulles-sur-Mer, where the brigade of another three Canadian infantry

battalions had landed. (Two of our Royal Winnipeg Rifles [RWR] veterans were infantrymen who had been taken prisoner but, happily, had survived the fate of other Canadian prisoners of war who were murdered by the armed and fanatic Nazi "Hitler Youth").

We were in Paris twice, on the first, and on the last day of our incredible week overseas. We were now in the process of completing our visit to that massive French steel icon called the Eiffel Tower. Of course on the first night enroute to France, we slept as much as possible on the flight; the next night we slept overnight in Paris and were off to Caen in the morning.

Later, and quite sadly for me and for other vets there, we also experienced a very emotionally and empathetic visit to our Canadian Beny-sur-Mer Cemetery, where all of our Canadian regimental and battalion Normandy invasion "comrades", and our very, very special friends remained, some still aged 17, 18, 19, and so on.

"...duly and properly honour every single Métis--known or unknown--war service person..."

Well before the invasion named "Operation Overlord" and before the D-Day of June 6th 1944, all Canadian military bands were officially disbanded. Those important unit musicians became specialists in a wide variety of other activities such as stretcher-bearers; field medical non-commissioned officers (NCOs); despatch riders; truck and Bren-gun carrier drivers; munitions handlers, et cetera, and some of us became simply foot-slogging "PBI" (Poor bloody Infantrymen). All were doing their jobs against the well-armed and determined Axis forces in front of them.

The climax of the ceremony for me, was our primary function: to duly and properly honour every single Métis--known or unknown--war service person,

not only those who were KIA or DoW (Killed in Action, or Died of Wounds), but also those who have given their all--one way or another--for their country, and for their people, Anishinabek or otherwise and especially for everything good which they truly represent and must represent in a sometimes unkind and cruel world of bullies like those Nazis who gave their undivided loyalty to Adolph Hitler.

Today, in addition to the Juno Beach Museum, there will forever remain an exclusive and unique Métis museum section, and a Red River Cart brought over from Manitoba. But outside the building there stands a memorable Métis monument symbolically depicting the faces and heads of three steel-helmeted soldiers; one guards the front and faces the English Channel; a second guards the right flank, and a third guards the left flank, all mounted on a permanent structure where many of those present for the unveiling ceremonies deposited wreaths and bundles of flowers.

Before the final ceremony we heard excellent words from five special speakers who were our Canadian and French dignitaries. Three in particular were, the Honourable Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs; Clément Chartier, President of the Métis National Council, who presented special certificates to the veterans who were there, at a special luncheon held to honour us, and David Chartrand, Vice-President, Métis National Council, and President of the Manitoba Métis Federation. The two other speakers were Nathalie Worthington, Director of the Juno Beach Centre, and M. Frederic Poole, Mayor of Courseulles-sur-Mer.

Finally, it was a delightful moment to see the St. Ambroise Youth Steppers doing their traditional Métis music and dances. It was most certainly a glorious and memorable undertaking by all who were so deeply concerned with those Métis whom we so unhappily had to leave behind us once again, not only in Beny-sur-Mer, but also in other Canadian military grave-sites found all over the world. They remain forever the extant and unified SPIRIT of all of our Aboriginal ancestors.

A brief summary of my wartime military experience

By **DONN FOWLER**

In 1937 I began military service as a 12-year old boy bandsman "bugler" with the Princess of Wales Own Regiment, MG in Kingston, Ontario. I was trained in the use of firearms during the summer months at Connaught Ranges in Ottawa; by 24th June of 1940 I had left Kingston Collegiate and Vocational Institute and enlisted in #1 (later "A") Company of the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders of the Canadian Army [Active Force] (CA[AF]). The 1st Battalion of the "Glens" was mobilised in May 1940, and converged as a complete battalion at the Kingston Fair Grounds. Members came from Cornwall, Brockville, Kingston and Peterborough (where I was born in Otonabee Township, Peterborough County, on the 7th of November 1925). The "Glens" spent the winter housed at Lansdowne Park, Ottawa, and at the beginning of spring of 1941 we entrained for Debert Military Camp near Truro, Nova Scotia, and our battalion became linked with the 9th Canadian (Highland) Brigade of the 3rd Canadian (Assault) Division.

Our volunteer 3rd Canadian Division--like the two previous volunteer divisions before -- finally set sail from Halifax, Nova Scotia, in July 1941, in a large convoy, and arrived in England about the 15th of July 1941 and entrained again for barracks in Aldershot, England. During the next three years 1941, 1942, and 1943 we trained in huge allied combat formations in a series of code-named mock battle "exercises" such as "Tiger", "Neptune" and many others throughout England and Scotland, but we trained solely as fighting infantry units such as the 9th Canadian (Highland) Brigade of Highland Light Infantry of Canada (HLI), North Nova Scotia Highlanders (NNS) and the SDG. Initially we referred to ourselves as "Glengarrians" and later just as "The Glens". Our battle cry became "Up the Glens".

Following extensive and strenuous conditioning--where many trainees were culled out and assigned to other duties--the entire Canadian army was fit and ready for what later came to be known as "Operation Overlord", meaning the assault on occupied Europe. Our Canadian Infantry units were individually assigned to specific sections of "Juno Beach", Normandy, France, which was attacked on June 6th, 1944, and known as D-Day (meaning, according to some, "Decision Day"). The Glens landed at Berniere-sur-mer.

An infantry battalion could consist of about 1000 men of whom 800 were the fighting element and the remaining 200 were more or less the support elements necessary not only for supplies of ammunition, food, et cetera, but also as a cadre of well trained back-up troops as reinforcements who were still located on the south coast of England ready to embark as needed. As a trained Glengarrian, I did NOT land in Normandy until the 15th of July 1944, in time for the attacks on Caen and the Falaise "Gap". On the 18th of July 1944, Brockville's Capt. Byron E. Fowler--not a direct relative of mine, but the only other "Fowler" in the Glens--was killed in action (KIA).

I had served throughout Normandy, France; Belgium; Holland, and Germany and when the war ended, we Glens were in the north seaport of

Emden, Germany.

I had joined the Glens as a youth, but I was back in my home, in Kingston, and "discharged" in October of 1945, just in time for my 20th birthday. I had left behind in Europe many of my friends, both Aboriginal and others. My own war efforts enabled me to qualify for a "war-service related" disability pension. However, just after repatriation I became a Non-Commissioned Officer instructor of the Canadian Officers Training Contingent at Queen's University, and then spent a few more years as an artillery commissioned officer of the Royal Canadian Artillery (Brockville Rifles). With 12 years of military service accumulated, in addition to being awarded a Canadian Forces Decoration (C.D.), I also received a Queen's Jubilee Medal; three National Aboriginal Veterans Association (NAVA) medals; and, three more post-war medals: two in France and one in Holland.

Our 104 Rideau Street, Kingston, family has, since the 19th century, contained four generations of war-experienced "father-son veterans" and our original ancestral home was located next door to a young lawyer that became--much later on--Sir John Alexander Macdonald.

Unless one has personally experienced real fighting and killing in a "hot" war somewhere --as distinct from a "cold" war--it is extremely difficult to grasp the emotional impact that one experiences. In addition to the sights, sounds and, above all, the stomach-turning stench of unattended and bloated bodies of animals and humans alike, how does anyone begin to explain to others what happens to you when you are first Left Out of Battle (LOB) for a rest, behind the fighting lines and you chance to see what remained from your forward advances--all during an extremely hot 1944 summer.

Recently, and interestingly, I have noticed that many of we older "vets" have become not only more sympathetic about the fate of our wartime comrades, but also we have become more tearfully empathetic about all those young men that we left behind in the soil of Europe and elsewhere in this war-saturated world in which we live. I like Winston Churchill's advice:

"The past is past; we [Métis] must never surrender the future!" (The brackets are mine.) Churchill also said, "They also serve who only stand and wait!" (for a safe return of their warrior loved ones.)



Donn Fowler and wife Eva.

MINISTER OF ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS' STATEMENT ON REMEMBRANCE DAY:

Honouring Aboriginal veterans for their extraordinary service



By
The Hon. Brad Duguid
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs

This time last year, not long after I became Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, I was meeting with Serpent River First Nation. I was honoured to have been invited by their Chief to attend their community's Remembrance Day ceremonies in Elliot Lake.

In the year since, I've learned a great deal about the contributions that Aboriginal people have made to Canadian society.

First Nation, Métis and Inuit people aided the early settlers, provided our ancestors with life-saving and necessary food and medicine, and were key to forming the early economy through the fur trade.

But one of the most significant

contributions has been their extraordinary military service as far back as the War of 1812 and before.

I've been reminded of this sacrifice each time I've attended a powwow. I'm always moved by the respect and recognition that is paid to First Nations veterans. Their recognition isn't limited to one day a year.

To commemorate the contributions of Métis veterans, a monument has been erected on Juno Beach in France. The monument will be dedicated on Remembrance Day this year.

I've learned in the past year that Aboriginal military service was inspired, in large part, by the friendship treaties and by loyalty to the Crown. And so when Canada entered into global conflicts during the first and second World Wars and in Korea, Aboriginal people volunteered en masse to support Canadian's shared principles.

During this time, Six Nations of the Grand River provided more soldiers to the Canadian Armed Forces than any other

First Nation. In one eastern Ontario First Nation, the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan, nearly every single able-bodied man volunteered to serve in the armed forces. The key word is volunteered. Aboriginal people were exempt from conscription and not required to serve.

That they volunteered in such numbers is all the more notable because they knew what they were giving up upon returning home. Through a process called enfranchisement, they would immediately lose their Indian Status when they joined the armed forces. Then, upon completion of their service, Aboriginal veterans would not be eligible for military pensions, subsidies, and land grants provided to their non-Aboriginal comrades. They would not even be eligible to vote until 1960. Thankfully, enfranchisement is a thing of the past.

But many veterans of 20th century conflicts lived their remaining days in outright poverty. Canada's most decorated Aboriginal soldier, Sgt. Tommy Prince, was forced to sell his medals to

BUT ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS HAS BEEN THEIR EXTRAORDINARY MILITARY SERVICE AS FAR BACK AS THE WAR OF 1812 AND BEFORE.

support himself. He died penniless in Winnipeg in 1977.

Aboriginal veterans deserved better.

On November 11 at 11 a.m., we should take time to honour Canadian veterans of all backgrounds. Many will reflect on the service of their family members. Others will be thankful for those long passed. At that time, I will be sure to remember and honour those many brave Aboriginal veterans who paid many sacrifices in service, in life and in death.

You will not be forgotten.

IN MEMORIAM:



A Métis Father Remembered

Senator Jacques Leroux unearthed an old newspaper clipping that transports us back to the war years as he remembers his father, Joseph (Avila) Oliver Leroux.

Man Wounded in Nazi Blitz is in Malone

Oliver Leroux served with Canadians in Battle of Britain

MALONE, Dec. 26—Wounded by machine gun fire from a strafing Nazi plane during the Battle of Britain, Signalman Oliver Leroux of the Royal Canadian Signal Corps, is passing the holidays in Malone with relatives.

Signalman Leroux, who at one time operated a barber shop at Malone Junction, is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Leroux and a brother of Nap and Emile Leroux, Malone.

He enlisted in the Canadian Army the day following the declaration of war by Great Britain on Germany, in September, 1939. He went overseas in August 1940, with the Second Canadian Division, part of a large convoy.

Late in 1940 and 1941 he was stationed near London and went through those dark days when Britain was bombed day and night by the Luftwaffe.

He recalled that early in 1941 while his outfit was on a route march a Stuka dived on the columns and he was one of three men caught in the machine gun fire.

After being hospitalized for two months, Signalman Leroux was sent to the south coast, but there the military installations and encampments were targets for more Nazi bombings.

He had only praise for the army, however, and said he felt that every young man should "get into it. In the army you have plenty to eat and you see a lot of new places," he said. He told of visits to Ireland and Scotland while on leaves and said he is anxious to get back.

During commando training he suffered an injury and will return to Montreal Jan. 4 for further treatment.

(Malone is 50 kms south of Cornwall, ON, in New York State.)



top: **Senator Marjory LeBreton, Leader of the Government in the Senate and Minister of State (Seniors); Métis veteran, Shaun Redmond, and the sister of Senator LeBreton.** bottom: **PCMNO Executive Senator, Reta Gordon with AFN National Chief Shawn Atleo.**

Poignant moment

A Note from MNO Chief Operating Officer, Doug Wilson, written on November 11th, 2009

by **DOUG WILSON**

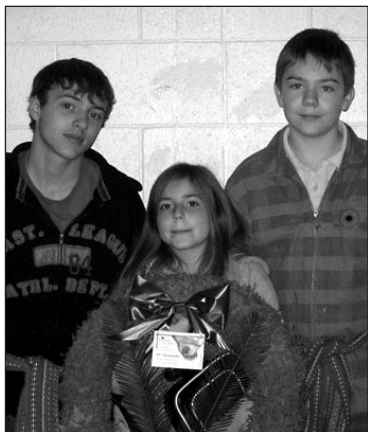
Today I could not get to the Cenotaph in Ottawa for the Remembrance Day services as I usually do, but I was able to watch the ceremony on CBC. This Remembrance Day is particularly special knowing that MNO veterans and youth have joined close to 100 Métis veterans and their families from

across the Homeland at Juno Beach, where long overdue recognition of the contribution of Métis veterans is taking place.

Imagine my surprise and pleasure as the wreath laying ceremony began in Ottawa to see a distinguished looking lady in a camel hair coat and black hat accompanied by a broad shouldered gentleman in a beautiful buckskin jacket step forward to

lay their wreaths and when they stepped back the television cameras focused in for several seconds on the wreaths of the Métis Nation of Ontario and the Métis National Council.

Well done Senator Reta Gordon and Métis Veteran Shaun Redmond! This poignant moment made this solemn occasion all the more meaningful for all Métis.



left to right: **Ethan and Emma Lannigan (grandchildren of Kathleen Lannigan) and Spencer Hearne.**

Métis youth lay wreath on Nov. 11th in Guelph

BY **KATHLEEN LANNIGAN**

On November 11th, 2009, Métis children laid a wreath in honour of Métis veterans at the cenotaph in Guelph. On the left is Spencer Hearne grandson of Sandy O'Brien who is a member of the Grand River Métis Council. This has been an annual activity for many years and it always fills me with pride to see the young people involved in this event.



PCMNO Youth Representative Nick Callaghan on Normandy Beach.

Return to Juno Beach

A Métis youth account

By **NICK CALLAGHAN**
PCMNO Youth Rep

Five months shy of his 19th birthday, Private Donald Fowler landed on the beaches of Normandy, France a few days after D-Day. Sixty-five years later, on Remembrance Day, 2009, he stands on those same beaches, barely comprehending what happened here in 1944.

Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans' Council President, Maurice Sarrazin, and I joined World War 2 veterans Joseph Gagnon and Donn Fowler at the Juno Beach Centre for the unveiling of the Memorial to the Métis Veterans who served Canada and its allies, fighting for the liberation of France/Europe and to ensure the freedom we enjoy today. (See www.junobeach.org for a collection of pictures of the day's events.) As the ceremony begins dignitaries step up to the podium to make speeches and offer prayers. Flags are carried and lowered and the wreaths and poppies laid--all of this reminiscent of all the Remembrance Day ceremonies I have taken part in at

school each year.

This day is so very different. Today I am in another country and some of my older Métis brothers are being honoured. This ceremony is compelling because now I'm standing right where it happened and my roommate on this trip was here when it happened!

The ceremony has its sombre moments and you can see the distant look on the veterans' faces as they remember and eyes well-up with the emotion that is never far from these memories. This ceremony is also a celebration as the Métis Nation is recognized for its contribution to the war. Métis pride comes busting out as the St. Ambrose Youth Steppers from Manitoba take to the stage.

Still outside, Donn and Joe join the other Métis war veterans for photos near the memorial statue. They must have felt like movie stars being hounded by paparazzi with all the cameras pointing at them. The camera flashes didn't let up when we moved inside the Juno Beach Centre for the unveiling of the Métis Veterans Memorial. Presi-

dents Clément Chartier (MNC) and David Chartrand (MMF) joined the Honourable Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and non-Status Indians, for the ribbon cutting ceremony--then, still more photos of the superstars around the Métis memorial.

You might think that a 19 year old and someone 65 years their senior would not have a lot to talk about, but my roommate Donn was amazing. Donn told me how as a Private with the Stormont Dundas and Glengarry (SDG) Highlanders, 9th Brigade, 3rd Assault Division, of the Canadian Active Army Forces (CAAF), he landed just after the D-Day invasion at Normandy. He was there as reinforcement and replacement for the invasion troops. Donn told me how at Nan Beach the Queen's Rifles were to the left and the Regina Rifles were to the right of his division.

While there, Donn was injured, hit three times, and he told me that a few months later, in March, he went to Vimy Ridge as a Canadian Piper. It seemed as though



▲ Donn Fowler

Donn had just lived these events last week as all the details were still fresh in his mind. But, as my roommate told me, it is easy to talk about details but a lot harder to talk about feelings. Our visit to the Canadian War Cemetery showed me just how tough it is for war veterans to talk about the loss of family, friends, and innocence.

I am so thankful to Donn for sharing a room and his memories

with me. Seeing Joe and Donn and the other Métis veterans standing up front and receiving the accolades of the crowd made me even more proud of my Métis heritage. Before they knew us they took up arms to defend our freedom, my freedom. Thank you gentlemen, thank you to all the veterans. The honour is theirs; the proud tradition is their legacy to us.

Two generations of Métis Mounties

by **LAURIE FONJONG**

When you ask Senator Lois McCallum (Ottawa Métis Council) about her children and their accomplishments, she beams with pride. I recently spent some time with Senator McCallum and her husband Walter when I noticed a photo.

I asked them, who was in the picture, and they told me it was their daughter Peggy Strandt. You could see the mother's love in Senator McCallum's eyes when she proceeded to tell me that Peggy joined the RCMP in 1979 and Peggy's daughter Sonia graduated this year from the RCMP Academy and is currently posted in Aiyansh, British Columbia. (Aiyansh is north of Terrace, BC, near the Alaskan panhandle.) As Senator McCallum talked about her daughter and granddaughter,



Peggy Strandt Sonia Strandt

tears rolled down Walter's cheeks and he reminisced about his little girl and his grandbaby. It doesn't matter how old you are or where you live, the love of a parent is pure and profound. My heart felt for them; they really miss their daughter and her family.

Senator McCallum stated that many years ago she was told that, "if you are Métis, stand tall and

proud. Don't let anyone make you feel bad about being who you are." This goes without saying for the Standt women. As you can see by their photos, they are proud of who they are and of what they have become--strong Métis women who are honoured to serve our country.

In these uncertain times it can be difficult for the RCMP to recruit such stalwart individuals who are prepared to put their lives on the line every day. The McCallum Family is extremely proud of Peggy and Sonia's accomplishments. Their drive and determination are exceptional.

So the next time you see a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, think of Peggy, Sonia, and all of the other brave Métis men and women who don this prestigious uniform.

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Arts

Musical family bringing Métis fiddle to the conservatory

On October 7, 2009, the Métis Fiddler Quartet performed at the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) in Washington DC to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the legislation that gave this museum a place in the Mall beside other famous museums.

The program honoured First Nations' Senators, Daniel Inouye and Ben Nighthorse Campbell and included the first ever presentation of the NMAI "Prism Award" to "someone doing special work within his or her community." Performers joining the Métis Fiddler Quartet included the Bird Singers from the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians; InKompliant, a group from the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians; and, the incomparable Buffy Sainte-Marie.

The Métis Fiddler Quartet began its musical journey when the classically trained family learned of elder Métis musicians who were still playing the old fiddle tunes in the unique and distinct Métis tradition. The group travelled west to learn from the descendants and protégées of the



▲ Legendary singer-songwriter Buffy Sainte-Marie with members of the Métis Fiddler Quartet

locally revered Walter Flett.

Alyssa, the eldest member of the group, released her debut CD, *Oméigwessi Reel Métis: A Tribute to Walter Flett*, in the winter of 2008. In November, she was thrilled to receive "Best Fiddle Album" and "Best Instrumental Album" at the Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards. A few months later the family performed with a

full step-dancing ensemble at the 16th annual National Aboriginal Achievement Awards, held in their native Winnipeg and broadcast nationally in May, 2009.

Members of the Métis Fiddler Quartet include Alyssa Delbaere-Sawchuk, 23, currently studying viola at the Conservatoire de Lausanne in Switzerland; Conlin, 21, studying classical singing at the

University of Ottawa; Nicholas, 18, studying classical violin at the Glenn Gould School (and currently working with acclaimed Canadian composer, Larysa Kuzmenko on Métis Fiddle Works, an orchestral project); and Danton, just 13 on cello.

Learn more about this Métis family and their music at: www.metisfiddlerquartet.com

Is Canada a Métis civilization?

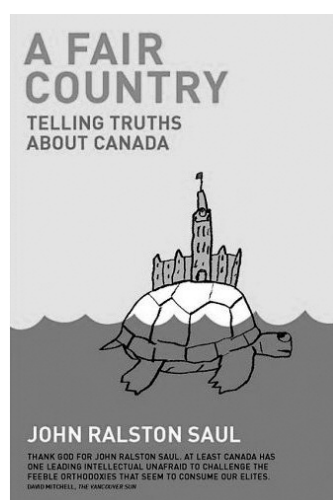
BOOK REVIEW:
A Fair Country:
Telling Truths about Canada
by John Ralston Saul

By **CHRIS PACI**

For the record, I actually went out and bought a copy of the book for \$20, a cheap soft cover that was easily found in a large big box retail book seller in Ottawa's Byward market. The *Voyageur's* readers will either love or hate "A Fair Country", by John Ralston Saul. It is a book largely critical of Canadian colonialism, more specifically, how the elite of this country are unable to serve indigenous interests.

By "telling truths" Saul is offering a largely idealized view of mainstream Canadian business and political leadership, suggesting our values and national institutions are at their origins greatly influenced by "Aboriginal" cultures. He begins the book boldly by stating, "We are a Métis civilization". Not to put too fine a point on it, but if this did in fact shape Canada, we would be a much different country. If the whole nation were a "Métis" civilization we would not constrain, this is putting it nicely, being "Métis". In 339 pages Mr. Saul doesn't ignore the injustices, but his argument that the "two founding nations" of France and England are subconsciously influenced by Aboriginal cultures is absurd.

The book has received national attention, and at last year's November 16th Riel commemorative in Toronto, Ontario Aboriginal Affairs Minister Duguid (video is available on the MNO web site) mentioned he was hoping to read it. We applaud Mr. Saul for suggesting that Canada is wrong to deny its Aboriginal roots. Without a doubt the denial of Aboriginal and treaty rights continues to seriously undermine our nation, and more importantly serves only a small group of elite. The problem I have with the loose usage of the term



“**LONG BEFORE 1885, WHEN CANADA ASSAULTED THE MÉTIS LEADERSHIP IN THE WEST AND DROVE MÉTIS UNDERGROUND, MÉTIS RIGHTS HAD BEEN MARGINALIZED BY CANADIAN GOVERNMENTS.**”

"Métis civilization" is that Saul is being honest and not at all ironic, but if Canada were a Métis Nation it would be a much better place.

I can't agree with all the interesting arguments in this book. Unfortunately, I have too many problems with the popular and pandering arguments he makes and some of his arguments about the past just don't hold water. Nevertheless, the writing is much more engaging than his earlier book, "Voltaire's Bastards" (1995). What a brick that one was!

Clearly, Saul is looking to build myths, and Canada has a landscape and such diverse communities that one is often inspired to myth making. I write this on the train from

Toronto to Ottawa, outside Cobourg where Lake Ontario stretches out like the ancient sea it is. This is an old place and the people who are here are a mix of new and old; this has been our reality since the 1640s. Long before 1885, when Canada assaulted the Métis leadership in the west and drove Métis underground in the rest of the country, Métis rights had been marginalized by Canadian governments. During the Robinson treaty negotiations, for example, the Métis were told that they would be included in treaties as "Indians" or not included at all. This narrow prescriptive view is Canada's "Indian policy" as it is applied to Métis even today. The poor treatment of Métis was proven wrong by the Supreme Court in the Powley decision. However, we have yet to heal in Ontario from the dark years that preceded the decision, a time full of serious injustices to Métis.

Jean Chrétien's 1967 White Paper did not offer a Métis vision of Canada and, besides the good intentions of a few bureaucrats and elected officials, there are far more Canadians out there like Widdowson and Howard (*Disrobing the Aboriginal Industry: The Deception behind Indigenous Cultural Preservation*, by Frances Widdowson and Albert Howard, McGill-Queen's University Press, 2008). Ideologues who treat the public good as a way to undermine Aboriginal peoples.

My critique aside, there is much to appreciate about this book. For example, the reference to the "Great Peace of Montreal", and the Aboriginal origins of Canadian character, are indeed aspects of the nation which need to be read and discussed in greater detail by all. If nothing else, this book should inspire you to read more about being Métis and it should encourage more people to tell their stories in order to improve our country's understanding of what it can still become as a Métis civilization.

Chris Paci is Manager of Education & Training.



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RAVEN FLIES will be coming to some Toronto area schools in the new year: March 29, 30, 31 and, April 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 2010.

Red Sky's newest work for family audiences is targeted at K to Grade 6 and their families. **The Weeping Mountain** takes the audience on a journey through imagery, music, theatre and dance—all embracing an essential environmental theme.

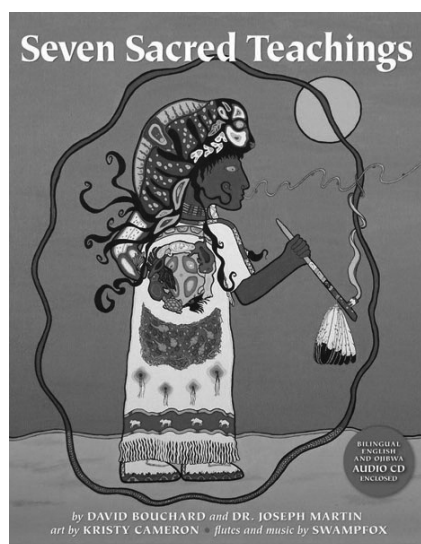
The Weeping Mountain is the story of a young girl's courageous journey to answer Mother Nature's plea. Lucy travels in search of the beautiful smiling mountain she remembers as a child, only to find that it is now weeping. The Earth has become too hot and its ice caps are melting under the sun. The world is too busy to notice. Lucy must make the tears stop.

The inspiration for this show came from photographer Michael Nolan's image of an ice-cap in which tears seemed to gush from a face carved into the ice by melting water.

Play by Tracey Power, directed and choreographed by Sandra Laronde.

www.redskyperformance.com

MÉTIS ARTISTS:



Métis writer and artist team produce English/Ojibwe book

Award-winning Métis author, David Bouchard, and Métis artist, Kristy Cameron, teamed up to create their recently released book: "The Seven Sacred Teachings".

The book launch was held on September 21st at the Rainy River First Nations' powwow grounds. In attendance were Aboriginal and school board representatives, as well as students and staff.

The book is written in English and Ojibwe, which was translated locally by Jason Jones and Elder Nancy Jones.

Included with the book, is a DVD which features the flute music of Swampfox and a beautiful telling of the story in seven languages: English, French, Ojibwe, Chipewyan, Bush Cree, and Slavey. The Rainy River District School Board presented copies of The Seven Sacred Teachings to each of their staff and students.

To learn more about David or Kristy, visit their websites:
www.davidbouchard.com
www.kristycameron.ca

HAIR AND MAKE-UP EFFECTS ARTIST:

Movie-magic Métis

BY LAURIE FONJONG

When you think about all of the talent our Métis brothers and sisters have to offer our Nation, what comes to mind? Jigging? Beading? Fiddling?

But have you ever thought about the artistry of wig making or theatrical make-up? Allow me to introduce a very talented Métis man named Kelly McCallum. Kelly is Senator Lois McCallum's only son who resides in Toronto.

In 2001, Kelly left the Canadian Opera Company to obtain his hair stylist licence and began teaching theatrical make-up, facial hair making and hair styling at Comlections International Academy Inc, which is a very well respected make-up school in Toronto.

Kelly has made a name for himself in the theatre community in Canada and in the United States. His love for the arts has proven to be an asset to the arts community. Kelly's education comes from Sheridan College, the Ontario College of Art and Design and he has worked for many years with the Canadian Opera Company.

He has made wigs for several opera singers; some of the performers were from such productions as The Phantom of the Opera, Les Misérables, Beauty

and the Beast, Tommy, Jane Eyre, The Lion King and Mamma Mia. His talents have not gone unnoticed by his peers; Kelly has received awards for his amazing make-up and wigs.

Did you watch the movie "JFK"? The body of the late President Kennedy was Kelly's creation. In 1993 the movie, "Alive", was released. The bodies of the rugby team were also creations of our fellow Métis. Kelly has other movies under his belt, such as *Hairspray*, an Olson twin's adventure movie and his latest movie starring Shirley MacLaine.

Kelly feels that he has a special connection to his Métis students: "It gives me such pride when I get to teach my craft to my people," said Kelly.

Patience is a must in Kelly's

business. It can take up to a month to make a wig from scratch, especially if the wig style requires large bangs or long curls—not to mention the hours it takes to create such elaborate make-up on actors and performers.

So the next time you attend an opera or a play, please remember all of the effort that was put into creating the amazing "finishing touches" to the production, because it wouldn't be the same without people like Kelly McCallum bringing each character to life through the art of make-up and wigs.



Kelly McCallum



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WINTER ACTIVITIES:



Snow-walker

Trying to be more active this winter?
Give snowshoeing a try ...

BY **TRACY BALD**

As I am writing this there is a chill in the air and knowledge that snow will be here soon. For years I fought against winter, hating every snow flake and cold wind from the warm comfort of my couch. I have come around a bit and have learned to enjoy winter—well a little bit—and some of the activities available; one that I have discovered a love for, is snowshoeing.

While today, snowshoes are mainly used for recreation, in the past they were essential tools for fur traders, trappers and anyone whose life or living depended on getting around in areas of deep and frequent snowfall. Traditional snowshoes have a hardwood frame with rawhide lacings. Some modern snowshoes are similar, but most are made of light metal while others are a single piece of plastic attached to the foot to spread the weight.

Snowshoeing expands the potential for exercise available in the wintertime. It has the added benefit of being gentler on the feet than walking or running the equivalent routes, because snow cushions the

foot's impact. For the same reason, it is less detrimental to the environment, as the snow likewise buffers the earth against the impact of so many hikers and campers, cutting back on trail erosion and other effects of heavy use.

Snowshoeing makes even familiar hikes different and new. If the snow is deep enough, obstacles such as large boulders and fallen logs can be more easily bypassed. Winter transforms familiar forests into something wonderful and strange, and clearer, bluer skies in winter often afford more sweeping, longer-range views from favourite lookouts than are available in summer situations. The stillness of the air, the quiet and snow cover give nature a pristine feel that is sometimes lacking at other times of year.

Try to be more active this winter. Give snowshoeing a try or find another winter activity you can love.

CONTACT:
Tracy Bald
Community Wellness Coordinator
355 Cranston Cres., Box 234
Midland ON
Tel: 705 526-6335
tracyb@metisnation.org

MÉTIS HISTORY | MUSEUM OF CIVILIZATION

PROFIT & AMBITION

Canada's epic fur trade story

BY **REBEKAH WILSON**

This isn't just a story – it's our history.

Since its September debut at the Museum of Civilization in Gatineau, QC, a special exhibit highlighting the history of Canada's fur trade has captivated visitors with its informative display and playful interactivity.

Among the artefacts on display are muskets, powder flasks, metal knives, axes, pots, brooches, rings, silver ornaments used for trade, European wool clothing, Aboriginal skin clothing decorated with glass beads, and a top hat made from beaver pelt. The authentic artefacts were brought together by the museum from different collections across Canada.

A replica of a traditional birch bark canoe, built to scale at 10-foot long is also on display. A replica was needed because the treacherous traveling conditions meant that none of the original canoes used in the fur trade were recovered. The original canoes were designed to carry up to five tonnes including the voyageurs, sometimes their wives, and of course the merchandise for trade.

Throughout the display visitors will find detailed maps of the trade routes and waterways across Canada used by the fur traders. Stand-alone glass display cases hold trade log books, partnership agreements, voyageur contracts and account books. A rare artefact on display is the first edition of Alexander Mackenzie's published journal which has been restored by the museum.

Interactive features attractive to visitors of all ages include tangible samples of moose, buffalo and beaver fur as well as a weight scale and height ruler to deter-



▲ Knife and sheath, silver ear pendants, pouch from the Great Lakes Region, late 1700s (Canadian Museum of Civilization)

mine whether one would fit the weight and height requirements of a voyageur: a maximum height of 5'6" and maximum weight of 140 lbs.

In conjunction with the special exhibition, several activities have taken place at the museum. The first, a demonstration about Aboriginal technology, was led by Daniel "Penock" Smith who made a toboggan, snowshoes and canoe using traditional tools and materials. The second, called "Music of the Voyageurs", featured music and stories of the fur trade performed by Michel-André Vallières, a folk singer from

Gatineau.

Available for purchase online or in the museum's gift shop is a book titled, "Profit and Ambition: The North West Company and the Fur Trade 1779-1821".

Written by curator David A. Morrison, the book sells for \$19.95, in English or French.

The museum is open to visitors Monday to Wednesday and Friday to Sunday 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. On Thursday, the museum is open until 8 pm. The exhibit will remain at the museum until September 2010. For more information, call (819) 776-7000 or visit www.civilization.ca.

WINTER SAFETY:



Winter tires: it's how we roll in Canada

The great Canadian winter is upon us. In recent years, more and more drivers have chosen to invest in winter tires, and with good reason. Recent advances in winter tire technology offer motorists significant advantages, not just on snow or ice, but on cold dry road surfaces as well. Winter tires offer up to 50% more winter traction than all-seasons.

Rubber stiffens as temperatures get colder, reducing traction capability. Modern winter tire rubber compounds, however,

keep their elasticity even at temperatures as cold as minus 30 degrees Celsius and lower. The result is superior traction and performance in all road conditions during winter.

Canada's tire makers also advise motorists to use winter tires on all wheel positions. Using winter tires on the front or rear axle positions only can create a serious traction imbalance that can lead to a loss of control, particularly when cornering.

When shopping for winter tires, motorists should look for

the "three peak mountain snowflake" on the sidewall. Only tires stamped with this distinctive symbol meet or exceed specific snow traction requirements established by the tire industry.

Another key to safe winter driving is proper tire inflation, which is more challenging to maintain in winter. Every five degree Celsius decrease in temperature results in a loss of about one psi in air pressure. A temperature drop of 15 degrees Celsius, for example, which can happen frequently in winter, typically

results in 10% under-inflation.

Tire under-inflation is a serious threat to vehicle safety. Under-inflated tires have a smaller footprint, which weakens their grip. The result is diminished braking and handling capabilities, not to mention significantly higher fuel bills due to increased rolling resistance.

"The idea that winter tires are only for snow or ice covered roads is old-fashioned thinking," says Glenn Maidment, President of the Rubber Association of Canada (RAC), which represents

Canada's tire makers. "Drivers should think of winter tires as 'cold weather' tires that offer superior traction, braking and cornering in every winter driving condition, including dry surfaces. The surface grip advantage offered by winter tires becomes evident when temperatures fall below seven degrees Celsius. When you can see your breath, it's time for winter tires."

Learn more about selecting and maintaining winter tires by visiting www.betiresmart.ca.

Métis Education

Chair of Métis Studies appointed at uOttawa

The stage for a new era in research about and for Ontario Métis is set with the appointment of Dr. Brenda Macdougall as Chair of Métis Studies at the University of Ottawa. Gary Lipinski, President of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), announced the appointment on behalf of the Council of Ontario Universities and the University of Ottawa on November 4th, 2009.

"Today's announcement marks the beginning of another exciting phase in the evolution of the Métis Nation in Ontario," President Lipinski said. "The research resulting from Dr. Macdougall's appointment will help all Canadians gain a greater understanding of the role played by Ontario Métis in the history of Canada. It will help raise awareness about the traditions and culture that confirm the Métis as a distinct Aboriginal people. As a result, Métis rights issues within the province in areas such as treaty negotiations, harvesting and traditional land use will be better understood."

For MNO Chair, France Picotte, the appointment of Dr. Macdougall is extremely gratifying. "It is great to see many years of hard work come to fruition. The dream of a Chair of Métis Studies was initiated by now Premier Dalton McGuinty while he was still in Opposition and we are encouraged by the support from the province in making the Chair a reality."

The nomination of Dr. Macdougall as the inaugural holder of the Research Chair in Métis Stud-



Dr. Brenda Macdougall, the new Chair of Métis Studies at the University of Ottawa and Gary Lipinski, President of the Métis Nation of Ontario at the MNO's 2009 Annual General Assembly in Sudbury this past summer.

ies at the University of Ottawa was accepted by the Council of Ontario Universities (COU). The recommendation was made by a selection panel chaired by Dr. Bradford Morse with representatives from faculty and senior administrative staff of the university and the Métis Nation of Ontario.

"Dr. Macdougall brings to the position a background with the right combination of academic and administrative experience which, when combined with the strong vision already evident in

the successful creation of the Chair at the university, promises a productive partnership," added President Lipinski.

The Research Chair will be more than a catalyst for innovative Ontario Métis-specific research. It will help to ensure that both the MNO and the University of Ottawa can fulfill a commitment made earlier this year with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). That MOU is aimed at fostering a positive relationship that promotes enhanced educational out-

“The research resulting from Dr. Macdougall's appointment will help all Canadians gain a greater understanding of the role played by Ontario Métis in the history of Canada.”

comes for Métis students and improvements to Métis content in course offerings at the university.

The University of Ottawa was one of several provincial learning institutions which submitted proposals to host the Chair. The university has added one million dollars in ongoing support for the position to the three million dollars already endowed by the McGuinty government.

Macdougall began her work at the University of Ottawa on January 1, 2010.



MNO President Gary Lipinski, and President of Georgian College, Brian Tamblyn, sign a Memorandum of Understanding.

Another boost for Métis post-secondary education

By **SCOTT CARPENTER**

The Métis Nation of Ontario continues to make important strides in post-secondary education partnerships. On Sept. 19th, 2009, MNO President, Gary Lipinski, and President and CEO of Georgian College, Brian Tamblyn, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) recognizing the past and

ongoing partnerships between the two organizations. The signing took place at the 2009 Métis Rendezvous in Lafontaine with hundreds of Métis citizens and supporters looking on. The MNO and Georgian College MOU is the third such document that the MNO has signed with a college and is the fourth one signed with a post-secondary institution to date.

Teaching the teachers

MNO Education staff participate in launch of initiative at York University to increase number of First Nations, Métis and Inuit candidates to teachers' college

By **SCOTT CARPENTER**

On Sept. 18, 2009, the Faculty of Education, York University, Barrie site launched its "First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Infusion" program. Approximately 70 teacher candidates, along with faculty, participated in a morning of speakers from the university, local school boards, and Métis and First Nations.

Chris Paci brought greetings on behalf of the MNO and Marg Raynor read an Anishinabe creation story and provided a closing drum song which was written to protest Site 41 (see page 7). A presentation on decolonizing

narratives, Indigegogy and work at the public and catholic school boards, provided student teachers with excellent food for thought.

This is the second year of the teacher education program and the long term goal is to train more Métis and Inuit teachers, and to ensure the next generation of teachers is better informed about First Nations, Métis and Inuit issues.

The MNO will continue to work with universities and colleges across the province to ensure all programs have a much richer appreciation for Métis issues, history, Michif and culture in Ontario.

JOB TRAINING:

Aboriginal Apprenticeship Centre opens in Sault Ste. Marie

Centre focusses on providing skilled trades training to Aboriginal people in the near north

The Métis Nation of Ontario in partnership with Sault College is proud to introduce the Aboriginal Apprenticeship Centre based at the college's Sault Ste. Marie campus.

Funded by Service Canada through the Aboriginal Skills and Training Strategic Investment Fund (ASTSIF), the program is aimed to provide skilled trades training to all interested Aboriginal people in the Algoma District and surrounding areas. The program will also serve to engage employers interested in expanding their workforce with skilled Aboriginal people.

This 18 month project is currently focussed upon training in construction-based trades with hope that participants will bring their skills back to the communities in which they reside. The program proposes to recruit 40 Aboriginal clients and develop a sustainability plan by the project end date of March 31, 2011.

Project Director, Bob Karklins, is already seeing great interest from potential clients. He is also confident of support from several sponsoring institutions including the Native Education and Training Department as well as from the Algoma Aboriginal community.

Staff at the centre will include an Executive Director, Project Coordinator and Job Developer, who will work in partnership with employers, industry stakeholders and Aboriginal Human Resource Development Agreement (AHRDA) holders to make training to employment opportunities possible and accessible to all Aboriginal applicants. The program is open to all Aboriginal people. Participants are eligible for allowances during their training.

The centre is expected to open in January, 2010.

CONTACT:

Bob Karklins, *Project Director*
Aboriginal Apprenticeship Centre
Sault College
443 Northern Avenue
Sault Ste. Marie, ON
tel: 705-759-2554 xt. 2479
robertk@metisnation.org

General Inquiries:

Guylaine Morin-Cléroux / MNO
tel: 613-798-1488 xt. 116
guylainem@metisnation.org

Ontario's Draft Postsecondary Education Policy Framework for Aboriginal Learners:

Education talk

Community discussions focus on drafting a Postsecondary Education Policy Framework for Métis

By **LINDA LORD**

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), Education and Training Branch, held four regional discussions focussed on Ontario's "Draft Postsecondary Education Policy Framework for Aboriginal Learners". (The framework is available at www.metisnation.org).

The purpose of the regional meetings was to gather Métis input and feedback regarding the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities' (MTCU) draft postsecondary education policy framework. The discussions attempted to explore the existing and developing relationships between postsecondary institutions and private vocational training institutions and the Métis community. Community members were asked for their opinions on what has worked and what has not worked for Métis in Ontario.

In particular, senators, college and university students, parents, and educators of all types were encouraged to attend. Interested parties were provided with a "discussion guide" meant to cover key points in the framework.

The Hamilton meeting was held November 23, at the Hamilton Regional Indian Centre and was conducted by Jennifer St. Germain, Director of Education and Training; Chris Paci, Manager of Education and Training; and, Guylaine Morin Cleroux, Administrative Assistant. Arrangements in Hamilton were made by Judy Trott. The meeting began at 5:00 P.M. with a prayer offered by Senator Doris Lanigan. Then, while the delectable aromas of stew, and bannock wafted through the room, attendees were treated to traditional drum songs by four young women—Nicole Jones, Marie Hernandez, Stephanie Sullivan, and Melissa Button—who are members of Anishinabe Kwe, women's hand drum group. After this entertainment, those in attendance filed through the kitchen to serve themselves, not only stew and bannock, but also hot vegetables, rice, salad, straw-



MIDLAND, ON - left to right: **MNO's Manager of Education and Training, Chris Paci leads discussions on Métis education in Midland at Sainte-Marie Among the Hurons.**



HAMILTON, ON - left to right: **Nicole Jones, Marie Hernandez, Stephanie Sullivan, and Melissa Button—are members of Anishinabe Kwe, women's hand drum group.**



TIMMINS, ON - December 1st, 2009



FORT FRANCES, ON
December 8th, 2009

berry juice and cookies. During the meal people chatted and the feeling of a formal meeting became more relaxed.

When Dr. Chris Paci addressed the group and the meeting proper began, he encouraged people to feel free to say whatever was on their minds. "This is the MNO", he said. "You're at home." People seemed to take Chris at his word and discussion began.

In the discussion guide, three "purposes" were cited for the "Policy Framework":

- To describe the Ministry's goals and strategic directions for Aboriginal postsecondary education and training and priorities to support Aborigi-

nal learners;

- To inform the Ministry's relationships with its partners and enrich the collective understanding of the Ministry's employees and people working in the postsecondary education and training sectors; and
- To introduce a performance measures framework for Aboriginal postsecondary education and training that track and monitor activities and initiatives targeted for Aboriginal learners.

Attendees were then asked to respond to the questions below.

- 1) Is the Purpose of this Policy

Framework clear and concise?

- 2) Does this statement clearly articulate why the Ministry is developing a policy framework for Aboriginal postsecondary education and training?

- 3) Do you have any suggestions on how the Purpose statement might be improved?

- 4) Do you have any questions as to why the Ministry is developing a policy framework?

It was generally felt that item three (above) needed clarification. People wondered if it was the ministry's intention to segregate Aboriginal kids and whether the new framework would be culturally relevant. Some also asked why the framework was being

developed, and it was explained that it had been inspired by the success of a similar program for grades kindergarten to 12. Hope was expressed that students would self-identify as "Aboriginal" and thereby improve representation and that, in turn, this would narrow the gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal learners.

The next phase of discussion dealt with the framework's "Vision Statement". Again, people sought clarification on some of the terms used: such as "all people" and "proven practices". It was felt that, in particular, "proven practices", should be defined.

1. All people in Ontario will have the essential foundation skills they need to be equipped to achieve employment goals and positive labour market outcomes and will engage in lifelong learning

2. Ontario's postsecondary education and training sectors will collaborate to articulate, nurture and advance the postsecondary education and training objectives of Aboriginal learners

3. Ontario's postsecondary education and training initiatives will be regarded as proven practices, locally, nationally and internationally

The next topic up for discussion was "principles", which seemed even more lacking in specificity and gave rise to some fundamental questions. "Would there be dedicated funding?" (There presently is no dedicated funding for Métis.) "Who would determine what is 'culturally appropriate'?" "[Programs and services would be] accountable to whom?" "Why focus on 'learners' not 'teachers'?" "Does this document empower students?" And finally, the significant statement that, "students should have input".

- High standard of quality and accountability of programs and services
- Learner-centred approaches
- Cooperation and Shared Responsibility
- Inclusiveness
- Respect for Constitutional and Treaty Rights and respect for Indigenous Knowledge

Discussion continued with many important questions being asked and clarification being sought on everything from the accuracy of demographics to how barriers to higher education for Aboriginal people would be addressed.

Additional sessions were held November 27th, in Midland; December 1st, in Timmins; and, December 8th, 2009, in Fort Frances.

Ottawa Police launch 2010 Flanagan Scholarship in recognition of 80th anniversary of Persons Day!

If you're a visible minority woman or an Aboriginal woman who's interested in joining the Ottawa Police Service, you might be eligible for the Thomas G. Flanagan S.C. Scholarship. The Ottawa Police Services Board and the Ottawa Police Service offer this scholarship in partner-

ship with the Community Foundation of Ottawa to one student who meets the established criteria.

The Thomas G. Flanagan S.C. Scholarship Award was established in 1993 in honour of the late Thomas G. Flanagan who served as Chief of Police of the

Ottawa Police Service between 1989 and 1993 and in recognition of Persons Day, the day in 1929 when the British Privy Council formally declared women "persons" under the law.

The award is in the amount of \$1,500 and is directed towards the recipient's educa-

tion at an accredited post secondary institution. Deadline for application to the 2010 process is February 26, 2010. The award will be presented to the selected recipient at a public ceremony during Police Week in May 2010.

Applications are available online at ottawapolice.ca.

Circle of Light 2009 | An Aboriginal Education Conference:

Energized & Awakened

My experience listening, learning and travelling with a Métis Senator

By **MITCHELL CASE**

In early September 2009, I received a phone call from PCMNO Executive Senator Reta Gordon. She said she was attending a conference in Toronto in late November and that she was able to bring a helper and wanted to know if I wanted to go along and learn something from this conference. The conference was *Circle of Light 2009: Energizing Our Partnerships in Education*, focussing on the Ministry of Education's Aboriginal Initiatives. As my goal is to become a teacher I immediately said, "yes".

Fast forward to November 23rd, after a thankfully uneventful flight to Toronto and shuttle ride to the Royal York Hotel, I was settling into my room when the Senator phoned. She informed me that she had flown in from Vancouver the night before and was very tired; she was going to bed early and she would call me in the morning. I decided to go for a walk. Seeing the sights of Toronto at night is remarkable; the CN Tower is an amazing sight when it is lit up and the colours are changing almost before you notice it.

Tuesday morning I met Senator Gordon and her husband Ron in the lobby. The Senator gifted me with a sash. Later that evening we attended a feast in honour of the late Bill Messenger. Mr. Messenger worked tirelessly to help many different organizations, including the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres and the Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Strategy. Many people who knew and worked with Mr. Messenger spoke and shared stories about him. Being a part of a traditional feast to honour someone who had worked so hard for Aboriginal people was very heart warming. I never had the chance to meet Mr. Messenger but hearing the words of those attending and meeting his daughters I can tell he was a remarkable man.

Wednesday morning arrived and brought with it the beginning of two great days of learning. We began the day with a "meet and greet" breakfast, and moved into opening ceremonies. Elder Gary Sault of the Mississaugas of the New Credit opened with a smudge ceremony and a traditional hand drum song. Senator Gordon then offered a prayer on behalf of the Métis people.

The morning continued with speeches from the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, the Director of Education for Indian and Northern Affairs and Gary Lipinski, President of the MNO. The highlight of the morning was the stu-



Senator Reta Gordon addresses the 2009 Circle of Light conference in Toronto.

dent panel presentation. It was very good to hear students expressing their true opinions, speaking from the heart telling the teachers, superintendents, and ministry staff what is working and what is not working in the schools in Ontario.

The remainder of the day was spent attending workshops which included, "Using Teachings From The Land & Indigenous People to Shape Tomorrow's Leaders", presented by Dr. Nicole Bell Med, PhD, Bear Clan Anishinaabe Kwe. We also attended "Métis Nation—Who We Are", presented by Jen St. Germain and Scott Carpenter. I want to commend both Jen and Scott for doing such a great job at answering some tough questions. We heard about many methods currently in place in the province to bring aboriginal culture into all aspects of the education system, especially traditional worldviews and values.

David Bouchard, a Métis author from British Columbia, provided the keynote address for the afternoon. Bouchard is a tireless advocate of literacy; and shared his three key ingredients for successful literacy. He believes that students need all of the following things:

- 1) **Time:** Kids must be allowed to read at their own rate. Expecting all kids to read at the same level at the same age, limits students who are further ahead and puts too much pressure on those who are further behind.
- 2) **Hero:** All kids need someone in their lives who is a reader, someone they can look up to, and someone from whom they can learn that reading is "cool".
- 3) **Books:** Students need access to books and they should not be limited by their financial

situation. Mr. Bouchard's message is incredibly powerful; I believe that he would be a great speaker at the next AGA.

We attended the banquet on Wednesday evening. After a wonderful meal we witnessed a presentation by a group of Inuit throat singers from Ottawa and a flute song presentation by David Bouchard. Dr. Brenda Macdougall presented information about her new position as Chair of Métis Studies at the University of Ottawa.

"I FEEL ENERGIZED, AWAKENED, AND READY TO GO BACK AND CONTINUE WORKING TO INCREASE AWARENESS OF MÉTIS CULTURE IN OUR LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS."

The highlight of the evening was "The Outside Looking In" presentation. This program gives students in remote communities the opportunity to join in an extracurricular program and provides them with greater self-esteem. For more information or to donate to the program please visit www.olishow.net.

Thursday began with an address by Ontario Regional Grand Chief Angus Toulouse and Minister of Education Kathleen Wynne. Following the opening remarks was another student panel. Once again I commend all the students who had the courage to raise their voices. We attended the presentation by Chris Paci, "Métis Partnerships

with School Boards". I want to say congrats to Chris for such a great presentation. The afternoon finished off with a keynote address by Jennifer Podemski-actor, producer and CEO of Redcloud Studios Inc. Senator Gordon and Elder Gary Sault closed the conference with prayers and words of wisdom.

Reta, Ron and I spent the evening enjoying sandwiches from Subway and telling stories. After saying "goodbye" to Reta and Ron on Friday morning I flew home to the Sault. All the way home I kept thinking about how thankful I was the Senator had invited me to attend this conference. I learned more than I could have imagined. I feel energized, awakened, and ready to go back and continue working to increase awareness of Métis culture in our local school boards.

I want to thank Senator Reta Gordon for the opportunity to attend the conference, and her husband Ron for his kindness and generosity. I also want to thank MNO staff, Chris Paci, Jen St. Germain and Scott Carpenter for their hard work preparing for the conference. I want to send a special "thank you" to Guylaine Morin-Cleroux for being so patient with me and my many questions in the days leading up to the conference. I also want to thank my teachers at Algoma University for allowing me to take off for a week.

I am so grateful that I was able to attend and learn so much from this conference. Thanks again to Senator Gordon for the invitation. I hope I can put this knowledge to good use here at home.

Mitchell Case is the Youth Representative for the Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council.

JOB TRAINING:

Are you Ready to Work in Tourism & Hospitality?

MNO partners with Ontario Tourism and Education Centre to provide unique opportunity in hospitality industry

In partnership with the Ontario Tourism and Education Corporation (OTEC) and Career Foundation, the Métis Nation of Ontario is working to provide a unique and specialized training to employment opportunity in the Tourism and Hospitality sector.

The project will build on a proven industry focussed essential skills model called "Ready to Work". This model has been used successfully to generate employment opportunities in the Tourism and Hospitality sector, providing focussed training to more than 10,000 unemployed people nationwide.

The program will include an industry focused training component (featuring emerit Tourism Essentials [TOE], Canadian Workplace Essentials [CWE], Service Excellence, Smart Serve, National Food Safety Training Program [NFSTP], Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System [WHMIS] for Tourism and Hospitality) followed by a work placement component with an employer in the industry. This diverse mix of in class and on-the-job training will help participants gain the knowledge and skills needed to pursue a rewarding career in the Tourism and Hospitality sector. The program will also assist employers seeking to expand their workforce with qualified applicants.

This customized training program, funded by the Government of Canada's Aboriginal Skills and Training Strategic Investment Fund (ASTSIF), will be delivered at three sites across Ontario: Midland, Ottawa, and Sault Ste. Marie. Each location will offer two separate program intakes: one in April 2010 and the second in June 2010. The program is open to all Aboriginal people. Participants are eligible for allowances during their training and will receive compensation for their work placement.

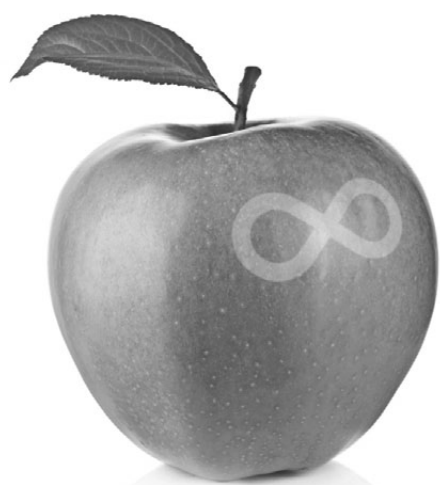
CONTACT:

Cyndi Boston-Cloutier
Ready to Work Coordinator
26 Queen St. E., Sault Ste. Marie
tel: 705-254-1768
cyndib@metisnation.org

General Inquiries:

Guylaine Morin-Clérout / MNO
tel: 613-798-1488 xt. 116
guylainem@metisnation.org

MÉTIS EDUCATION UPDATE:



Métis education a high priority

By **CHRIS PACI**

Education continues to be an important part of the MNO's governance and service delivery framework. Since signing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Education, MNO, Education and Training branch has worked towards implementing the agreement with a multi-year work plan. Discussions are underway with the Aboriginal Education Office of the Ministry to finalize the plan at the annual meeting between President Lipinski and Minister Wynne anticipated early in 2010.

This work continues as MNO develops a teacher's support kit which includes the "Métis 101 deck", Michif/English/French flash cards, and some key resources. Métis-specific classroom material, including books and DVDs, aimed at everything from Kindergarten to university level, continues to be in need. MNO encourages and wants to work with all Métis in Ontario, including individuals, families and communities, to develop resources not only for their local schools and school boards, but for use across the province. MNO is working with Pearson Good Minds on new text books for grades 10 and 11 Native Studies courses and we continue to work toward ensuring Métis perspectives are brought forward at all technical and political tables the Minister hosts.

The Ministry is introducing new policies on board governance and student success, curriculum review, and parent engagement. Ultimately, our goal is to build capacity so that community councils and Métis parents can be engaged in the important work of educating Ontario on Métis issues. In this regard MNO hosted the very first-but not last-educators boot camp in December. The camp ran two days and covered best Métis practices in our work with students, teachers, school

boards, and the Ministry.

In addition to work with the Ministry, MNO citizens, leadership and staff continue to work with schools and school boards to implement the policy framework. Each day at the recent Circle of Light conference (November 24-27, 2009) in Toronto, (see page 24) MNO gave well attended workshop presentations, and Métis youth; Dr Brenda Macdougall, Chair of Métis Studies at the University of Ottawa (see page 22); and, President Lipinski played prominent roles. A highlight of the conference was two talks by Métis author David Bouchard, in which he stressed the need to read to our children.

The MNO continues to advance issues in the arena of post-secondary education, and has negotiated the text of a MOU with the Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities. We continue to work with individual colleges and universities and are very encouraged by our work with Collège Boréal and recent joint partnerships with Confederation College (Housing Technician program), Sault College (Nitamis Project), and Georgian College (Technical foundations for employment in the energy sector).

The Urban Aboriginal Education Pilot Project, sponsored by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) and the Ministry of Education, has been conducting research in three Ontario School Boards: Simcoe District, Lakehead and Toronto. In each of these pilot studies, schools have made efforts to understand and address the needs of First Nations, Métis and Inuit students. In the next twelve months, each project will be undergoing evaluation leading to reporting, which will be rolled up as part of a provincial evaluation. We anticipate release of the final research results in early 2011.

Chris Paci, PhD
Manager, Education and Training
613-798-1488 xt.118
chrisp@metisnation.org

EDUCATION PROFILES:



▲ **Natasha Rodgers (left)** with her mentor teacher **Mrs. Urquhart** in the Grade 4 class at Hillcrest Public School in Barrie, Ontario.

Métis teacher in training knows the importance of cultural outreach

By **NATASHA RODGERS**

I think it is beneficial for the other teacher candidates to have a Métis representative in the program so they have a better insight into the societal and educational issues and concerns evolving around Métis, First Nations and Inuit peoples. I believe that we need to broaden the understanding of the students and the teachers in regard to social justice issues concerning Aboriginal policies and rights. We as teachers need to understand and acknowledge diversity issues so that we can better serve and educate all students we teach.

Growing up, I knew that I had a Métis background on my mother's side but I was never given the history or family tree of the Métis link. My father was not in the picture at all as I grew up, and my mother passed away when I was 16. A few years after her death I decided I wanted to

find out more information about my father's side so I started to search on the Internet. As luck would have it, I came across another young lady who was also looking for the family of Peter Johnson. It turns out that this young lady, Velvet Johnson, was actually my biological sister and we were both looking for our father! She had actually found him the previous year, and so she contacted him and helped to get us acquainted.

After meeting this side of my family and learning our history, I found out that I am Métis on my father's side as well! I then proceeded to get my Métis citizenship and I am still learning about my history and lineage on both sides of my family.

I am proud to be Métis and I will definitely share my knowledge and background with my own classroom/school one day. I feel as though I have a better understanding of where other Aboriginal children are coming from, and the difficulties that

“ We as teachers need to understand and acknowledge diversity issues so that we can better serve and educate all students we teach. ”

may be present in their home life and at school. This will make me a stronger person and a better teacher.

The Indigenous Infusion Day at York University (Barrie campus) this past autumn was an eye opener for me and my colleagues. I was touched tremendously by the history, knowledge and backgrounds that were shared with us, and I know my classmates felt the same. It was an excellent way to broaden our perspectives and develop our understanding of First Nations, Métis and Inuit social justice issues within the education system and also society.

Employment & Training Programs for Métis People Across Ontario

Métis Nation of Ontario Employment & Training offers education, employment and training services and support to Métis people across Ontario

for more information please contact:
500 Old St. Patrick St., Ottawa, ON
Tel: **613-798-1488** or **1-800-263-4889**
Fax: **613-722-4225**
www.metisnation.org

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Nation of
Ontario



CIRCLE OF LIGHT CONFERENCE:



Senator Reta Gordon asked Métis youth **Jennifer Henry** to send in her speech after hearing it at the Circle of Light Conference. This conference was held by the Ontario Ministry of Education on November 26, 2009 in Toronto.

History can't be changed, but the future is in our hands

Tawnsi. This is "hello" in Michif, the language of the Métis. Like most Aboriginal languages and cultures, this language is almost forgotten.

My name is Jennifer Henry and I am a Grade 11 student at G.L. Roberts Collegiate and Vocational Institute in Oshawa. I'm just giving you all a warning now that my speech could be a little long and fast because I am Métis and it is known that once my people begin talking, its one hundred miles an hour and it's hard to stop us.

Students spend many years of their lives in the educational system; this is where children will be exposed to different cultures and learn to interact and respect each other. Sharing culture and values will make a better environment for all to live and learn. It is easier to live in communities where everyone is valued and respected. This is where educators play an important role.

As a student, I'd also like to take this opportunity to tell you about one of my experiences when hearing about our great Métis leader - Louis Riel.

Throughout my school experience, the Ontario school system has always portrayed Louis Riel, the leader of the Métis people as a traitor. The definition of a traitor is a person who betrays a trust or acts against a sworn loyalty. But what Louis Riel was guilty of, was helping Métis protect their traditional lands and livelihoods. He was hung 124 years ago for defending Aboriginal peoples and their rights. As a Métis youth I have to wonder how I can feel good about this inspirational leader when he still to this day is portrayed as a traitor. I question who betrayed who. He is a Canadian hero that should be respected and considered as one of the Fathers of Confederation. I think text books and course materials should be reviewed to make sure this is addressed so that other Métis students are not hearing the same negative stories about this historic leader.

At the same time, I have had some very positive experiences. The Durham District School Board Advisory Circle has brought awareness to all Aboriginal students. The programs encourage Aboriginal peoples to

learn about their culture. It gives people in the community the opportunity to come out and learn also. These programs allow me to feel proud of my heritage and make me feel confident of our future, as a nation being recognized throughout the educational system. I am very appreciative to have been given the chance to participate in everything the Durham District School Board has created. The DDSB Advisory Circle has not only taught me about school related topics, but culturally related topics. I have been exposed to many cultural activities and learning experiences that I would not have had the opportunity to be involved with. I have learned about traditions, beliefs, stories and multiple other things during these meetings and events associated. I believe children in schools should have the opportunity to be able to experience these inspiring stories and teachings. Teaching students about life lessons by using Aboriginal legends and stories is a fun, but an important way of teaching. We need to not use textbooks so much in class, and do more hands on and interactive activities to make the learning more exciting and memorable.

Attending "Spirit Calling Camp" this past spring, was definitely a great learning experience. Having both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students showed me that other cultures are interested in learning about us also. That gave me a great feeling of hope for a future where we are accepted and proud. At this leadership camp, I learned a lot about myself and about Métis, Inuit and First Nations culture. I would definitely recommend this camp becoming annual because it was a life changing experience I will never forget. I learned so much about different topics which I was very uninformed about, before attending this camp. We learn a lot about the common sense issues, based around the Aboriginal people of Canada in school, but what about going into more detail?

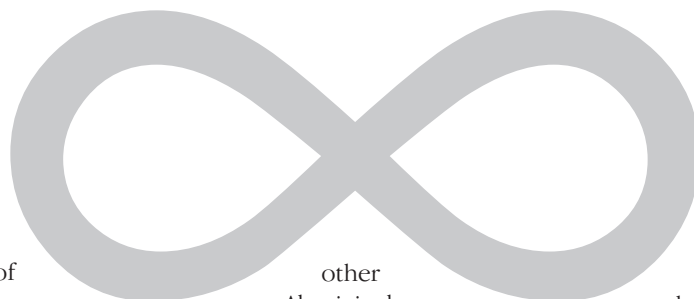
We could have smaller, broken down units on the three different types of Aboriginals in Canada instead of one large unit based strongly around First Nations. This will open the minds of stu-

dents and give them a larger understanding of Canada's past. I am now more educated and confident on understanding Aboriginal issues, beliefs and traditions from the Spirit Calling Camp event.

When I was younger, I wish I had the opportunity to experience this because you can truly take a lot from these lessons and apply them to your everyday life. The Seven Grandfather Teachings is a great example of this. Learning at a younger age about love, honesty, wisdom, respect, bravery and humility will create a brighter future for not only Aboriginals, but the world. As an Aboriginal person I feel that I need to help put a positive change in my peer's attitudes about our people. We need to focus on our present day heroes in order to move on successfully. Young people need to start to appreciate the invaluable contributions that Métis, Inuit and First Nation Peoples have made toward the development of this country. The school system needs to include not only an accurate portrayal of the past, but also stories of more recent contributions of Aboriginal peoples. The Aboriginal youth need more positive Aboriginal information throughout the curriculum to inspire them. This will make them reach for things that they might not otherwise have thought as achievable. Having mentors there for support is also a great step in creating a thriving, knowledgeable community.

We have many mentors in our communities. Our elders share their knowledge which has been passed down from generations through story telling. They use their life journey to help to inspire the youth to make a positive change for future generations. Many recent day Aboriginal peoples who are leaders in their chosen fields such as education, business, industry, politics, sports and entertainment encourage young people to strive and push themselves to be successful. Without mentors, we would have no one to learn from and we would begin to lose our cultures once again.

The Oshawa and Durham Region Métis Council is also a huge support system for me and



other people within our community. The council hosts events in our community that bring together Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people to learn about and to celebrate our culture that bring together the community is a great way to spread knowledge and promote different cultures in order to make them thrive once again.

Growing up in a home where my Métis heritage is honoured and encouraged, I feel proud of who I am. I want to share this pride and hope to make all Aboriginals be proud of their culture as much as I am. Spreading more Aboriginal teachings and beliefs through more subjects than just history would be a great way to connect with students. The Aboriginal English courses and a few others offered by the Durham District School Board are a great way to show that we are not only from the past, but we are here in the future. That is a large misconception by many people currently. To some, Aboriginals were here a long time ago, when we lived in tepees and built canoes to create a living. They do not see us as a large part of society. We are not expressing our cultures enough to allow people to see that we are still here, and we are here to stay.

I plan on going to Trent University after graduating high school. Here I will get my degree in Native studies and eventually become a teacher at the high school level. I plan on teaching Aboriginal English and history courses. Following the footsteps of Gary Lipinski and becoming President of the Métis Nation of Ontario doesn't sound like a bad idea either.

My greatest successes have been being on the honour roll every year. This past semester I finished with a 90% average. In Grade 9, I received top female athlete award for the top mark out of all the girls in my grade. Then in Grade 10, I received the art award for top mark out of everyone in my grade. My goal this year is to receive the Native Studies award. Another big success at school was being elected Minister of Dance and Minister of

Culture. As Minister of Dance, I organize and run all school dances and as Minister of

Culture I create and organize cultural-based activities throughout my school. Becoming Minister of Culture made a student question me "How can you be Minister of Culture when you're white?" Then I said I was Métis which raised even more questions. "What is Métis?" I explained that we are Europeans mixed with First Nations. Which then caused the comment - "So you're only half native." This shows that the Métis do not receive the same amount of recognition. Proof of this is when many people at school have commented that my pin is sideways. Which made me respond with, "What are you talking about?" Then they said, "Your 8, It's sideways!" This has lead me to then explain multiple times that it is the Métis flag - The oldest flag in this country's history. The comment that comes out of most students and some teachers mouths when they find out that I have Aboriginal ancestry is "You're lucky, you don't have to pay taxes and you get your post secondary education paid for." This shows one of the many stereotypes that Aboriginal students face. Another question that arises often is "Do you have your card?" They say this like this is what defines me as an Aboriginal. Even though I do have a card, I do not need it to feel Métis. I live the Métis lifestyle and I feel it in my heart. This is what matters most of all.

History cannot be changed, but the future is in our hands. As a proud Métis youth, I will use my voice to encourage positive change for all Aboriginal peoples. Our history needs to be told by our elders to help preserve our cultures. It is my role to respect my elders and to do my part by honouring them and striving to make the future a better place for all of us. A troubled history, doesn't equal a troubled future. Instead it equals strong, thriving people who want to make a difference in this world, and I believe as Aboriginal people, we are just starting this journey to an amazing future filled with pride, hope and accomplishments. This is a great start, to an even greater future for all. Miigwetch!

Home Alone with the Kids!

Mom needs, and greatly deserves, a pampering weekend away from home with just the girls for company

by **RICHARD AUBIN**

“Dad, you’re keeping the kids this weekend!” Akkk! These are the dreaded words some fathers are not looking forward to hearing—especially if one of your children is still in transition from breastfeeding to bottle feeding.

With all the bravado a man can muster and his spouse’s reassurance that everything will be fine, the possible scenarios begin to play havoc in a father’s mind.

Red flags go up; the telephone directory is placed close by in case of a sudden need to call someone for assistance, like your buddies (not their wives) at work, to ask for a babysitter’s telephone number. Of course, this would be kept a secret. Shssss!

Hopefully the grandfather, who hasn’t been exposed to such a crusade in years—if ever—will offer to share this moment with you, maybe with an offer of pizza. A sleep-over would be even better.

This would prove that men can take charge, even if there’s no choice in the matter.

A “to do list” and a “not to do list” are not necessary, just a reminder of no alcohol, peanuts, late night sports programs or movies or gambling may be a protocol to enforce along with the last minute instructions.

Breast milk is in the fridge, some in the freezer; flip a coin to see who changes the diapers, and if it’s grandpapa then make sure the rain suit, Vicks Vapour Rub to smear under the nose, and paper masks are at hand.

No, it’s not that bad, but I would recommend to new fathers the following read before your turn comes up: *The Mother of All Baby Books: An All-Canadian Guide to Your Baby’s First Year* by Ann Douglas. This soft cover, 614 page book, sells for about \$25.00, but is well worth it in preparing yourself for a successful “take charge” day, even if it’s not a girl’s weekend out.

Good luck dads! My weekend will have passed by the time you’ve read this article. The book is in front of me with tabs in critical chapters and my godparents’ telephone number in my wallet. (Leo and Alice Lalonde you’re the best.)

Grandpapa Richard Aubin is the MNO’s Aboriginal Healthy Baby Healthy Children worker in Timmins.

The *Voyageur* is pleased to announce it will start printing a new column addressing common issues and trends affecting children and youth across our province.

As part of the *Voyageur*’s civic commitment to contributing to the health and full potential of all Métis children and youth, this new column will respond to common questions concerning issues such as drug abuse, alcohol abuse, youth gangs and other current trends affecting our children, youth, parents, caregivers and educators alike.

Our newest columnist, Louise Logue RN, invites any

concerned individuals to send their questions to her at louiselogue@hotmail.com

All questions will be answered directly and confidentially via return email. However, each *Voyageur* edition will highlight one common issue where no names will appear in the general response.

This edition’s feature focuses on the need to identify, at the earliest possible moment, risk factors which must be addressed if a caregiver or parent is to help prevent that child or youth from entering the criminal justice system.

Keeping at-risk youth out of the criminal justice system

By **LOUISE LOGUE**

Numerous factors can influence the range of behaviours that are defined as “youth violence” or as “anti-social behaviour”. It is important to consider these factors in order to develop a comprehensive understanding of the problem. It is also necessary to understand those factors that build resiliency and potentially protect youth from engaging in future violence and anti-social behaviour.

Current research indicates that the presence of a single risk factor in an individual does not, by itself, cause antisocial or violent behaviour. Rather, it is now generally believed, that multiple factors combine to contribute to and shape behaviour over the course of adolescent development. Studies suggest it is the confluence of certain risk factors

that contribute to violent or anti-social behaviour, and the existence of specific protective factors, that create resiliency. The design of effective prevention, intervention, diversion and other criminal justice strategies should take into consideration the dynamics and inter-relationships of both types of factors.

“Risk factors” are defined as scientifically established factors or determinants for which there is strong objective evidence of a causal relationship to a problem. “Protective factors”, on the other hand, are those that potentially decrease the likelihood of engaging in risk taking behaviour. These factors influence the level of risk.

A popular way to understand the dynamic between risk and protective factors is to view them within an ecological framework, which recognizes that each per-

son functions within a complex network of individual, family, community, and environmental contexts that impact their capacity to avoid risk. In other words, instead of focussing just on the individual who is at risk for, or who engages in, a particular behaviour such as violence, an ecological approach considers the individual’s relationship to his or her surroundings.

Youth Criminality

A number of factors have been identified in the research literature as contributing to youth criminality. These factors are used by a variety of youth serving agencies (such as probation services, several police agencies across the country) when they do intake risk assessments. Among others, these key factors include (see chart):

CONTEXT	RISK FACTORS	PROTECTIVE FACTORS
ENVIRONMENTAL	Poverty Media exposure to violence Disenfranchised youth Tolerance of gang activity Lack of economic opportunities	Crime prevention programs Presence of caring relationships Meaningful jobs Acknowledgement of successes of youth Development of academic apprenticeships
COMMUNITY	Access to guns Access to drugs Street gang activity Community deterioration Lack of education/recreation opportunities	Strong community infrastructure Sports and recreation programs Pro-social mentors Problem oriented policing
FAMILY	Lack of parental involvement Criminally involved siblings Single parent household Inadequate youth supervision Substance abuse within home Child abuse and neglect Poor parenting skills	Nurturing parenting style Presence of extended families Non-kin support network Enforced structure and rules
INDIVIDUAL	Mental health disorders Poor academic achievement Early aggressive behaviour Substance abuse	Commitment to education Presence of positive role models Strong life skills Marketable job skills

Recent theories of youth delinquency tend to acknowledge that multiple risk factors can steer youth towards a criminal life style. Knowledge of these risk factors is key for front line professionals during the response and investigation stage and in determining the relative level of risk posed by the youthful offender to him/herself and to the community, as well as that youth’s level of possible responsibility to downstream solutions. The better the assessment, the better the response, and the more effective a front line service provider can be.

Differential Risk of Youth

We must note that a large majority of youth do not come into conflict with the law; even

for those who do, it is often a one-time occurrence. In these instances, it seems imprudent to treat one-time offenders the same as we treat the small number of youth who commit repeated and/or serious criminal acts. A review of youth crime statistics, youth demographics and the criminogenic factors which contribute to anti-social and criminal behaviour, suggests that it is wise to group youth according to their level of relative risk. While the following chart is not scientifically derived from crime data, it reflects the general opinion of those working in the youth criminal justice field.

Despite the fact that only 20% of youth are deemed “high risk” or “very high risk”, they certainly get the lion’s share of attention

from the public and the media, as well as the majority of criminal justice system investments.

We need to keep this percentage in mind and not lose sight of the fact that most young people are law abiding. More than that, however, we need to consider how we can reallocate resources from the criminal justice system (\$14 billion a year and increasing) towards supporting prevention and intervention with “moderate risk” youth so that they may be steered towards the segment of “low risk” youth, rather than possibly entering into the ranks of “high risk” youth where the majority of anti-social and criminal behaviour occurs. In other words, we need to focus on the protection and safety of the non-offending majority.

Poetry

The Wanderer

By **LAURETTE MARION GROULX**

Sweat poured from his brawny brow,
And the strain one could almost feel.
As metal met with metal,
When he forged the mighty steel.
His smile was quick and winning,
And it charmed most whom he met.
I doubt that he has memories,
He would at all regret.
His nature was to wander,
And he needed to be free.
Things he wanted to be doing,
Won o’er responsibility.
He lived his life to the fullest,
And he fought with many a man,
When differences having been settled,
Was the first to extend his hand.
It mattered to him not the colour of
one’s skin,
Or one’s religious stand.
He believed everyone to be equal,
On this rich, abundant land.
He stole a sou from no man,
And gave many foolishly.
This was his way of living, this
Was how it had to be.
He insisted his children obey the law,
And live in a righteous way.
Though seldom there to enforce his
rule,
They follow it to this day.
The years have passed by swiftly, and
His hair is now silver gray.
He turns and waves as he leaves my
Home which he visited this day.
He wanders no more for his step has
slowed,
And his back isn’t quite as straight,
But his vivid memory of days gone by,
Somehow compensates this fate.
He lived his life as he chose to,
Always free and sometimes wild.
Though I make no claim to understand
him,
I am proud to be his child.

Métis Cookhouse

by **Gail LeBlanc**

For those busy days, I suggest this quick, easy and delicious chicken recipe; everyone will love you for it.

Easy Bake Chicken Breasts

4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
I can St. Hubert Sauce

Place chicken in 8” x 8” baking ban.

Pour can of St. Hubert sauce over the chicken and mix well to coat the chicken breasts.

Bake at 350F for approximately 45 minutes.

Serve with baked potatoes and your favourite veggies.



THE POWER TO BUILD OUR FUTURE

Is Renewable Power A Good FIT For Your Community?

Your Métis community has an energy about it. Its flowing water, blowing winds and shining sun could bring new opportunities. These clean sources of renewable power could put green dollars into your Métis Community.

Ontario's new Green Energy Act (GEA) means there is a new approach to capturing Ontario's renewable energy. The GEA's sweeping changes simplify approvals and the Feed-in Tariff (FIT) Program could make it more profitable and easier for your community to share the economic and environmental benefits. FIT has two levels:

- Larger renewable projects over 10 kilowatts
- Smaller scale renewable projects, under 10 kilowatts or microFIT projects, such as a small solar array located as part of a community centre, Council office or school.

FIT allows First Nation and Métis communities, as generators of renewable power, to be paid higher prices for the electricity they produce. An Aboriginal Loan Guarantee Program is also available to assist First Nation and Métis communities to increase their equity ownership in renewable energy projects.



An Aboriginal Energy Partnerships Program managed by the Ontario Power Authority will be made public to maximize First Nation and Métis participation in renewable energy projects. This initiative will help build capacity and participation by providing funds for community energy plans and project development work.