

# MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

## The CAMAs

ABORIGINAL  
MUSIC AWARDS  
SALUTE OUR BEST  
**PAGE 29**



## KEEPING TRADITION ALIVE

OLIVINE BOUSQUET DANCERS TAKE THE  
MÉTIS JIG ON THE ROAD • **PAGE 16**



## VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

SUDBURY'S RICHARD  
SARRAZIN HONOURED  
**PAGE 15**



NEW LEADERSHIP, NEW ENERGY, NEW DIRECTION:



# AN HISTORIC DAY

front row, left to right: **MNO President Gary Lipinski**; Ontario Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, the Honourable Brad Duguid and PCMNO Chair France Picotte. back row, left to right: Métis youth Janine Landry, Senator Elmer Ross and Senator Brenda Powley. On November 18th an historic agreement was signed recognizing the unique history and ways of life of Métis communities in Ontario. This framework agreement sets the course for a new, collaborative relationship between the Ontario Government and the Métis Nation of Ontario. **More about the signing and the Special Presidents' Assembly/AGA on pages 3 to 10.**



## A CANOE WITH NO PADDLES

GRAND RIVER MÉTIS  
LOOKING FOR PADDLES  
**PAGE 25**



## CHAIR OF MÉTIS STUDIES

UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA  
SELECTED TO HOST  
CHAIR OF MÉTIS STUDIES  
**PAGE 13**



## LOUIS RIEL DAY

MÉTIS ACROSS PROVINCE  
GATHER TO HONOUR  
THE MEMORY OF A  
GREAT MÉTIS HERO  
**PAGES 18 + 19**



## HEROES COME IN ALL SIZES

SEVEN YEAR-OLD MÉTIS  
DOES HER PART IN FIGHT  
AGAINST CANCER  
**PAGE 26**



## Métis Community Councils

### THE MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

WINTER 2009, No. 56

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**The next Voyageur deadline  
is March 1st, 2009**

#### FONDLY REMEMBERED:



### *Edith McLeod went where there was no path and left a trail for others to follow*

It is with great sadness that the Métis Nation of Ontario says goodbye to one of its founding PCMNO Senators. Senator Edith McLeod passed away November 25th, 2008, at the age of 94. She was loved and respected in the Métis community and will be deeply missed by all.

President Gary Lipinski expressed his sentiments by saying that, "Senator McLeod, and all Senators, are the backbone of the Métis Nation. They provide support and guidance when needed the most. Senator McLeod will be greatly missed."

Edith Francis McLeod, was born in Ponteix, Saskatchewan and re-located to Ontario settling in Macdiarmid, north of Thunder Bay in 1939. There she met and married Kenny in 1942 and raised two children, Alma and Larry.

Those who knew Edith will miss her wit, straight forwardness, uncensored comments

and the "no beat'n around the bush" tell it like it is woman. Edith was a remarkable person with many accolades, honours, and firsts, including: the Governor General's Persons Award; The Order of Canada; Native Woman of the Year-Canada; Native Woman of the Year-Ontario; first Native woman appointed to the National Parole Board; Trillium Pin; and the Silver Medal presented by Governor General Léger.

Edith will be sadly missed by her daughter Alma Adams (Jerry) and her daughter-in-law Ann Desmeules; seven grandchildren, Larry Desmeules (Debbie); Cindy Bertolin (John); Charles Desmeules; Gayle Desmeules (Wayne); Melissa Jones (Jason); Eli Adams and thirteen great grandchildren. She was predeceased by husband Kenny and son Larry Desmeules.

Edith McLeod went where there was no path and left a trail for others to follow.

#### NEW ARRIVAL



Verna and Doug Porter would like to present to the Métis Nation of Ontario, their second grandchild, Owen Douglas Porter. Owen was born on September 6th, 2008 to Stephen and Amanda. Owen weighed in at 9 lbs. 2 ozs. He was born in the true Métis fashion, water birth at home.

#### CONGRATS!



We would like to congratulate Jodi and Peter Rivers (PCMNO Councillor, Region 9 and Captain of the Hunt) on their recent wedding, November 8, 2008. Jodi's parents are Miriam and Don Tourangeau. Peter's parents are Myrta and Ernie Rivers from Sault Ste. Marie. Myrta Rivers along with other immediate family and friends travelled to the celebration held in Windsor. Peter's father Ernie Rivers was unable to attend the happy occasion for health reasons.

#### WE'RE PROUD of YOU



We are pleased to announce that the successful candidate for the MNO Primary Care Manager is Lisa Pigeau. Lisa brings a Baccalaureate Degree from Nipissing University with a double major, in psychology and sociology, as well as many years of experience in a variety of MNO health programs.

The Primary Care Manager is responsible for Primary Care including Mental Health, Addictions and Family Violence, Research and Long Term Care.

#### LETTERS:

### **Praise for a Métis Voyageur contributor**

Hi. I just had to tell you, the article by Sabrina Stoessinger (See *Métis Voyageur*, Autumn 2008, page 19, "Practice Makes Perfect") has really moved me, and each time I look a kid-in-care in the face, I now look for more.

As a worker, this article has given me a lot to think about. It is very well written, thank you for being brave enough to write it.

Thank you very much.

**Lorraine Cupp**



### **Lest We Forget**

**by Senator Jacques Leroux**  
R.P.C.L.I 3rd Battalion

Remembering the guys who didn't come back from Korea—the ones I trained with. LEST WE FORGET. We will remember them.

#### OBITUARY



### **Ewen Raymond Moreau**


*March 5, 1935 - December 25, 2008*

With great sadness, the Oshawa Métis Council announced the passing of Oshawa Métis Councillor, Ewen Moreau, on the morning of December 25, 2008.

Mr. Moreau passed peacefully in his sleep at home in Oshawa. Predeceased by his wife Verna, he was the cherished father of Kevin Moreau, dear brother of Arthur (Zeila); Allan (Leona); Manley; Barbara Woodcock (Wayne); the late Marjorie Brette; Earlin; Mae Geroux; Beverly; Joseph and Edward.

He will be fondly remembered by his nieces, nephews and friends. A funeral service was held at Nicholls Funeral Home on Monday, December 29th. If desired, memorial donations to the Heart and Stroke Foundation would be appreciated.


# PJ's kids corner



"It has been a busy winter and I hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday. Even though my means of transportation is flying, I would like to introduce another means of transportation the Métis people used and that is the voyageur canoe.

"Did you know that some of the voyageurs' canoes were made of birch bark? These canoes were used by the Métis voyageurs across the provinces. The roll of birch bark, coils of spruce roots and strips of cedar and spruce were turned into a vessel for transportation throughout the Ontario waterways. The voyageurs transported beaver pelts and various goods to many trading posts.

"Today, we use our canoes for pleasure and enjoy the wonderful outdoors. Spring is around the corner and we can enjoy the Ontario lakes and rivers."





## Special Presidents' Assembly / AGA 2008



MNO President Gary Lipinski (right) gives a "State of the Nation" speech to delegates of the MNO's Special President's Assembly/Annual General Assembly.

# BUILDING A MÉTIS NATION

NOVEMBER 17th  
Morning session

**T**he business of the Annual General Assembly (AGA) began in earnest when the flags of the Métis Nation, the Province of Ontario, and of Canada were marched in and posted to the accompaniment of fiddler Roger Giroux and guitarist Aline Geroux who led the Grand Entry of dignitaries.

Chair, France Picotte called the 15th AGA of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) to order and Senator Reta Gordon offered the opening prayer.

In her welcoming remarks, Chair Picotte recognised the long trip some people had made to be part of the growth of the nation. She appreciated the positive attitude that delegates brought with them to the AGA and looked forward to the successful completion of business.

Vice-chair, Sharon McBride, reflected on the emotions stirred by the Grand Entry. She congratulated and welcomed the newly elected and re-elected Senators: Gerry Bedford, Reta Gordon, Joseph Poitras, and Ruth Wagner-Millington. Sharon then announced the results of the Women's Secretariat elections and introduced the women to the assembly: Bonnie Beaulieu, Northern Representative; Shirley Lynn Pantuso, Eastern Representative; Pearl Gabona, Southern Representative; and, Alvina Cimon, Western Representative. (more on page 6)

Sharon was followed by a number of dignitaries who spoke

to the gathering. First, Grand Chief Randall Phillips brought greetings from the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians. Grand Chief Phillips spoke about the challenge of getting the attention and support of the provincial government. He noted that obtaining recognition and a voice were issues shared by the MNO and his association, issues which needed to be addressed by all levels of government. At the same time, the Chief said that it was time that governments realised that it was not a 'one basket fits all' situation and that there was a need to focus on the differences in the multi-faced family of the indigenous peoples. However, he felt that it was to all our advantages to work together in common areas. Grand Chief Phillips wished the MNO well with its agenda, not only for the AGA but also for the year.

Ontario Regional Chief Angus Toulouse was next to greet the AGA, and noted the heroism exemplified by those present to celebrate the *Framework Agreement*. He acknowledged that the AGA was meeting on the Mississauga traditional territory and



HONOURED AGA GUESTS INCLUDED: Métis National Council President Clément Chartier.



PCMNO Chair, France Picotte and Co-Chair, Sharon McBride, present Grand Chief Randall Phillips of the Association of Iroquois & Allied Indians with a thank-you paddle.



Senator Joseph Poitras and PCMNO Chair, France Picotte, present Ontario Regional Chief Angus Toulouse from the Sagamok Anishinabek First Nation with a thank-you paddle.

trusted that through consultation and accommodation and with treaties in place, all would benefit from joint opportunities. Congratulations were offered to the MNO and to the province for finding a place of connection wherein all parties could benefit from relationship building. The Regional Chief who has been active in Nation-to-Nation discussions was pleased with the politi-

cal efforts that had been made to build a better collaboration between First Nations and Métis.

After the Ontario Regional Chief, MNO Secretary-Treasurer, Tim Pile, read a statement from the Honourable Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-status Indians. In this statement, the Minister recognised the strong leadership

of the MNO and said that the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada were working together with President Lipinski and his officials on an economic development strategy, a consultation and accommodation strategy, and on the MNO Registry. The Minister wished the MNO AGA well in its strategic planning endeavours and hoped for a

CONTINUED PAGE 4



## Special Presidents' Assembly / AGA 2008



Delegates to the MNO's Special Presidents' Assembly/Annual General Assembly in Toronto on November 18 and 19, 2008.

FROM PAGE 3

happy and productive assembly. Métis National Council President, Clément Chartier, Q.C. next took the floor and spoke about the progress that had been made by both the MNC and the MNO in regard to the *Métis Nation Protocol* which was signed September 5, 2008, with the Government of Canada. This protocol sets out a process of engagement on a wide variety of Métis issues. President Chartier said that such devices as the MNO Development Framework and the *Métis Nation Protocol* meant that the Métis could move forward as a distinct people. Chartier went on to say that the leaders of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) agreed with him that they must all move forward on a government-to-government basis. He reminded the assembly that Minister Strahl had recognised and affirmed the right of Métis to use the name "Métis Nation", and noted that progress had been made in moving away from the Ontario Métis Aboriginal Association (OMAA) to a Métis-only body. The MNC President said that he was impressed by the MNO leadership who assisted in making a place for the Métis Nation and in achieving government-to-government meetings. Aboriginal governments and each of the five provincial premiers have acknowledged that the Métis are independent and that it is in the best interest of all to commit to separate Métis tables. Chartier announced that the Métis Nation Protocol would be complimentary to governing nations. He also said that the concerns of Métis veterans are high on the MNC agenda and, that he looked forward to President Lipinski assuming a prominent role within the MNC. Métis Nation-British Columbia President, Bruce Dumont, brought greetings from the MNBC as he honoured Elders and dignitaries. He mentioned the moving events of Louis Riel Day and stressed the importance of Riel's heroism as exemplified by the swearing-in of the Provisional Council of the MNO

(PCMNO). President Dumont acknowledged the valuable contributions made by President Lipinski, not only to the MNO but also to the nation as a whole as he wished the AGA success in its deliberations. Greetings from the Members of Parliament were brought by Derek Lee, MP for Scarborough - Rouge River and representative of the federal Liberal party. He talked about personal family stories and his connection to the Métis Nation. He then reminded delegates that the Liberal party upheld the principles of the Kelowna Accord, and that all Members of Parliament were dealing with the challenge of bringing First Nations, Inuit and Métis into the 21st century. John Tory, representing the Ontario Conservative party congratulated President Lipinski and others including the Government of Canada upon taking a step forward by signing the *Protocol*. The real challenge he noted, was the achievement of measurable improvements attached to the *Protocol* and the *Framework Agreement*, which included areas of parliamentary representation, recognition of language, economic development, education and training, health care, housing, and consultation. He encouraged the MNO to press the government for measurable, actionable and achievable goals. **HISTORIC FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT SIGNED** MNO President, Gary Lipinski, expressed delight that so many dignitaries were present to witness the events of the day. He commented on the unique relationship between the Chiefs of Ontario and the MNO through their *Protocol Agreement*, in which then Grand Chief Charles Fox and former MNO President Tony Belcourt recognised each other's peoples as distinct nations and committed to mutual areas of collaboration as well as separate tables. It was a relationship to be nurtured and a promise for the future of working towards better understanding between nations; respecting each other's issues and working

together on areas of mutual interest. The Louis Riel ceremony marked a turning point for President Lipinski as Métis people were recognised for their contribution to the growth of Canada. Métis history in Ontario has been one of denial, with Métis people being invisible to most and without rights until the Supreme Court of Canada declared the rights of the Métis as stipulated in the Constitution. Through court cases supported by the MNO, Métis were recognised where they were once invisible and President Lipinski applauded the Province of Ontario for not appealing the Lemieux case and for incrementally working forward to allow Métis their inherent rights by appointing a stand alone department to address Métis issues. President Lipinski recognised the support of government members such as the Honourable Michael J. Bryant, Minister of Economic Development, who had expedited issues and set the stage for future discussions. The Honourable Brad Duguid has taken over the reins as the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and was acknowledged for having connected within days of his selection when he avowed his commitment to continue the relationship, thereby giving official recognition of the Métis as a people. The President shared that after centuries the wall of denial would be broken and would fade as the Métis move forward to a new era and diminish gaps in housing conditions, education, health and economic development to make real improvements in the lives of the Métis. President Lipinski looked forward to the next days to do the work that would create the future for the MNO citizens. Taking the floor next was the Honourable Brad Duguid, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, for the Province of Ontario who after acknowledging Grand Chief Randall Phillips and Ontario Regional Chief Angus Toulouse said that it was his privilege to facilitate the signing of the *Framework Agreement*, a moment in history that



Métis Nation - British Columbia President, Bruce Dumont.



Métis Manitoba Federation President, David Chartrand.

### SENATORS' ELECTION



left to right: Senator Ruth Wagner-Millington; Senator Reta Gordon; Senator Joseph Poitras; Senator Gerry Bedford

## New PCMNO Senators

by Hank Rowlinson

There were 29 Senators present at the meeting and eligible to vote in the Senators' elections. Roland St. Germain was nominated but declined the nomination. Each

candidate was given three minutes to address the meeting through an election speech. There were no spoiled ballots. Following the election, a motion to destroy the ballots was moved and passed.

CONTINUED PAGE 5

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## Special Presidents' Assembly / AGA 2008



Métis fiddler Conor Delbaere-Sawchuk.

### FROM PAGE 4

would make a difference in the lives of many. It was the first time that the Province of Ontario had signed an agreement recognising the Métis, who, the Minister said should not have had to wait for so many generations or to fight so hard in order to see fruition.

Mr Duguid admitted that it had been the expectation many generations ago that the Métis would be assimilated and their traditions would disappear. However, he congratulated the AGA and the people represented by the delegates for persisting and assured them that they and their predecessors would no longer be denied the benefits due to the Métis and Métis communities across Canada.

The Minister made reference to the new book, *A Fair Country*, by John Ralston Saul (see page 31) in which Canada had been called a “Métis nation”. Mr. Duguid hoped that the *framework agreement* would set a new course for an improved relationship aided by core funding of \$200,000 annually. He also felt that Michif—the Métis language—as well as our rich heritage of traditions would be advanced and the social-economic gap between First Nations, Métis and Inuit and non-aboriginal citizens would be substantially closed.

Minister Duguid said that he looked forward to working with the MNO in an environment of trust and respect, and noted that as of this day the Government of Ontario and the Métis Nation of Ontario would walk together. He called on the AGA to make this a day of celebration and stated that it was an honour for him to be the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and to sign the *Framework Agreement* recognising the MNO.

The *Framework Agreement* was then signed by Ontario Abo-

original Affairs Minister, Brad Duguid and Métis Nation of Ontario President, Gary Lipinski. Brenda Powley, Senator Elmer Ross, and Thunder Bay Youth Representative Janine Landry witnessed the signing. The *Agreement* aims to improve the quality of life for Métis in Ontario by recognising the unique history and ways of life of Métis communities in Ontario. This framework

agreement, sets the course for a new, collaborative relationship between the Ontario Government and the Métis Nation of Ontario.

The Ontario Government and the Métis Nation of Ontario will work together to improve the well-being of Métis children, families, and communities while striving to protect and promote the distinct culture, identity, and

heritage of Métis people.

Through this framework agreement, the Ontario government and the Métis Nation of Ontario will also encourage economic partnership opportunities that recognise and respect Métis traditions.

After the signing of the *Framework Agreement* the assembly was reconvened by Chair, France Picotte. Delegates were instruct-

ed to display their voting cards at all times in order to participate in the voting process.

When the Agenda for the 15th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario had been approved by consensus, President Lipinski delivered his State of the Nation address.

### STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS

President Lipinski remarked on the inclusivity of taking part in the Riel Day ceremonies, and in the signing of the *Framework Agreement*. To address MNO challenges and opportunities, President Lipinski referenced the past that had brought the Métis people to the present, noting that the *Framework Agreement* represented years of struggle.

President Lipinski shared the significance of the witnesses to the signing of the *Framework Agreement*, advising that they represented veterans; a family who had dedicated their lives to the struggle; and Métis youth, without whom all struggles would be worthless.

The pride of the people reflects the strength of the nation, and throughout history the Métis have brought cultures together and have served as emissaries to relations between First Nations. Far fewer lives were lost in the forming of this nation because of the Métis and this information alone would warrant research papers.

The pride is in this room, it is in the youth of the nation, in the speech we heard from the grade 10 student to the large audience at the celebration of Louis Riel Day; the Métis hold new careers as lawyers, in health care, education and chief justices.

The MNO would never forget the significance of Métis history

CONTINUED PAGE 6

### AGA ENTERTAINMENT



left to right: Comedians Casey Corbin, Tim Nutt and Kyle Radke entertain at the AGA.

## Healing through laughter

by Loma Rowlinson

The evening of November 17th was called “Healing through Laughter”. Our emcee featured unique and very funny thoughts on life from Casey Corbin who kept the evening uplifted and the room giggling.

Our second performer was Kyle Radke who shared his dramatic fear of flying with us and was so funny he made Lisa Pigeau cry. Our headliner Tim

Nutt (whose great grandfather was apparently a Métis that worked for the fur trade) appeared. With heartfelt respect for our soldiers, Tim shared funny stories about his trip to Kandahar where he entertained the troops last month. Did you know that it IS possible to talk about a plunger for over 30 minutes and still make it funny?

Alvina Cimon laughed so hard she was sweating... and we were worried that Senator Reta

Gordon was going to drop a kidney. Very funny man! We need to get his genealogy done so we can make him official and bring him into the fold. Tim kept us laughing for over an hour and stuck around afterwards to meet everyone—special thanks to the health branch for coming through for us.

After an intense day of meetings that dealt with serious issues an evening of laughter provided much-needed release.



## Special Presidents' Assembly / AGA 2008

FROM PAGE 5

in Ontario and there was a need to share and publish information about the Métis. President Lipinski recalled the announcement of The Honourable John Malloy, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, that the University of Ottawa would host the Research Chair in Métis Studies and the creation of a \$4 million endowment—a major step and enabler to move forward (more on page 13).

In some cases, the President

noted that the Métis presence had made a huge impact on the history of Canada, whether it was participation in the War of 1812 or the Powley case, both of which ensured negotiation between parties. There was need to record the story of how the Métis moved across Ontario, and to record not desecrate cemeteries.

There was also need to recognise that the Métis are tied to the list of Métis rights not only by the road from Superior to Winnipeg (Red River and Thompson) but

also by the unique water and overland transportation linking steam transportation from Manitoba to the Great Lakes. Métis are inextricably tied to Manitoba. Today by signing recognition of our contribution, the MNO would ensure that its history goes forward to contribute to making improvements in the lives of Métis families.

The wall of denial fell on November 17, 2008, with the *Framework Agreement* between the MNO and the Province of

Ontario. Not everything would be solved or cured, but now there was a path of commitment to work and talk about improvements. President Lipinski was assured that good things would happen, and was optimistic that a *Protocol* recently signed at the national level would open more opportunities through the MNC. He applauded MNC President Clément Chartier and MNC Vice-President David Chartrand for championing issues close to the hearts of MNO citizens: veterans, education, housing, health care and economic development.

The AGA would hear more and more about economic opportunities for real advancement to create wealth for community and nation. The new Minister for Economic Development in Ontario was an old friend – the Honourable Michael Bryant – and already had an ear for Métis-specific affairs.

Collectively, the MNO has to look at getting into business opportunities. The attention of the PCMNO will be focussed on reporting on our businesses and how they are contributing to the MNO as a whole. They will provide the ability to spend our Métis money on enhancements that are important to the Métis.

President Lipinski invited the AGA to participate in the strategic planning session, where delegates could identify achievements for the future by ascertaining objectives for the MNO. Working together (as we did when the MNO got behind the Powley family and fully supported the case through every level of court from start to finish), we stand with the full support of the province and nation to move forward into a new era of opportunities with the *Framework Agreement* in place and the province and industry ready to work with the MNO. The courts have ruled that the Métis are due the 'duty to consult' and if development is going to happen on historical territorial lands then there is an obligation to consult with the Métis in Ontario in a meaningful manner.

The MNO will be bringing on key staff and has created a branch to deal with pressures on community relative to natural resources,

environment, and community relations, with Bob Waldon serving as Branch Director.

Chartered Community Councils have the same responsibilities to meet and elect their leaders and for the first time ever there is a branch (Natural Resources, Environment and Community Relations) to work to ensure that communities get the assistance they need.

In regard to the Crown's duty to consult, it was the president's understanding that corporations or governments would have to consult regarding any project affecting the Métis traditional homeland. In recent consultations, MNO communities identified that they would not be opposed to development but only with minimal environmental disruption. This also opened the opportunity to negotiate and discuss with developers the nature of benefits for Métis businesses and communities including economic development, such as equity partnerships, etc.

The MNO continues to pay its respects to Mr. Belcourt who, as a Métis leader, was like the captain of a ship which he steered through rough waters.

Over the past 15-years the MNO has grown and maintains a staff of over 150 full time employees across Ontario. The MNO Training Initiative (MNOTI) program faces a challenge in that the federal government is ending its current program and is considering a successor strategy. However, this was one of the areas where the government finally got an Aboriginal program right. The MNOTI has been effective for Métis wanting access to upgrading and valuable training and it will be up to the MNO to ensure that the successor strategy picks up on and enhances what currently exists in order to deliver an effective program to all MNO citizens.

The Aboriginal Wellness Strategy (AWS) is also up for renewal. It reaches into many communities and is pan-Aboriginal. There are stalls; however, MNO staff is working hard to ensure Métis rights are upheld. Although 30% of the Aboriginal population in

CONTINUED PAGE 7

### WSMNO UPDATE:

## MNO Women's Secretariat holds elections at AGA 2008

by Sharon McBride



**W**e have turned a page in the history of the Women's Secretariat of the Métis Nation of Ontario. Our first elections took place at the Special Presidents' Assembly in Toronto, November 16-18th, 2008. These are your newly elected WSMNO committee members: Alvina Cimon (Dryden); Pearl Gabona (Bowmanville); Shirley Lynn Pantuso (Ottawa); Bonnie Beaulieu (Thunder Bay). After reading their bios I am truly amazed with the talent and energy of these women. I am looking forward to working with this newly elected team to further the mandate of the WSMNO. Contact me at: sharonm@metisnation.org.

### ALVINA CIMON

Western Representative

**A**lvina has been elected President of the Northwest Métis Council for the past seven years. She has lived in the Dryden area for the past 58 years and she can trace her family history to the Red River settlement. Alvina's mother, Albertine Roussin, is one of the oldest Métis citizens in her area and, at age 92, still makes the best bannock. You can always see her helping at community events. Alvina is a proud Métis woman who with the strong support of her family is able to accomplish so much for the Dryden area Métis community. She also finds the time to sit on many different committees: Métis Steering Committee for Gambling; Michif Language; the advisory board for the Dryden Regional Mental Health and Addiction Agency, and the Advisory board for the Dryden Regional Diabetes Centre.

In her spare time you would find her playing darts at the Moose Lodge where she is the secretary treasurer for the dart league. She has also been a member of the Catholic Women's League for the past 45 years. Alvina felt she had more time to give and is a strong supporter of Women's Issues within the Métis Nation.

**Contact Alvina at:**  
Nwmetis@drytel.net  
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### BONNIE BEAULIEU, RN

Northern Representative

**B**onnie is a registered nurse and has been employed with Thunder Bay Regional Health Science Centre since 1999. She has also held a contract position with Schering-Plough Pharmaceuticals as an Infusion Coordinator since '05. Bonnie worked as the Intake Nurse at the Thunder Bay District Jail from '03 to '05.

Through her children's primary school years she was an active member of the School

Council. Presently, she is manager of her youngest son's Bantam hockey team Volunteer Pool Bearcats and President of the Thunder Bay Quarter Horse Youth Club.

Bonnie has recently become involved with the local Métis council and looks forward to contributing to her position of Women's Director. She carries the Health Portfolio for her region and specifically represents Métis women promoting the importance of family, children and health.

As her position with the Women's Secretariat evolves Bonnie plans to support effective communication between the north and its Métis members and hopes to be nationally part of the progress of Métis women in health awareness, education and family.

She has a keen interest in programs for women and youth, and tirelessly promotes health, safety and education as the foundation of healthy families. Bonnie is working to have workshops and clinics within her region for health, mental health and substance abuse and addiction.

Proud of her Métis ancestry, Bonnie's origins are the Métis community of Long Sault Band - Hungry Hall - Treaty #3 area. She is a single mother of three teenagers and lives in Murillo Ontario.

**Contact Bonnie:**  
bonnieb@tbaytel.net  
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### PEARL GABONA

Southern Representative

**P**earl was born in Peterboro Ontario and raised in Scarborough. Although she did not discover her Métis ancestry until she was over 50 years of age, since then she has embraced her heritage.

Pearl is a retired police detective, and spent about six years investigating women's and children's physical and sexual

assault cases. Prior to police work, she was an elementary teacher in Whitby for six years.

Now retired, Pearl and her husband of 39 years have lived in Bowmanville for 33 years and are the parents of a daughter who is a high school teacher in Clarington.

Pearl and her husband spend the winters in Florida in their RV, "which," Pearl says, "is my favourite hobby at this time. I am also a golfer but not a good one. I mostly like the day in the outdoors and the golf cart! I am an avid reader and scrapbooker."

**Contact Pearl:**

pearlgabona@hotmail.com

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### SHIRLEY LYNN PANTUSO

Eastern Representative

**S**hirley Lynn Pantuso is currently the elected women's rep on the Ottawa Métis Council and has held this position for the past six years. She has been active within the Métis community since receiving her citizenship card. Her goal is to someday follow in the footsteps of her family.

As a single mother of three she has faced and overcome many challenges raising and providing for her children while working two jobs to make ends meet. Throughout the years she has always found time to volunteer with Brownies, Girl Guides and Beavers, and has coached baseball, and cheerleading, as well as fund-raising for football, hockey and school activities.

Although Shirley had a stroke in May, 2006, at a young age, this did not stop her. As part of her therapy she took up traditional Métis beading and since then has taught the craft to many other Métis citizens. As a woman, mother, daughter, sister and someday grandmother she is interested in all the concerns of Métis women.

**Contact Shirley at:**

slpantuso@hotmail.com



Region 2 Captain of the Hunt Ken Simard (Thunder Bay) and Federal New Democratic Party Leader Jack Layton exchange greetings.



## Special Presidents' Assembly / AGA 2008



MNO legal counsel Jason Madden (right) leads a discussion at the Special President's Assembly/Annual General Assembly.

### FROM PAGE 6

Ontario is Métis, it currently receives only 3% of the funding. It will be up to the MNO to ensure renewal of an AWS that will fulfil the needs of the Métis.

President Lipinski referenced abounding opportunities in education. The Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Minister of Education, is committed to education and the MNO has given her a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to ensure capacity for a funded education branch and to analyse policy. In the *Framework Agreement* there is a section with six ministries signing on as support ministries so that the Métis can get the proper support with core capacity and with real ability to address challenges. In the education arena, there are some concerns regarding voluntary self-identification, representation on school boards, and whether Métis children are meeting provincial norms. President Lipinski was hopeful that the Minister of Education would add her signature to the *Framework Agreement*.

Hand-in-hand with opportunities go challenges. When the PCMNO met with officials, administration was instructed to provide facts and to look at the MNO's bottom line. Gary said that he had woken up many times in the middle of the night worried about finding the funds to cover council rents, expenses, payroll, etc. The MNO was carrying a large debt that restricted its path forward until it was dealt with head on. It was imperative to know the bottom line and what could be done to move on to the next level.

The work of former Chief Operating Officer (COO) Pierre Lefebvre was acknowledged, and to fill the void he left was the newly appointed COO Doug Wilson. Since May 2008, the finance department had worked hard to meet the requests of the PCMNO and every effort had been made to introduce efficiencies and to produce information necessary to move forward.

In determining the bottom line, this will be the first time ever at the MNO AGA that we will be looking at current year's financial

statements. The MNO is carrying a deficit of \$1.5 million which has the potential to increase to \$4 million. PCMNO recognises the challenge ahead and has the resolve and commitment to work together to address the matter. A third party independent monitor has been hired and the governments of Ontario and Canada are aware of the MNO's fiscal position.

In a meeting with Minister Bryant, the MNO President asked if the Minister would work as a partner in the debt reduction process and was relieved when the Minister answered, "I get you; we're there, and we want to move forward with you on this. Don't worry we'll get you through this." With the commitment of the Minister and the Government of Ontario, the

MNO has requested the support of the Office of the Federal Interlocutor (OFI) and the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs. Meanwhile, the MNO has tightened its financial belt and will meet the debt reduction challenge head on with a well thought out business plan to take the MNO to the next level.

Deficiencies in monitoring and tracking have been identified and are being rectified. The MNO

registry has been under-funded for years. There is in place a province-wide agreement regarding harvesting cards with benefit to the province and federal governments that has not been monetarily supported. The MNO has undertaken legal costs in the case of the MNO/Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) Agreement and needs to be reimbursed. The government is starting to recognise that the Métis have accepted more than their share of responsibility, and is now committing to share the burden.

The MNO has a solid commitment from the government to move forward on reducing the MNO's debt. It has the resolve to move forward on *Powley*, and the president guaranteed that the MNO would have the best, most transparent and accountable financial reporting across the Nation.

President Lipinski concluded with note that the PCMNO was here for the Métis, the communities, the families, and their children. With a financially sound MNO providing the services and programs necessary to its citizens, President Lipinski would be happy to "pass the torch" and go fishing.

**NOVEMBER 18th**  
Morning session

On November 18th, Chair, France Picotte, reconvened the 15th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario and Senator Olivine Tiedema offered the opening prayer. The Thunder Bay Métis Council presented a memento of the unveiling of a mural (see page 17) in their community to President Lipinski.

President Lipinski thanked the organisers of the AGA before proceeding to discussion on developing a strategic plan for the MNO. Gary then noted that one goal would be the creation of a flag for the MNO. He called for submissions as outlined in the agenda package, noting that the winner would be announced at the 2009 AGA. Another goal was to develop a document that would become a checklist or reference guide to ensure that the

CONTINUED PAGE 8

## PRESENTATIONS



MNO Director of Natural Resources, environmental and Community Relations Bob Waldon.

# Working Together

**T**he Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) leadership is continuing to work towards a collaborative environment where staff, community councils, Métis citizens and leadership are all working together to ensure the Crown's duty to consult is fulfilled.

Three presentations on this topic were given at the Special Presidents' Assembly and Annual General Assembly:

- **Current research about historic Métis land use patterns**, which was presented by Jean Teillet, MNO legal counsel
- **Legal context** including developments across the Nation and guiding principles, presented by Jason Madden, MNO legal counsel
- **Recommended approaches for dealing with corpo-**

**rate proponents**, presented by Bob Waldon, MNO Director of Natural Resources, Environment and Community Relations

During these presentations, Métis citizens learned about research on historic Métis land use patterns of traditional territories. This research is ongoing and more work is required to expand the historical record.

The Métis rights-based agenda made great progress with the *Powley* decision from the Supreme Court of Canada. It is a landmark case, where the MNO stood together as a nation to assert its collective rights and one of which Métis citizens can be proud. The case has had positive implications for Métis rights across the country.

While the "duty to consult" rests with the Crown, the major-

ity of situations the MNO will encounter will be for projects and developments by "proponents" (mostly companies). A firm foundation has been set through the work of Jason Madden, MNO legal counsel, resulting in agreements such as the MNO - Hydro One Relationship Protocol.

Ensuring that the MNO has the capacity to respond in a responsible way, and developing practices that are consistent, transparent and objective is critical for the MNO's success when consultation is required. The Natural Resources and Community Relations Department is committed to supporting community councils and will seek their guidance to ensure we are all working together for the best possible outcome.

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# Special Presidents' Assembly / AGA 2008



Lawyer Jean Teillet

FROM PAGE 7  
goals of the citizens were upheld. The president reflected that many delegates were in leadership capacities and noted the importance of understanding the governance system including the Chartered Community Councils, Provisional Council of the MNO (PCMNO), and the Métis National Council. President Lipinski encouraged community councilors to invite the regional councilors to their community meetings in order that the interests of the communities could be better conveyed to the PCMNO.

The Strategic Planning Workshop on Building a Stronger Métis Nation and Empowering Métis was introduced by Doug Wilson, Chief Operating Officer. He said that the PCMNO and administration were committed to communicating with councils, and that meetings had already been conducted with MNO veterans, the Women's Secretariat and council presidents. He observed that attempts at transparency resulted in working together, and discussed the tripartite process at the federal, provincial and MNO level.

Doug provided information on consultants participating in the strategic and economic development planning workshop and looked forward to affording even more capacity in administration with the addition of the Development Corporation to implement that plan by the end of this fiscal year. He acknowledged government departments including Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), the Office of the Federal Interlocutor (OFI), the Ontario Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs and the Manitoba Métis Federation, for sharing information and resources as well as the

**“ PRESIDENT LIPINSKI CONCLUDED WITH NOTE THAT THE PCMNO WAS HERE FOR THE MÉTIS, THE COMMUNITIES, THE FAMILIES, AND THEIR CHILDREN. WITH A FINANCIALLY SOUND MNO PROVIDING THE SERVICES AND PROGRAMS NECESSARY TO ITS CITIZENS, PRESIDENT LIPINSKI WOULD BE HAPPY TO “PASS THE TORCH” AND GO FISHING. ”**

Métis National Council (MNC) for facilitating a Métis-specific national allocation for all of the Métis Governing Members. John Graham, Institute on Governance (IOG), provided an overhead presentation titled, “Métis Nation of Ontario: Strategic Planning Initiative” and discussed the process and emerging thoughts for a strategic plan. Themes and ideas from meetings to date were provided, and it was noted that further input would be sought from the AGA. Mr. Graham discussed the intent of “vision” and “mission” statements. He shared developing external environment themes including: a strong interest in education; developments through duty to consult; the idea of partnerships; relationships with First Nations and other aboriginal groups; rights issues; the new priorities brought about by the recent federal election; and, the general economic downturn. Internal environment conditions were identified as: rapid expansion of the MNO; capacity shortages; dedicated and overworked staff; increasing professionalism of human resources and technology; volunteers a strength but burnout is a problem; a general feeling of optimism and the need to build on this potential strength; financial situation challenges; large size of Ontario and dispersed Métis population to serve; internal staff challenges;

information technology IT; and lack of communication between community councils. The presentation was followed by questions and discussion. Doug Wilson, Chief Operating Officer, called on Lisa Pigeau, Primary Care Manager, to speak in regard to her involvement in the first Métis Justice Circle. Ms. Pigeau described the very emotional process for the client and the person affected by the client's actions and others involved. The judge in the case had requested permission to sit in on the process. It took 17 months to prepare for the Circle which included Senators, family, lawyers, etc. and led to recommendations for the client and person affected by the client's actions. After a brief recess, Chair Picotte announced that MNC President, Clément Chartier, had rejoined together with MNC Vice-president, David Chartrand. Métis National Council Vice President and Manitoba Métis Federation President, David Chartrand, acknowledged the Elders present and declared that the strength of the Métis Nation was to be found in working together. He congratulated MNC soldiers who are serving our country, is invaluable, as is recording their stories for future generations. This is a project that needs to be ongoing so that their experiences are not lost. The veterans also discussed ideas on items that could be sent overseas to the Métis soldiers who are serving now. Looking ahead to next year, our Métis veterans are preparing a proposal for funding so that more veterans are able to participate in the 2009 Annual General Assembly. The vets would also like to invite personnel from Veterans Affairs Canada to participate and to explain the requirements to current vets. At the 2007 AGA the veterans hosted a fish-fry and draw for a drum that netted \$1865.00. The drum was not claimed; so, on behalf of the veterans, the drum was donated to a gala, and was auctioned off for the families and soldiers serving in Afghanistan. The drum raised another \$500.00.

President Chartier on having the foresight to negotiate the national protocol and spoke of issues on the national front regarding the governance file, and pushing to finalise studies to end discrimination against Métis veterans. Chartrand went on to cite successful programs that maintain the tradition of Métis fiddle music passed on by ear; the firewood project for elders for whom heating their homes would otherwise cost more than their pensions; and fund raising efforts for funeral funds. He concluded by saying that the MMF was a proud government no different from the MNO. The Strategic Planning Workshop continued with a presentation on Accessing Economic Opportunities and Creating Wealth and Self-Sustainability with Métis Communities and the Métis Nation. Jay Kaufman, KTA Inc., commented on the impor-

CONTINUED PAGE 9

## MÉTIS VETERANS

# Vets' set path for future

by Chelsey Quirk

The Métis Nation of Ontario veterans gathered during this year's Special Presidents' Assembly/AGA to make plans for next year's AGA, including discussions on forming a distinct “veterans council” before next year. The vets are now busy preparing short individual autobiographies to be featured at the 2009 AGA, which they would like to host. Hearing from Métis vets, and

soldiers who are serving our country, is invaluable, as is recording their stories for future generations. This is a project that needs to be ongoing so that their experiences are not lost. The veterans also discussed ideas on items that could be sent overseas to the Métis soldiers who are serving now. Looking ahead to next year, our Métis veterans are preparing a proposal for funding so that more veterans are able to participate in the 2009 Annual

General Assembly. The vets would also like to invite personnel from Veterans Affairs Canada to participate and to explain the requirements to current vets. At the 2007 AGA the veterans hosted a fish-fry and draw for a drum that netted \$1865.00. The drum was not claimed; so, on behalf of the veterans, the drum was donated to a gala, and was auctioned off for the families and soldiers serving in Afghanistan. The drum raised another \$500.00.



## Special Presidents' Assembly / AGA 2008

FROM PAGE 8

tance of developing a business plan, noting the steep learning curve ahead for all involved. He felt honoured to bear witness to the historic event of the signing of the *Framework Agreement* that would open important opportunities, and recalled working with former MNO President Belcourt for 18 months on communication technology development.

Mr. Kaufman stressed that opportunities, such as the Crown's duty to consult, should be seized. In talking to the MNO leadership, Mr. Kaufman had noted that this would not be a quick fix but a process to develop a sustained financial base. He saw that business leadership and entrepreneurship were core characteristics of Métis and felt that there was a need to capitalise on that, as well as to develop a skills bank to ensure that Métis achieve improved self-reliance.

Referencing an overhead presentation titled "Métis Nation of Ontario: Economic Development, November 18, 2008", Mr. Kaufman indicated that the AGA would be looking at developing a strategy for an economic model and discussing goals. KTA would use a tripartite approach (working with Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs, OFI and INAC, provincial government ministries and the MNO) to develop a knowledge base of information relating to the 'invisible' Métis, and to ensure that capacity was built with the creation of a reference group that could support the projects.

In summary, Mr. Kaufman said that one of the critical success factors would be the leadership group. He said there was an opportunity to learn from the models of the MNC's other governing members, and there might even be opportunities to work together in partnership on long term economic development projects.

Another key factor was to complete an inventory of government programs and engage those departments to start networking and obtain support. It would be important to determine the opportunities and to define deliverables and potential win/wins in the business arena. In terms of outcome the process should be a consensus approach leading to a developed strategy to form a plan that works for the MNO.

Extensive discussion and questions followed.

The afternoon session was an open discussion on future Annual General Assemblies.

Chair Picotte introduced the session to look at other ways of doing things at the MNO AGAs within the MNO monetary abilities.

President Lipinski indicated that this was the first part of the consultation to make the AGA responsive and accessible to the needs of the citizens. This year the AGA was postponed to enable citizens to be involved in the historic signing of the *Framework Agreement* and to set in place the strategic planning process. Historically the AGA has not been a financial success yet



**CANOE CUT-UPS: Richard Sarrazin, Chelsey Quirk, Janine Landry, Scott Rowlinson, Patricia Messenger and Hank Rowlinson share a light moment at the Special Presidents' Assembly / AGA 2008.**

this time with transparency and accountability in mind every penny was accounted for prior to the meeting. This was the first MNO AGA held indoors and the first to be a three-day event.

Delegates were asked to consider future AGAs and what events should be held in conjunction with the MNO AGAs. Responses received included:

- The AGA functions should be dry events and include cultural training and entertainment by Métis citizens.

- People with small children cannot afford a hotel and would opt for using the MNO tent, and the park at Sudbury might be free. A summer event would be preferable.

- Children are missing at this AGA and they are missing exposure to culture. Also we need to organize 18 months in advance to assist with costs by getting corporate sponsorship. Would like more traditional ceremony and entertainment. We could get rid of golfing.

- Hold it in the first or second

week in August to allow children to attend and learn Métis culture and traditions (tomahawk throws, etc.). Keep it outdoors in the summertime and maybe cut down the week-long agenda.

- Métis are the trade people, but there are no trade tables here, just vendors. We should be saying "what have you got to trade?" We do not need outside caterers; we could potluck. We need to help each other; ancestors knew this, and the bush provides food and has for centuries. We need the recipes for moose,

muskrat. We're bush people, let us feel the wind on our faces, hear the morning songs of the birds, and involve the youth. There is no reason not to have teams with adult umpires; play with the youth: a voyageur game – where they go from fort to fort and they speak a different language, with adventures on the way (lose cargo and trade goods, etc.).

- It saddens me to see the way the AGA is going. I remember River Valley in 1994. We spent three hours discussing how we wanted the AGA and I remember the objections to the children in the tent at the business meetings, but also discussion regarding the importance of them to remain where decisions are made.

- Here there was no sunrise ceremony; we miss the traditions, and this event is a backward step. I see citizens bring what they needed to AGAs. We brought our food and children with us and it was far more meaningful. Instill values of Métis in our children; provide accommodation and care for children and elders, outdoors near water with campgrounds.

- This is my first AGA, and my first Louis Riel day. My spouse left because he had nothing to do. I came here on my own and I want to be a part, but wasn't sure where I fit in. How do people who only read the *Voyageur* feel connected? There has to be something that is inclusive and as far as the concrete jungle I'm OK with this. If we had it in the summer past I do not think we would have had the *Framework Agreement* or the dignitaries in attendance. This venue has served a positive purpose and was a valid forum for Métis people. The timing for the AGA and Riel event was good overall.

- I was born in-house and do not ever want to sleep in a tent. I prefer a good bed with a roof over my head. I did fish but have never hunted. I am a Métis who was brought up in a city and cannot really sympathize with those who would camp out; I am an urbanite.

- We have an opportunity to use all these ideas, and need to have a facilitated discussion. Without structure things would fall apart; we have to learn to use everything Canada has to offer and if we don't get our letters in before the end of January requesting corporate assistance, any opportunities for money will be lost.

- We have a partnership in Sudbury with the MNO tent available and other nice facilities and a huge lake, grass, room for children, no charge for camping, and many good motels in the vicinity. We may not get the dignitaries to an outdoor meeting but I am in full support for teamwork.

- Thanks were offered to the MNO for organizing the AGA and the very moving ceremonies on Louis Riel Day.

- The first AGA was in 1993 at a venue on Church Street in Toronto. The assistance to Senators and other attendees has been very good at this AGA.

- Great having it here and it

CONTINUED PAGE 10



Special President’s Assembly / AGA 2008

FROM PAGE 9

was always important to get together. It is nice to alternate camping options.

- Having originated from Alberta and coming here for the first year, I thought how wonderful the Métis families were together in the outdoor AGA with happy children. The outdoor AGA seems to promote pride in being Métis and the experience is invaluable to the growth of the nation through the place of family.
- Suggestion to hold the next AGA in Sudbury. The park is available for any other group. Métis have done a lot of work on the campground, and there are fewer flies in mid August to September.
- As an advocate for youth, the absence of youth is very noticeable. Some youth have full time jobs in summer making it difficult for them to attend. Could we consider a consistent date so that youth could plan their time? That would be useful. We need to empower youth as they get involved in community councils.

- I have been to every AGA since River Valley and think that maybe a weekend would be better. I remember where Senator Larkman taught us how to smoke hides; these are the skills that need to be brought back to our children before they are forgotten and lost.

See page 36 for more on AGA 2009.



President Lipinski and Suzanne-Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award winner, Richard Sarrazin.

President Lipinski concluded by thanking everyone for their thoughts and ideas. The PCMNO will meet in January, 2009, to share more ideas from local councils. Gary requested that communities communicate their ideas to regional councillors to enable a better decision. The AGAs have been a way to explore and enjoy all the areas of Ontario. After passage of the final reso-

lution (see below), MNO President, Gary Lipinski, focussed on the AGA as one of firsts, starting with the celebration of Louis Riel Day in Toronto; the inauguration of the PCMNO by a Métis judge, and the signing of the *Framework Agreement* with the Government of Ontario. The AGA paid tribute in a standing ovation to Doug Wilson, the Chief Operating Officer and

to staff for their support in bringing the administration to a level where the MNO could start to take advantage of opportunities. President Lipinski observed that there was also a debt of gratitude due to the families and those who supported the delegates and leaders who were present at the AGA. The 15th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of

Ontario concluded with the offering of a prayer by Senator Gerry Bedford.

Resolutions from the 15th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario

November 17-18, 2008, at the Days Hotel and Conference Centre, Toronto Airport East, 1677 Wilson Avenue, Toronto, Ontario.

**Approval of Agenda** - It was MOVED (Eric Scofield) and SECONDED (Elmer Ross), That the Agenda for the 15th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario scheduled November 17-18, 2008 be approved as follows:

- State of the Nation Address
- Establish Quorum
- Review and Approval of Minutes from 2007 Annual General Assembly
- Business Arising from Minutes
- Finance and Administration Reporting
- Report by MNO Secretary/Treasurer
- Report by MNO Chief Operating Officer
- Presentation on 2006/2007 Audit by MNO Director of Finance and MNO Auditor (Collins Barrows LLP)
- Presentation on 2007/2008 Audit by MNO Director of Finance and MNO Auditor (Collins Barrows LLP)
- Approval of 2007/08 Audit and appointment of Auditor for 2008/09
- Workshop on Duty to Consult
- Resolutions from Workshop on Métis Rights and Crown's Duty to Consult
- Developing a Strategic Plan for MNO
- Remarks by President Lipinski
- Strategic Planning Workshop
- Building a Stronger Métis Nation and Empowering Communities and Métis Citizens Presentation and Facilitated Open Discussion on Developing a Strategic Plan for the MNO
- Presentation on Accessing Economic Opportunities and Creating Wealth and Self-Sustainability with Métis Communities and Métis Nation
- Questions and Discussion from Strategic Planning Workshop
- Open Discussion
- Future AGAs
- Closing Comments by President Lipinski
- Closing Prayer
- Adjourn

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA08-01)

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**Minutes Approval** - It was MOVED (Jacques Leroux) and SECONDED (Elmer Ross), That the minutes of the 14th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario held July 9-13, 2007 be approved with the spelling of the names of Dora McInnis and Lois McCallum corrected.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA08-02)

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**2006/2007 Financial Report** - It was MOVED (Eric Scofield) and SECONDED (Gerry Bedford), That the 15th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario approve the audited financial statements dated March 31, 2007.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA08-03)

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**2007/2008 Financial Report** - It was MOVED (Eric Scofield) and SECONDED (JoAnne Young), That the 15th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario approve the Audited Financial Statements dated March 31, 2008.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA08-04)

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**Appointment of Auditor** - It was MOVED (JoAnne Young) and SECONDED (Pauline Saulnier), That the 15th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario appoint the accounting firm of Collins Barrow Chartered Accountants as the MNO Auditors for the fiscal year 2008/09.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA08-05)

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**Adoption of the Interim Statement of Principles for Métis Consultation and Accommodation and General Consultation Framework for Consultation and Accommodation** - It was MOVED (Tim Pile) and SECONDED (Pauline Saulnier)

THAT WHEREAS the Métis people have lived on and relied on the lands that are now known as Ontario for generations prior to the creation of this province;

AND WHEREAS Canada's Constitution recognizes and affirms the rights of the Métis people based on this prior occupation and their special relationship to the land;

AND WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario was formed to represent the Métis people and advance the rights and interests of its citizens and rights-bearing communities;

AND WHEREAS based on this mandate the MNO has successfully moved forward on advancing the Métis Nation's collective rights' agenda through, amongst other things, pursuing litigation to secure the recognition of Métis rights, creating a centralized and legitimate registry of Métis citizens in Ontario, developing

democratic Métis governance structures and institutions at the local, regional and provincial levels, and, implementing a Harvester's Policy and Harvester's Card system to regulate the Métis harvest in the province;

AND WHEREAS in 2003, based on the MNO's efforts, in 2003, the Supreme Court of Canada in the Powley case affirmed that one of the Métis Nation's protected rights included in Canada's Constitution is the right to harvest;

AND WHEREAS in order to implement the Powley case in Ontario, the MNO and the Province of Ontario entered into an agreement which recognizes and accommodates the harvesting rights of regional rights-bearing Métis communities throughout their traditional territories;

AND WHEREAS in 2004, the Supreme Court of Canada recognized that the Crown has a duty to consult and accommodate Aboriginal peoples in relation to planning, policies, developments, activities and projects that may affect Aboriginal proven and asserted rights, interests and way of life;

AND WHEREAS based on its mandate to advance Métis rights in the province, the MNO has moved forward on attempting to ensure the Crown's duties to the MNO are recognized and fulfilled;

AND WHEREAS in 2007-2008, the MNO undertook province-wide consultations on developing a MNO Consultation Framework and produced a final 'What We Heard' report outlining the input received from MNO citizens as well as principles and recommendations to move the Métis Nation's rights agenda forward in this area;

AND WHEREAS the MNO Annual General Assembly (AGA) endorses this final 'What We Heard' report, including, its principles and recommendations, as well as, the Regional Métis Consultation Protocols that have been signed between the MNO and its Chartered Community Councils in order to ensure the Crown's duty to MNO citizens and regional rights-bearing Métis communities throughout the province are fulfilled in a fair, transparent, predictable and honourable manner;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 15th AGA of the MNO:

1. adopts the Interim Statement of Principles for Métis Consultation and Accommodation and General Consultation Framework for Consultation and Accommodation dated November 17, 2008;

2. instructs the MNO to develop, in consultation with MNO citizens, Community Councils, Captains of the Hunt, and the PCMNO, a provincial Métis Consultation Policy which builds upon the recommendations in the final 'What We Heard' report, the adopted Interim Statement of Principles for Métis Consultation and Accommodation and General Consultation Framework for Consultation and Accommodation with Métis, and the Regional Métis Consultation Protocols; and that this Policy be brought to the 16th AGA of the MNO for consideration; and
3. directs the MNO to lobby governments in order to secure adequate and sustained funding to support the consultation processes set out in the existing as well as future Regional Métis Consultation Protocols, and to work with industry to increase knowledge about the Regional Métis Consultation Protocols, and to establish strategic partnerships with the private sector for the benefit of MNO citizens and regional rights-bearing Métis communities.

RESOLVED (AGA08-06) (One abstention)

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**Resolution that the Métis Nation of Ontario be directed to pursue negotiations with the Ontario Government**

It was MOVED (Judy Masdorp) and SECONDED (Rene Gravelle) and AMENDED

THAT WHEREAS in response to the Ipperwash Inquiry's recommendations the Ontario Government announced a New Relationship Fund to improve Crown-Aboriginal relations in Ontario and to provide capacity to Aboriginal peoples to ensure the Crown's duty to consult and accommodate aboriginal rights, interests and way of life is being honourably fulfilled in the province;

AND WHEREAS the MNO has undertaken consultations on this Fund, as a part of its province-wide consultation on developing a MNO Consultation Policy, as well as, holding a Special Presidents' Meeting to discuss the details of the New Relationship Fund;

AND WHEREAS the 2008 MNO Annual General Assembly (AGA) and Special Presidents' Meeting strongly supports the creation of the New Relationship Fund and its stated objectives;

AND WHEREAS the 2008 MNO AGA

and Special Presidents' Meeting want to ensure the Fund is managed in a fair and equitable manner between Aboriginal peoples and that the mandates of democratically elected Métis governance structures are respected and acknowledged as the bodies which represent regional rights-bearing communities in Ontario in relation to the discharge of the Crown's duty to consult and accommodate;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

That the MNO be directed to pursue negotiations with the Ontario Government based on the following:

1. that the MNO pursue a Métis-specific allocation of the Fund that is focused on providing sustained support to the MNO's existing and future Regional Métis Consultation Protocols as well as all MNO Chartered Community Councils to ensure the Crown's duty to regional rights-bearing Métis Communities in the province are being fulfilled;
2. that the Métis-specific allocation of the Fund be no less than 30% of all resources since Métis represent 30% of the Aboriginal population in Ontario according to the most recent Census;
3. that the fund support the MNO in undertaking a provincial Traditional Land Use Study project which can be relied upon and used by all MNO Community Councils, regional Métis consultation Committees, Captains of the Hunt, and the Provincial Council of the MNO (PCMNO), etc. in order to identify Métis traditional knowledge and land use in the province;
4. that the MNO hold annual conferences where best practices and information on consultation and accommodation issues between MNO Community Councils, Regional Métis Consultation Committees, Captains of the Hunt, and PCMNO, etc. can be shared;
5. that the MNO work to secure the Ontario Government's commitment to endow a New Relationship Trust Fund controlled by the MNO post-2010 to support MNO Community Councils, Regional Métis Consultation Committees, Captains of the Hunt, PCMNO, Women's Secretariat of the MNO, MNO Youth Council, Veterans, etc.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA08-07)

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## Briefs:

## MNO receives funds for enviro review of hydro project in Mattagami

The Métis Nation of Ontario has been provided with \$13,000 by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency to allow it to participate in the environmental review of plans to boost the generating capacity of Ontario Power Generation's dams on the Mattagami River, known as the "Lower Mattagami Hydroelectric Complex Redevelopment Project".

Ontario Power Generation is proposing to redevelop the Lower Mattagami Hydroelectric Complex, located approximately 70 km north-east of Kapuskasing. The Little Long, Harmon and Kipling generating stations will be expanded with the addition of a turbine/generator and the Smoky Falls site will be redeveloped to accommodate a new generating station.

The funding will allow the Métis Nation to participate in this comprehensive study and in the review of the study being produced by Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

## New book on Métis-Crown Relations

By Jason Madden

In September, 2008, in conjunction with the Métis National Council's 25th anniversary, Irwin Law released a new book on Métis rights. The publication, titled, *Métis-Crown Relations: Rights, Identity, Jurisdiction, and Governance* examines the evolving relationship between the Crown (i.e. federal and provincial governments) and Canada's Métis people. It is comprised of papers presented to a national symposium jointly sponsored by the former Law Commission of Canada and the Métis National Council in Winnipeg in February, 2006.

Contributors include leading academics, lawyers, government officials and Métis leaders, including, papers by the Métis Nation of Ontario's lawyers: Jean Teillet and Jason Madden. Specifically, the book analyzes the impact of s.35 of the *Constitution Act of 1982* which recognizes the Métis as an aboriginal people and their aboriginal rights which are guaranteed by the Constitution. Further, it examines the recent jurisprudence, particularly *R. v. Powley*, which has helped to clarify both the meaning and substance of Métis aboriginal rights, and the limits of federal and provincial jurisdiction. Finally, the book looks at models of self-governance for Métis communities. Copies can be ordered through Irwin Law's website at [www.irwinlaw.com](http://www.irwinlaw.com).

## Métis Rights

## A New Ontario Minister of Aboriginal Affairs

by MNO President  
GARY LIPINSKI  
September 22, 2008

As many of you may have heard, Premier McGuinty shuffled his Cabinet this week. Of particular interest to the Métis Nation, the Honourable Michael Bryant is no longer the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs. He has been appointed the Minister for Economic Development. Minister Bryant's knowledge, commitment and passion for our issues as Ontario's first stand-alone Minister for Aboriginal Affairs will be missed, but he will continue to be a friend and ally to the Métis Nation in his new and important role in Cabinet.

The Honourable Brad Duguid has been appointed the new Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. Minister Duguid was previously the Minister of Labour. I have already spoken to the new Minister and he indicated that he is very aware of the "good work that has been going on" between the Ministry and the MNO and that he is committed to continuing to work together. We will likely meet face to face in the next few weeks in order to provide the Minister an overview on the Métis Nation and discuss the many initiatives we have been working on, including, the MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement, the Crown's duty to consult and accommodate, etc. I look forward to working with Minister Duguid to build on the positive relationship we have established with Minister Bryant.

Last week, I also spoke with the Honourable George Smitherman, Ontario's Deputy Premier and Minister for Energy and Infrastructure. Minister Smitherman recently announced the Ontario Government's desire to increase the amount of renewable energy the province (as a part of the 20-year Integrated Power Supply Plan that the Ontario Power Authority [OPA]) is mandated to develop for the entire province.

Of particular interest to the Métis Nation, Minister Smitherman directed the OPA to "undertake enhanced consultations with First Nations and Métis communities" in light of the Crown's duty to consult and accommodate Aboriginal rights.

As well, he directed OPA to identify opportunities where First Nations and Métis communities could be partners in energy



left to right: MNO President Gary Lipinski and the Honourable Brad Duguid celebrate the signing of a Framework Agreement that will change the relationship between the Métis nation and the Province - November 18th, 2008 in Toronto.

“**WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK WITH MNO COMMUNITY COUNCILS ON PUTTING IN PLACE PROCESS TO ENSURE THE CROWN'S DUTY TO CONSULT AND ACCOMMODATE OUR COMMUNITIES IS BEING FULFILLED.**”

generation and transmission projects throughout the province. This new directive provides an exciting economic development opportunity for our communities to engage with government and industry on energy projects.

In addition, last week, I, along with other MNO leaders and MNO national committee repre-

sentatives, attended the Métis National Council's 25th Anniversary Gala as well as a series of national meetings held in Ottawa. The Métis National Council Gala provided an opportunity to meet and engage current and former politicians and dignitaries who have worked with the Métis Nation over the years, including, the Honourable Chuck Strahl, the current Minister of Indian Affairs and Federal Interlocutor for the Métis; the Right Honourable Paul Martin, former Prime Minister of Canada; the Honourable Bob Rae, current Liberal M.P and former Ontario Premier, and the Honourable John Ricard, the Chief Justice of the Federal Court of Appeal.

In the upcoming weeks there will also be much activity within the MNO:

- we will be holding meetings of the PCMNO and the Captains of the Hunt at the end of the month in Toronto, along with a meeting of the MNO's Directors to review progress on the MNO's operations and strategic planning process;

- we will be making a significant announcement about the Chair of Métis Studies in partnership with the university that has been selected to host the Chair position; (see page 13)
- we will be bringing PCMNO Councillors and representatives from MNO Community Councils together to discuss the Ontario Government's recent announcement to modernise the Mining Act to address the Crown's duty to consult our communities that are potentially affected by mining development; (see page 12) and
- we will continue to work with MNO Community Councils on putting in place process to ensure the Crown's duty to consult and accommodate our communities is being fulfilled (see page 13)

As you can see there is much happening within the MNO. Like always, I want to thank our community leaders, staff and volunteers who make this work possible. I look forward to continuing to keep you updated on the progress we are making-together.

[www.métisradio.fm](http://www.métisradio.fm)

Listen to great Aboriginal music artists  
Traditional and contemporary Métis music  
on-line 24/7 on Métis Radio.





## SPECIAL EVENTS

## 180 years since the Drummond Island migration

In September, the Penetanguishene Centennial Museum hosted the fourth annual Settlers' Day. The two-day event celebrated the 180th anniversary of the migration from Drummond Island and included re-enactments paying homage to the British military, French and Métis voyageurs and First Nations peoples. Entertainment, story-telling and a barbecue added to the fun.

"Because this year marks the 180th anniversary of the Drummond Island migration, we decided rather than picking one family (to celebrate) we would celebrate that migration," explained curator Nicole Jackson.

In 1828, after a land survey on Drummond Island deemed it to be American soil, inhabitants chose to come to the military establishment in Penetanguishene in order to remain part of a British colony. It was then, Jackson noted, that this area was populated, laying the foundation and cultural heritage of the town.

Many families who settled here brought with them surnames still common in the area today.



## Métis National Council marks 25th Anniversary

On September 17, 2008, Métis from across the homeland came to reminisce and celebrate the Métis National Council's (MNC) first quarter century with a gala dinner in Ottawa.

The MNC was formed on March 8, 1983, at a meeting of the prairie Métis associations in Regina, and has since grown to include Ontario and BC affiliates. It now stands as the democratically elected national and international representative of the Métis Nation in Canada.

Guest speakers at the gala dinner included the Honourable Bob Rae; Assembly of First Nations National Chief, Phil Fontaine; former MNO President, Tony Belcourt; the Honourable Chief Justice, John Richard; the Honourable Chuck Strahl; and, the Right Honourable Paul Martin.

The Métis National Council also marked its 25th anniversary with a symposium on Métis Rights, and meetings of national committees mapping out the MNC's next 25 years.

## The Crown's Duty to Consult | Fort Frances

## Protocol signing gives Métis a say on land development in northwest

The signing of the "historic protocol," in Fort Frances this past November outlined the duty of industry, through the Crown, to consult and accommodate Métis rights.

Métis Nation of Ontario President, Gary Lipinski, along with Joel Henley, President of the Kenora Métis Community Council; Alvina Cimon, President of the Northwest Métis Nation of Ontario (Dryden); and Clint Calder, President of

the local Sunset Country Métis, were on hand to sign the agreement.

The signing means industries interested in using the traditional land of the Métis now have a "duty to consult" first. The industry must fully educate the Métis on the potential use of the land and the potential effects on the land and, consequently, the Métis lifestyle. This ruling began with

the Powley case in 2003, when the Supreme Court of Canada recognised that Métis communities hold constitutionally-protected Aboriginal rights that must be respected by governments.

Lipinski noted that the jailing of the Kitchenumaykoosib Inninuwug (KI) chief and five councillors early in 2008, when they opposed diamond drilling near their land, was a result of govern-

ment and industry not meeting their duty to consult obligations.

He stressed the Métis should have input and a say when it comes to their traditional lands.

"We, as a Métis people, are not opposed to development," Lipinski added. "We see the benefits in development and we want the benefits from the development. But we also want to ensure that any potential negative environmental impact is minimised."

It was stressed Monday night that this protocol is not adversarial, but rather, it was sought by both the Métis and industry.

*"We see the benefits in development and we want the benefits from the development. But we also want to ensure that any potential negative environmental impact is minimised."* — President Lipinski



## YES, WE CAN ACHIEVE OUR GOALS

"Yes We Can": a slogan made famous in the recent election held in the United States, was a position taken by the leadership of the Métis Nation of Ontario at its very inception. The founding citizens said, "yes we can", and our leaders are still enacting change for the betterment of the Métis people, not just across the MNO, but across the Métis Homeland.

Yes we can make a difference, and yes we can achieve our goals. The backbone of this "CAN DO" attitude is our Senators. We only have to look to recent meetings in Toronto to see the vitality and single-mindedness of this dynamic and dedicated cadre of caring Métis citizens, this ever so important aspect of our nation's fabric, consciousness and leadership.

Twenty-six Senators from across the Ontario Métis Home-



## SENATORS' SPOTLIGHT

BY RETA GORDON  
PCMNO SENATOR

land attended the MNO Annual General Assembly held in Toronto. We gathered formally and informally, sharing our knowledge and expertise, setting the foundation for our future--a future which is looking brighter and brighter as time unfolds.

I wish to thank all those Senators who have come forward in the past to offer their knowledge and leadership. I am happy to welcome Senator Ruth Wagner-Millington and Senator Joseph Poitras who join Senator Gerry Bedford and I as the Senators' Representatives on the PCMNO. I

am touched and deeply humbled by the continued support of our Senators and look forward to this upcoming term of office as your Executive Senator. Your support, and our collective knowledge serve as a beacon for our people.

Let us renew our commitment to our long standing "yes we can" approach to our responsibilities and obligations to our councils, our Métis Nation and to Canada.

The recent AGA was yet another positive process where the affairs of the nation were tabled, discussed and acted upon. As always, the staff of the MNO did a

commendable job, not just in setting up and assisting in the logistics of the assembly, but in their hard work to ensure that the Senators and Elders were comfortable and not lacking in anything. Thanks to everyone for their efforts and I wish you to know how very much your kindness is appreciated.

I ask the Creator to look after each of you and your families. I ask the Great Spirit to comfort us in these uncertain economic times and to guide us to a bright and prosperous New Year.

May His abiding love fill your heart with peace and joy always.

## Reta Gordon

Executive Senator  
208-2019 Carling Ave.  
Ottawa, ON K2A 4A2  
Tel: 613-722-7078  
retag@metisnation.org

## New Members of the MNO Team:

Janet Leader:  
New Director of Communications

by Doug Wilson

It is a pleasure to announce that Janet Leader has joined the MNO team as Director of Communications.

Ms. Leader is an award-winning communication and broadcast professional with over 20 years of experience as a producer/reporter with CBC Television and APTN National News. Janet also has experience in a communications role with the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Through her education and experience, Ms. Leader has acquired skills in strategic thinking and planning, writing, editing and research, organizational and resource management, consensus building, problem solving and relationship management.

Janet's background and skills are key as the MNO moves forward to the next level. She will be working closely with the MNO leadership to develop, implement, sustain and oversee an effective communications program that advances the MNO *Statement of Prime Purpose*. This will include the *Métis Voyageur*, www.metsnation.org, written documents and other information, strategic use of media, and strategic communications collaborations with external organizations.

The Director of Communications works with all branch teams to ensure that successes are documented and distributed appropriately throughout MNO's networks and to external audiences.

Please join me in welcoming Janet Leader to our MNO team.

Joanne Meyer:  
New Director of Intergovernmental Affairs

It is a pleasure to introduce Joanne Meyer as the Director Intergovernmental Affairs. Joanne has taken a Leave of Absence from her position as Senior Policy Advisor, Ipperwash Response Team, Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs, to join the MNO team.

Prior to her position with the Government of Ontario, Joanne had significant experience working with both the federal and provincial governments, namely: Team Lead, Policy and Research for the Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Strategy (AHWS); Executive Assistant to the Secretary of State for Western Economic Diversification Canada and Indian Affairs and Northern Development; Special Assistant to the Minister of Health; Director of the Joint AFN/MSB Task Force Secretariat, Health Canada; Manager, Program Management and Regional Liaison, Health Canada; Assistant

Regional Director of Administration (Saskatchewan Region), Health Canada; and, Zone Director, Health Canada.

Throughout her career in the public service, Joanne has used her strong leadership, organizational and negotiation skills as she developed, facilitated or participated in many intergovernmental processes. Joanne also brings her vast expertise and experience in the implementation of programs and services, administration and financial management.

Ms. Meyer has long been a strong supporter of Aboriginal issues and has extensive knowledge of the issues facing Aboriginal organisations. By joining the Métis Nation of Ontario, her breadth of experience will help ensure that the MNO continues to move ahead into a new era of change and growth.

I hope that you will join me in welcoming Joanne into this important position and in facilitating her integration into the MNO family.

## Janet Leader

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Ottawa, ON K1N 9G4  
Tel: 613-798-1488 or 800-263-4889  
janetl@metisnation.org

•••

Joanne Meyer / Director  
Intergovernmental Affairs  
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Métis Education | Chair of Métis Studies

# UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA SELECTED TO HOST FIRST ONTARIO RESEARCH CHAIR IN MÉTIS STUDIES

The University of Ottawa has been awarded the Chair in Métis Studies after being selected by an arm's-length selection panel who chose the winning proposal from among those submitted by eight Ontario universities.

"Important academic and research work about the Métis people and their culture in Ontario and across Canada will be supported and enhanced by this investment", said Dr. Paul Genest, President of the Council of Ontario Universities.

The First Research Chair in Métis Studies was announced September 30th, 2008. Gary Lipinski, President of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and Métis leadership from across Ontario joined the Honourable Brad Duguid, Ontario Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, the Honourable John Milloy, Minister of Colleges Training and Universities and Paul Genest from the Council of Ontario Universities to formally announce the Ontario university selected to host the Research Chair of Métis Studies.

The first of its kind in Ontario, the Chair's goal is to increase research and create a greater common understanding of the Métis people in Ontario, past and present, while enhancing the quality of post-secondary education for Métis students.

The announcement was the

realisation of several years of collaborative efforts and work by the Métis Nation of Ontario with the Ontario Government and the Council of Ontario Universities.

In 2007, the McGuinty government committed \$2 million to support the creation of a Chair. In 2008, this commitment was enhanced by \$1 million. The successful Ontario university has also committed an additional \$1 million to support the Chair position, bringing the total endowment for the Chair to \$4 million.

"For the Métis Nation, this announcement represents a new and exciting chapter in our history as a distinct Aboriginal people—a chapter where the stories of our people, our communities and our contributions to this province will finally start to be told. We look forward to working with the selected university in order to begin to write the largely untold history of the Métis people in this province and to sharing that history with fellow Ontarians", said President Lipinski.

The University of Ottawa has begun its search for a distinguished candidate and will submit the nomination to the selection panel for approval; it is expected that the Chair will be installed early in the 2009-10 academic year. The university is committed to providing additional direct resources to further support the work of the Chair.



MNO President, Gary Lipinski (left) with the President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ottawa, Allan Rock.

Duty to Consult and Accommodate | Energy Industry

## MNO and Hydro One sign engagement protocol on Bruce-Milton Line

On September 30th, Gary Lipinski, President of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), and Laura Formosa, President and Chief Executive Officer of Hydro One Networks Inc. (Hydro One), joined Métis leadership from across the province in Toronto to sign an "Engagement Protocol" concerning Hydro One's Bruce-Milton Transmission Line.

The *protocol* is the first of its kind between the Métis Nation and an energy industry partner in Ontario. It will enable the MNO to inform and engage Métis citizens living in the region about the project, while also enabling the MNO to participate in the Bruce-Milton Line's upcoming environmental assessment. The *protocol* also creates a joint MNO-Hydro One committee to support this collaborative work.

"This protocol represents a significant milestone in the MNO's ongoing efforts to ensure the Crown's duty to consult and accommodate Métis communities in the province is being ful-



Gary Lipinski, President of the Métis Nation of Ontario, (right) and Laura Formosa, President and Chief Executive Officer of Hydro One Networks Inc., (left) sign an Engagement Protocol on Hydro One's Bruce-Milton Transmission Line.

filled. Through this protocol, the MNO will work with its community councils in the potentially affected region to ensure all Métis citizens are informed about and engaged in relation to

the Bruce-Milton Line," said President Lipinski.

Laura Formosa, Hydro One President and Chief Executive Officer, added: "We are proud to be a signatory to this agreement

“Through this Protocol, the MNO will work with its Community Councils in the potentially affected region to ensure all Métis citizens are informed about and engaged in relation to the Bruce-Milton Line”

as it is the first of its kind between the Métis Nation of Ontario and an energy industry partner in this province. Today is a very important day for Hydro One because it demonstrates the importance we place on developing, building and maintaining relationships with First Nations and Métis people.”

### EDUCATION NEWS:



MNO and Ministry of Education team up to improve results for Métis students!

The MNO Training and Initiatives Branch is looking for wide ranging input on the Métis Education Action Plan. Over the next two months, through a series of community consultations, video conferences and through collection of survey responses via website, telephone, fax and mail the branch will ask Métis parents, students and teachers for their ideas about how to enhance the learning experience of Métis youth in Ontario public schools.

The goal of the consultation is to assess the impact of the Ontario Ministry of Education's First Nation, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) Education Policy Framework and to review and provide input into the development of a new Métis Education Plan by the Métis Education Working Group. The discussion will focus on topics like community satisfaction and self-identification and will be guided by the survey that has been developed.

*Five face to face consultation sessions, which will begin the end of January and wrap up a month later in Ottawa.*

A total of five face to face consultation sessions, which will begin the end of January and wrap up a month later in Ottawa, are being planned. As well, anyone unable to attend a session in person is encouraged to take part in one of a series of video conferences which will be hosted by branch personnel. Please look for information about these sessions, as well as the survey under the Education tab at [www.metisnation.org](http://www.metisnation.org).

If you are a Métis educator, parent or student or a Métis citizen with a special interest in education issues you are encouraged to participate. If you want to be part of the consultation process or have an interest in volunteering for the Working Group, please contact Guylaine Morin-Cleroux by phone at **1-800-263-4889** or by e-mail at [guylainem@metisnation.org](mailto:guylainem@metisnation.org).

Additional information about the community consultations is available from Provincial Education Initiatives Coordinator, Bonny Cann. Bonny can be reached by phone at **1-416-570-3052**. Her e-mail address is [bonnyc@metisnation.org](mailto:bonnyc@metisnation.org).



GEORGIAN BAY MÉTIS COUNCIL:  
**WILD GAME ON THE DINNER TABLE**

By Tracy Bald

Each fall harvesters donate traditional game to the community. That game is for those who are in need and for those who are used to eating a traditional diet but can no longer hunt for themselves. With the fish, venison, and other game we have been provided, we have been able to feed hundreds of our community members. We are also able to provide an important cultural experience for those who are able to have such foods for the first time at our many community events and meals. From all of us I would like to thank our harvesters and our Captain of the Hunt for making this possible.

For those of you who have yet to incorporate venison into your diet, you are missing out. Traditional foods such as venison do have great health benefits. Venison is lower in calories, cholesterol and fat than most cuts of beef, pork, or lamb. Venison is a very good source of protein, while, unlike most meats, it tends to be fairly low in fat, especially saturated fat. Four ounces of venison supplies 68.5% of the daily value for protein for only 179 calories and 1.4 grams of saturated fat. Venison is a good source of

iron, providing 28.2% of the daily value for iron in that same four-ounce serving.

This recipe is a wonderfully healthy meal for a winter day. Venison, whole grains, and vegetables, what could be better? Give it a try.

**BARLEY & VENISON SOUP**

- |     |                          |
|-----|--------------------------|
| 1   | tbsp. oil                |
| 1   | carrot, chopped          |
| 1   | celery stock, chopped    |
| 1   | chopped onion            |
| 1/2 | lb. deer meat, cubed     |
| 6   | cups stock               |
| 1/2 | cup barley               |
| 1   | bay leaf                 |
| 1   | pinch thyme              |
|     | Salt and pepper to taste |

1. In a pot, heat the oil and sauté the vegetables.
2. Add the meat and sear it.
3. Moisten with the stock and bring to a boil.
4. Add the barley, bay leaf and thyme. Cook until the barley is tender.
5. Season to taste and serve soup piping hot.

For more information contact Tracy Bald, Community Wellness Worker, GBMC, at 526-6335 or [tracyb@metisnation.org](mailto:tracyb@metisnation.org)



Lianne Dumais, (left) Long Term Care Coordinator and Kelly Honsberger, (right) Literacy Coordinator at the Canadian Aboriginal Festival in Toronto last November.

**Our first Canadian Aboriginal Festival**

By Lianne Dumais & Kelly Honsberger

Kelly and I have enjoyed our first Canadian Aboriginal Festival (CANAB). It was a great experience, filled with cherished memories. This year's festival was November 28th, 29th and 30th, 2008, at the Rogers Centre in Toronto. We got to enjoy the artists and the many talents they have to share.

Kelly and I also enjoyed the traditional foods that were available to us during the festival.

The CANAB Festival was helpful to the Aboriginal community to promote their ideas, business, and culture. Everyone is given an opportunity to be recognised. It gave us as Métis Nation of Ontario staff the opportunity to promote the programs we have to offer.

On Education Day, we were

given the opportunity to give students a positive Aboriginal experience and to instil in them a desire to learn more about Canada's Métis. In addition, Kelly informed the teacher of her upcoming Homework Clubs and reading circles.

Lianne Dumais is the Long Term Care Coordinator and Kelly Honsberger is the Literacy Coordinator in MNO's Toronto office.



**Let's put our Hearts into it!**  
Lower your risk of heart disease and stroke

Aboriginal People are more likely to have high blood pressure and diabetes, and as a result, are at greater risk of heart disease and stroke than the general population.

You can lower your risk by:

- Eating a healthy diet
- Being physically active
- Achieving a healthy weight
- Knowing and managing your blood pressure
- Knowing and managing your diabetes
- Quitting smoking

Talk to your healthcare provider to see how you can lower your risk of heart disease and stroke.

Or contact the Heart and Stroke Foundation at:  
**1-888-HSF-INFO**  
**(1-888-473-4636)**

[www.heartandstroke.ca/Aboriginal](http://www.heartandstroke.ca/Aboriginal)

Let's put our **Hearts** into it!





SUZANNE ROCHON-BURNETT VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD:

# VOLUNTEER POWER

*This year’s recipient of the Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award was **RICHARD SARRAZIN**. Not only does this man volunteer countless hours as the Sudbury Métis Community Council President, but also as the Region 5 Captain of the Hunt.*



By Chelsey Quirk

Richard assists with the MNO’s Long Term Care program by driving clients to appointments and running errands. He also gives his time and energy to help with renovations to the Sudbury office space. It seems that no matter what the task Richard is there to lend a hand. “Community Council President” is not just a title for Richard. He spends three to four days a week at the council office doing everything that he can to help strengthen the Métis nation and his Sudbury community where he is well thought of and respected; his generosity and kindness can always be counted upon. His humour around the office is uplifting; you can count on him for a joke or a kind word to brighten the day. When focussing on his Captain of the Hunt duties, Richard goes non-stop preparing for the fall hunting season,

meeting with local harvesters, answering questions, assisting with harvesting card applications, or just being available for support. Richard’s colleagues and community members whole-heartedly believe in what he does and have nothing but great things to say about him:

“It does not matter where or when someone needs assistance with any situation, you can be sure that Richard will do his utmost to make himself available...”

...

“Never expecting anything in return, Richard Sarrazin unselfishly gives his time for the betterment of the citizens of the MNO...”

...

“He is always there when someone needs help...”

...

“Richard Sarrazin’s efforts to make his community and our nation stronger are amazing...”

...

“Richard is a great role model for all Métis people...”

...

“Richard’s selfless dedication to his community and to the Métis Nation of Ontario is outstanding...”

...

“The Métis people are blessed to have someone like Richard working for them, in their best interests...”

An emotional Richard reflected: “this award means a lot to me; it touched my heart. Volunteering can be hard on family and friends because we are always busy, so being appreciated and recognised is nice. Reading the nomination letters from everyone makes it all worth it. It’s nice to receive the award and I hope it will inspire others to volunteer. We always need more volunteers to help!”

The Métis Nation of Ontario is proud to have named Richard Sarrazin the 2008 Volunteer of the Year!

The Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award was created to commemorate the life of Suzanne Rochon-Burnett and to recognise the contributions that volunteers make to the MNO by honouring one exemplary volunteer of the Year.

Last year’s recipient was PCMNO Executive Senator, Reta Gordon.

.....

Dr. Suzanne Rochon-Burnett was a founding member of the Métis Nation of Ontario, the first Vice-chair of the MNO and a board member of the Métis Nation of Ontario Cultural Commission. She was named to the Order of Canada and the Board of Directors of TV Ontario. She was a recipient of the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation’s Lifetime Achievement Award and was the first woman inducted into the Aboriginal Business Hall of Fame. She spent her lifetime promoting Aboriginal artists and was a fiercely proud Métis woman. Sadly, Suzanne passed away on April 2, 2006. The Métis Nation of Ontario was proud to name her as the first recipient of the Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award in recognition of her outstanding service to the Métis nation.



VOLUNTEER AWARD:

## Criteria for Candidates for the Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award:

- Any MNO citizen may nominate a candidate by filling out a nomination form by the deadline, June 30th, 2009. (Nomination forms at: [www.metisnation.org](http://www.metisnation.org))
- Each candidate must consent to have his or her name submitted. Candidates should exemplify the volunteer contributions made to the Métis Nation and to their community in a way similar to the standards set by Dr. Suzanne Rochon-Burnett.
- The candidates will have given generously of their time and effort. They will have been strong advocates of the Métis Nation and will have established an outstanding record of unselfish commitment to the cause of their efforts. They will be seen as caring and giving individuals and someone to look up to. The candidates will have provided an extended period of service as a volunteer.

Send nominations to:  
Monique Richard  
500 Old St. Patrick St, Unit 3  
Ottawa, ON K1N 9G4  
Tel: 613-798-1488 xt 132  
F: 613-722-4225  
[moniquerichard@metisnation.org](mailto:moniquerichard@metisnation.org)

MNO staff member sponsors a child with help of Okala Foudation:

# Make a difference in the world

By Laurie Fonjong

I thought I would share with you some wonderful news. I have recently become a sponsor to a young boy named Boris Banyangue in honour of my late and beloved mother-in-law, Grace Fonjong.

I had been thinking about all of the blessings I have in my life, my amazing husband, my wonderful family, my great friends, a good job. Then I started thinking about how I could make a difference in the world. I know it sounds funny coming from me, but I have been feeling like something has been missing from my life for a long time now.

So I started to do some research online and found a foundation that was doing amazing things for less fortunate children in remote villages in Cameroon. As some of you may know, Sunny is from Cameroon (Africa), so it hit home for me. I had to know more and after all of my research I knew I wanted to be a part of the Okala Foundation.

Sunny and I don't have children, so was this what I felt was missing in my life? We both help out our families whenever we can

but it isn't enough for me. I need more. Selfish? Maybe, but after some soul searching I decided that I needed to do something that was good for someone else too. I wanted to give someone a fighting chance at life. There are hundreds of organisations out there that need help, but the Okala Foundation captured my heart. I am so excited to be part of such an amazing foundation.

Tamara Davy is the founder of the Okala Foundation. I was truly amazed when she took time out of her busy schedule to call me at home and answer all of my questions--we talked for three hours that night; it was like we had been long lost friends. Tamara opened my eyes and heart to her organisation. I got to work right away at collecting supplies. My family and friends have contributed in whatever way they could. Some have sponsored a child; some have purchased hygiene products, such as tooth paste and tooth brushes; some have donated books (French and English); some have donated clothing; and, some have provided much needed medical supplies.

There are so many ways to



Boris Banyangue

help the Okala Foundation. For a one time fee of \$85 you can sponsor a child for one full school year. This ensures that your sponsored child receives a hot lunch (every day), school supplies needed for the school year, plus a mosquito net to help reduce the spread of diseases like Malaria.

If you are not able to sponsor a child, perhaps you can help in other ways. Below is a 'wish list' of items that the Foundation needs for the two schools, the

- medical centre and the orphanage they provide supplies to:
- Used prescription glasses
  - Reading glasses new/used
  - Toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss
  - School supplies
  - Mosquito nets,
  - Disposable cameras
  - Latex gloves
  - Syringes (oral or subcutaneous)
  - All types of gauze & bandages
  - Saline

- Ophthalmoscopes, stethoscopes, otoscopes
  - Binocular compound microscopes, centrifuges and blood testing equipment/accessories
  - Thermometers, crutches, tensor bandages
  - Adult/infant weight scales
  - Swabs, tongue depressors, anti-septic ointments, cotton balls
  - Blood pressure cuffs, first aid kits, and supplies
- To date, all of the children have been sponsored for the 2008-2009 school year. However, they are in desperate need of supplies; perhaps you would be able to help by gathering some of the items listed above; perhaps the company you work for would be able to help out as well?
- You can help make a difference in a child's life too. Every little bit counts! Please visit the Okala Foundation's web site at [www.okalafoundation.org](http://www.okalafoundation.org) to view the children who have been sponsored this year and for more information on this wonderful grassroots organisation.
- Please feel free to email me at [help4okala@gmail.com](mailto:help4okala@gmail.com) if you have questions or would like to make arrangements to donate items.



## Métis Community Councils



Olivine Bousquet Métis Dancers at Durham District School Board event "Spirit Calling" held at Scugog First Nation.

The Olivine Bousquet Métis Dancers:

# KEEPING TRADITION ALIVE

By Cecile Wagar

**T**he Olivine Bousquet Métis Dancers have had quite a season so far! After their inaugural presentation at the Oshawa Métis Council's Second Annual Métis Heritage Celebration in June, they performed for the Métis Artists Festival at Black Creek Pioneer Village in Toronto in July.

After a short summer break, during which several of the group continued to meet weekly to practise, they started

rehearsals again the first week of September, as they were booked for three more performances in a row. On September 26, they performed for the teachers and staff of the Blue Water District School Board. On October 4, they danced on the grass at the Lafontaine Rendezvous, and on October 18, they entertained at Oshawa Métis Council's Drum Making Workshop / Meet and Greet.

After a short break, they performed at back-to-back events in November: the Métis Nation of Ontario's AGA on the 16th, the Durham District School Board's

"Spirit Calling – Youth Celebrating Aboriginal Cultures" on the 20th, and the CIBC Aboriginal Employees' Committee on the 27th. There are several invitations in the wind for the new year.

Each event was a new and exciting experience for everyone and a perfect opportunity to bond. Each time they perform the dancers are encouraged by people's cheers and kind words.

They are very grateful for any honorariums, donations, and gifts they have received. They wish to say special thanks to the citizens and friends of the Métis



left: Mary-Ann Semjan, 7 years old, was the youngest member of the Olivine Bousquet Métis Dancers at the AGA in Toronto.

Nation of Ontario who generously donated \$790.00 to the cause at the AGA. Miigwech! They will now be able to work in earnest on their costumes and take care of some very unavoidable expenses. They are also working towards going "Back to Batoche" in 2010.

So - Miigwech, Marsee, Merci, and thank you to all for everything.

Niagara Region Métis Council:

## Métis to take part in 2010 Olympic torch relay

By Linda Lord

**T**here's more than a flicker of excitement in the Niagara Region Métis Council these days. In fact, you might say there is a flame—the Olympic flame.

On November 21st Mayor Goulbourne made the official announcement that the City of Welland has been chosen as one of the 200 communities across Canada to host the 2010 Olympic Torch Relay. The announcement was made during a media conference at civic square, where Empire Elementary School students helped Goulbourne raise the Olympic Torch Relay flag.

"This is a significant honour for the city," he said. "As a host city, we will receive national and international exposure as the Olympic torch makes its way across the country en route to Vancouver, British Columbia...."

The 2010 Olympic Torch Relay begins its journey to Vancouver with a traditional lighting ceremony in Olympia, Greece. It is then transferred to Canada for a 45,000 kilometre trek across the country--the longest national Olympic Torch Relay ever. Beginning on October 30, 2009, it is scheduled to reach Welland on December 21, 2009.



The Olympic Flame is on its way to Welland.

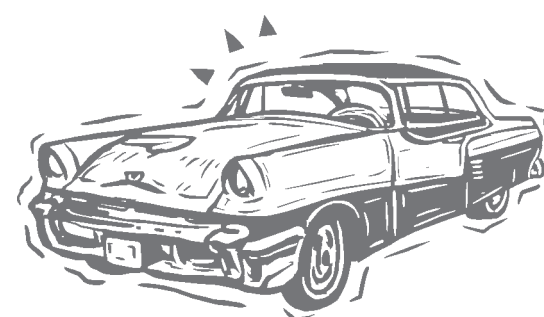
The 106-day pan-Canadian journey will culminate on February 12, 2010, when it arrives in Vancouver for the Opening Ceremony before a global viewing audience of billions. Along the way a total of 12,000 torchbearers will carry the Olympic flame for approximately 300 metres.

Accompanied by representatives of the Niagara Region Métis Council, the Mayor also announced the creation of a task force, to be chaired by Mike Seguin, 2009 President of Club Richelieu, to plan the torch relay event. Other members from the

community will be invited to join M. Seguin in this endeavour.

"It is a great honour for the Niagara Region Métis Council and its citizens to be asked by His Honour Mayor Damian Goulbourne, to be part of this great event. The council has accepted, and feels privileged to be part of this monumental event. We are looking forward to working with the City of Welland on this endeavour and to bring the Métis culture and heritage, with the help of the MNO, to the people of Ontario," said Senator Stephen Quesnelle.

NEEDED IMMEDIATELY:



## Volunteers for medical transportation

Volunteer drivers who have their own transportation are needed. We pay 48 cents per kilometre. This is a part-time position, a few days a week, but flexible. We contact you in advance as needed. Please submit resume to:

**Lianne Dumais / Long Term Care Coordinator**  
75 Sherbourne St, Suite 222  
Toronto, ON M5A 2P9  
or call 416-977-9881 xt.105  
Fax: 416-977-9911

## Credit River Métis Council We Need You!

As a council, we can provide much to MNO citizens who live within our council territory of Peel Region and surroundings. Such as: cultural events; teachings; workshops; fellowship; support and much more.

We know there are quite a few of you--about 1300! Awesome! **Where are you?**

These services can only be offered if a viable, functioning

council is in place. At present, we are having difficulty establishing a council due to lack of a proper quorum. This is vital in order to provide services to you.

Contact:  
**Clayton Cadeau** Tel: 905-792-8538  
creditrivermetiscouncil@hotmail.com  
www.creditrivermetiscouncil.com



## Thunder Bay Métis Council News:



The City of Thunder Bay unveiled this mural in October, 2008.

## Métis Council makes their mark on Thunder Bay with new voyageur mural

By Deborah Dalseg

Greetings Métis citizens of Ontario! As of October 26, 2008, Thunder Bay has a new council (see page 36). We encourage anyone interested in participating on council to contact us. We have two positions still open, Secretary and Male Youth Representative.

Thunder Bay Métis Council is here to assist you, whether you require help in applying for Métis citizenship, getting information on the many programs and services offered by the MNO, renting the Louis Riel Hall, or you wish to have your comments or concerns heard.

On October 22, 2008, the City of Thunder Bay hosted a traditional Aboriginal Fall Feast at the MNO building located on May Street to celebrate the unveiling of the mural painted on it. The 16' x 32' mural, "Métis Voyageurs", was designed by artists Chris Rantala and Brian Cronk and depicts Fort William on the Kaministiquia River. The MNO is one of five recipients of the Mural Grant Program.

Our first fundraiser has begun! We are selling t-shirts (\$35.) with a picture of the mural on the back and the MNO logo on the front. Please contact us to order yours!

On November 12, 2008, Senator Bob McKay and Treasurer Debbie Dalseg participated in

the Ontario College of Teachers (OCT) consultations taking place with Métis, First Nations and Inuit communities across the province. The final report of these consultations will be considered by the council of the OCT when it formulates future policies on curriculum development and teacher qualifications.

Attending the Special Presidents' Assembly and Annual General Assembly held in Toronto November 16-19, 2008, representing Thunder Bay were President, Wendy Landry; Youth Representative, Janine Landry; Treasurer, Deborah Dalseg; PCMNO Region 2 Councillor, Cameron Burgess; and, PCMNO Secretary/Treasurer Tim Pile.

**PLEASE ACCEPT OUR INVITATION TO ATTEND OUR FIRST GENERAL MEETING ON APRIL 5th, 2009 AT THE LOUIS RIEL HALL.**

Please accept our invitation to attend our first General Meeting on Sunday, April 5th at 4:00 p.m. at the Louis Riel Hall. Details will be available in the *Chronicle Journal* event section in March or by calling the council office.

Council sits regularly on the second Monday of each month at 5:45 p.m. at our Métis Center Building on May Street.

## Second Annual Métis Heritage Celebration | Oshawa

# Bringing Métis to the masses

By Cecile Wagar

Councillor, Oshawa Métis Council

On June 28 and 29, 2008, the Oshawa Métis Council (OMC) welcomed Métis and non-Métis visitors to Memorial Park in Oshawa.

The event opened on Saturday with a smudging of the public. We all gathered on the lawn to honour the World Drum with songs sung by the Shwa Singers. Then Senator Olive Tiedema presented the World Drum with our gift. Our Olivine Bousquet Métis Dancers, with their Red River Jig, invited everyone to gather for the opening ceremonies. Senator Ruth Wagner-Millington, with her fiddle, led us in the singing of our national anthem. Senator Joseph Poitras led us in the prayer and Senator Olive Tiedema smudged the dignitaries. OMC President, Robert Pilon; Oshawa Mayor, John Gray; MP, and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health, on behalf of the Honourable Tony Clement, Minister of Industry, Colin Carrie; and MNO President, Gary Lipinski each brought greetings.

Then, through rain and shine, we entertained our visitors with the Fiddling and Jigging Poitras Family from Alberta, the Métis Fiddle Quartet (Delbeare-Sawchuck Family) from Toronto, fiddler Senator Ruth Wagner-Millington, singer Charlie Fife, the Shwa Singers, and a few impromptu singers including Loma Rowlinson and New Brunswick Métis, Guilmont Turgeon, and our own Olivine Bousquet Métis Dancers. There were also special ceremonies with the World Drum to promote peace and protection of our Mother Earth.

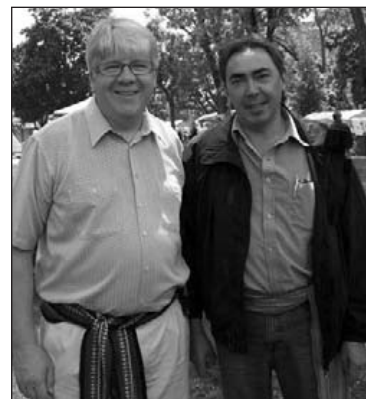
We sold buffalo burgers and bannock and held a silent auction. There were a Children's Tent for stories and crafts, Métis Information Tent, Charlie Fife's Family History and Métis artefacts display, Elder Joe Paquette's display, Roland and Jane St.Germain's Sacred Tobacco and Medicines display, Ruth Wagner-Millington's fiddle-making display, and Métis vendors. We also displayed posters submitted by area grade school children who had participated in our Métis Heritage Celebration Logo Contest.

The atmosphere was set by: a Red River Cart, two voyageur canoes, four tepees, and Métis flags flying everywhere. During the two days, even the weather, with rain followed by sunshine and comfortable temperatures, made the event special.

Our closing ceremonies were very emotional for many of us. We all gathered round the World Drum on the grass. Métis Elder, Joe Paquette, accompanied by the Shwa Singers, led us in the Métis Song with the World Drum. We also held hands in a huge circle around the drummers as they sang a friendship song. With several of us playing the World Drum together and others play-



Cory Poitras (right) jigging and fiddling with jigging contest winners and the Olivine Bousquet Métis Dancers .



MNO President Gary Lipinski and Oshawa Mayor John Gray.



Senator Olivine Tiedema and OMC Councillor Cecile Wagar.



left to right: Ron Harris of the Shwa Singers, Colin Carrie MP for Oshawa, Oshawa Mayor John Gray, OMC Councillor Cecile Wagar and President of the Métis Artist Collective Bernie Leroux.

ing their hand drums we took turns leading a verse in the Travelling Song to honour the Drum and send it safely on its way to its next destination. We then made an exchange of gifts. First, Archie Martin, President of l'Alliance des Autochtones du Québec, presented the OMC with a hand-drum, which he had made himself. Our Vice-president, Art Henry, reciprocated with a glass Red River Cart table ornament. Art then presented our new Métis friends from New Brunswick with two Métis flags and two "ceintures fléchées".

It was the Métis, Aboriginals, non-Aboriginals, locals, strangers, first timers, constant supporters, VOLUNTEERS and the COMMIT-

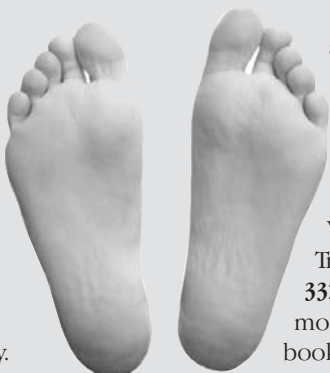
TEE who made our Second Annual Métis Heritage Celebration a success.

We are grateful for support from Celebrate Canada, the City of Oshawa, and local businesses, including: World Vending and Hank's Appliances, the MNO, the Durham District School Board, our many VOLUNTEERS, and COMMITTEE MEMBERS without whom our Second Annual Métis Heritage Celebration would not have been possible.

We are now planning our Third Annual Métis Heritage Celebration for next June. We hope that more Métis from across Canada will be able to attend. See you there!

## BANCROFT MNO OFFICE OFFERING FOOT CARE CLINICS

The Bancroft office of the Métis Nation of Ontario will continue to offer foot care clinics with our foot care nurse, Betsy Lundrigan R.P.N. in January. Appointments are



scheduled every six weeks. Please call the Bancroft office's MNO Community Wellness Worker Tracey Dale at 613-332-2575 xt.21 for more details or to book an appointment.



# Louis Riel Day • November 16th, 2008

# TOUJOURS, EN L'HONNEUR DE RIEL

*In many ways November 16th is the saddest day of the year for the Métis nation.*

*It is the day on which, in 1885, Louis Riel was hanged for treason. But by marking this day every year for the past 123 years, and remembering Riel and his fight, Métis people have, perhaps, turned a tragic injustice into inspiration and hope.*

by Marc St. Germain

For the past 16 years the Métis Nation of Ontario has organised gatherings on the lawn of the Provincial Legislature at Queen's Park in Toronto to honour and remember Louis Riel. The gatherings take place at a monument to the soldiers from Ontario who went west in 1885 to fight against Riel and the Métis, in what was called "the Northwest Rebellion". As MNO President, Gary Lipinski, would mention in his speech at the foot of that monument, "there is some irony within that."

Riel Day is a day of commemoration and therefore always a serious and often solemn event, but it is also a celebration of Riel's life and his efforts for Métis rights. This year's Riel Day definitely leaned more in the direction of celebration. Much of that feeling could be attributed to recent breakthroughs in government relations, MNO President Gary Lipinski would explain in his address:

"This year is a year of firsts," said President Lipinski to the large crowd. He went on to list some of the firsts. This was the first time ever the entire Provisional Council was able to be present at a Riel Day ceremony in Toronto. It was also the first time senators and presidents from all the community councils across the province were able to attend the ceremony. It was the first time a president from the Métis Nation-British Columbia (MN-BC President, Bruce Dumont) was able to join the MNO as it remembered Riel. But most significantly:

"It's the first time we meet on these grounds with the province, the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs standing here, about to make an announcement that we are about to enter a new era of recognition

where the hope that we have existed on for the past 138 years...now leads us into a new era of recognition, respect and sets the tone for a new positive relationship with this government," said President Lipinski referring to the historic Framework Agreement that would be signed the following day during the MNO's Special Presidents' Meeting/Annual General Assembly.

The Honourable Brad Duguid, Ontario Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, who spoke after President Lipinski, was also very optimistic about the new relationship the provincial government and the Métis Nation are about to set in motion.

"I am confident that working together we can raise the recognition of the role the Métis Nation has played in the history of this province, in the present of the province and will play in the future of this province," said the minister.

Minister Duguid also paid tribute to Riel in his speech, calling him a man, "who did much for shaping this country we call 'Canada'." Minister Duguid went on to say that, "our multicultural nature, our bilingual nature, much of that comes from the vision and thoughts and work and courage of Louis Riel. I think there are few that have done so much for our country and probably been recognised so little."

France Picotte, the Chair of the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO), acting as master of ceremonies reminded those gathered that:

Je vous invite aujourd'hui comme tous les 16 novembre de venir penser à ce que vous avez fait l'année dernière, mais aussi ce que vous allez faire cette année. Toujours, en l'honneur de

CONTINUED PAGE 19



Métis Nation of Ontario President Gary Lipinski speaking at Louis Riel Day on November 16th, 2008.



Métis Nation - British Columbia President Bruce Dumont.



Métis Nation of Ontario Chair France Picotte.



Senator Earl Scofield, Senator Alis Plante and Senator Elmer Ross carry the colours as they lead a procession from the steps of the Queen's Park Legislature to the Northwest Monument.



Senator Earl Scofield offers an opening prayer at Riel Day ceremonies last November.



REMEMBERING A HERO: Dozens gather on the lawn of the Ontario Legislature at Queen's Park in Toronto to honour the memory of Louis Riel.



## Louis Riel Day • Across the province



**Citizens of the Historic SSM Métis Council gather on the steps of the Sault Ste. Marie Civic Centre following a flag raising ceremony on Riel Day last November.**

### Region 4 | Riel Day Celebrations

by **Niel Trudel**

For those of us who could not attend the Annual General Assembly in Toronto, Louis Riel Day was celebrated at home with Métis people in our local communities. At the Sault Ste. Marie City Centre, Métis veteran, Willard Folz, and city councillor, Lorena Tridico, raised the Métis flag. Brent McHale on behalf of the community gave a heart

warming speech about the local Métis community and all of its achievements.

Following the flag ceremony all in attendance were welcomed to inside festivities held at the local Indian Friendship Centre. Historic Sault Ste. Marie, Métis Nation of Ontario Health Branch worker Michele Dale and local MNO citizen Louise Blais provided soup, moose stew, salad, vegetable trays and dessert. ∞



**Niagara Region Métis Councillor, Val Boese; St. Catharine's Mayor, Brian McMullan; Woman's Rep, Barbaranne Wright; Senator, Stephen Quesnelle; Chair, Derrick Pont; Hon. James J. Bradley, MPP raise the Métis flag in St. Catharines.**

by **Stephen Quesnelle**

This year the Niagara Region Métis Council enjoyed the raising of the Métis flag in both Welland and St. Catharines. This is the first time in the history of the City of St. Catharines that Louis Riel and the Métis Nation were so honoured and the second time in Welland.

"The weather was exceptional! We were so pleased to see so many of our Niagara Region Métis out for this event! It is wonderful to have the support of our leaders publicly. Our goal is to reach all of the Niagara region cities at this very important time of the year! Thank-you to all the Métis citizens who were present at the flag raisings," said Barbaranne Wright.



**The Niagara Region Métis Council and Damian Goulbourne, Mayor of Welland raise the Métis flag for the first time in Welland.**



**ANOTHER FIRST! This year the Durham District School Board head office in Whitby honoured Louis Riel and the Métis Nation by raising the Métis flag.**



**Again this year the Métis flag was raised at the Forks of the Thames in London. Special thanks to Alvin McKay for his ongoing work in the community.**

FROM PAGE 18

Louis Riel, c'est important de regarder en soi même et de regarder ce qu'on fait pour notre nation, ce qu'on fait pour notre héritage, ce qu'on fait pour notre culture, comment on élève nos jeunes, comment ont leurs parlent, ce que ont leurs dits, d'ou ont viens et d'être fière de qui nous sommes. Je crois que c'est très important de faire ceci a toutes les 16 novembre nous donne la chance, en honorant Louis Riel, de regarder en arrière et de regarder en avant puis voir ou ont s'en va.

Tiffany Harrington, the Métis Youth representative from the Oshawa Métis Council, gave a stirring speech that had eyes watering. Even the stoutest Métis choked back emotion as Tiffany evoked Riel's struggles and the ongoing struggles of the Métis people to remember a history and preserve a culture.

Nos ancêtres, notre histoire, notre Chef Louis Riel fondateurs du peuple qu'on est devenu et n'oublie pas de continuer leurs efforts. On ne doit pas demeurer dans le passé, mais au lieu regarder ensemble l'avenir et proclamer nos droits tels que la justice et l'égalité. Nous devons démontrer que nous sommes fiers d'être Métisse.

Tiffany implored the young people in the crowd to treasure the wisdom of their elders, and to strive to live up to Riel's legacy. "It is not an unachievable ideal to try and be the best that we can be; if anything, we are living proof that anything is possible, that justice and equality are



**Métis Youth Tiffany Harrington gives an address .**

attainable. That is what Riel set out to teach us, that each and every person is in fact a leader and that only together can we achieve greatness...." (Tiffany's speech in its entirety is available at [www.metisnation.org](http://www.metisnation.org))

Jean Teillet is a descendent of Louis Riel's younger brother, Joseph, making her the great-grand-niece of Riel, but she is better known as the lawyer who served as lead counsel for Steve and Roddy Powley as they fought

their way to the Supreme Court of Canada and won a landmark decision on Métis harvesting rights in September of 2003. As a tireless fighter for Métis rights, Jean has given many fiery speeches at Riel Days past, but on this day she felt she struck a different note.

"Many many years we have come here and we have been boiling mad at the government for what they have done or what they have not done. And I have

made many a speech that was bitter," said Jean. "I find myself today not feeling that way and very glad about that."

"I am thinking today that things are changing and we need to have some courage...to change from being the warriors and the battlers and become partners with the people here in Ontario who may be ready to work with us for the first time."

Jean said that although she maintained scepticism she was



**Riel family member Jean Teillet.**



**The Honourable Brad Duguid, Ontario Minister of Aboriginal Affairs.**

optimistic that "the times were changing," and she urged former warriors to lay down their weapons and give their best effort to working together. "We'll give it a shot!" she said.

That evening a banquet appropriately capped the day's celebration of Riel's life. Then Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada, the Honourable Michael Ignatieff was kind enough to join the MNO for the festivities and gave the evening's keynote speech.

"I've had a long day in Liberal politics, but a mysterious change came over me when I walked into the room; I saw all those sashes," said Mr. Ignatieff. "The minute I saw those sashes I felt better. My spirits started to lift." (Mr. Ignatieff's keynote speech is available at [www.metisnation.org](http://www.metisnation.org))

Motivated by the voyageur canoe that stood as a sentinel outside the main meeting room at the Day's Hotel, Mr. Ignatieff related an absorbing personal story. He told the tale of his own great-grandfather, George Munroe Grant, who accompanied Sir Sanford Fleming when he crossed Canada in 1872 laying out the line for the transcontinental railroad. Fleming and Grant travelled from Halifax to the Pacific coast in freight canoes with Métis guides fore and aft. Mr. Ignatieff said his grandfather and his companions "understood that they would get nowhere--they might even die-if they didn't depend on the wisdom, the hard work, the knowledge of the trail, the knowledge of the forest, the knowledge of the waters" in the heads of their Métis guides.



## Riel Day Banquet • November 16th, 2008



Justice Todd Ducharme, the first Métis to be appointed to the Ontario Superior Court, swears in the newly elected Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO).

# A FEAST FOR RIEL

*After a busy and eventful Riel Day that included raising the Métis flag at Toronto City Hall and at Queen's Park, and marching to the Northwest Rebellion Monument where speeches were delivered and wreathes were placed, attendees returned to the Day's Inn.*

During the afternoon, the Senators, veterans and Women's Secretariat held meetings (see pages 4-8).

Around 6:00 P.M. a feast that featured venison stew was served to at least 220 people. Asked for her comments, master of ceremonies Monique Raymond-Lefebvre responded: "What can I say about the night of the feast? I was the fortunate one to have been asked to be the emcee."

### NEW PCMNO MEMBERS SWORN IN BY MÉTIS JUSTICE

The evening began when Monique introduced the Honourable Mr. Justice Todd Ducharme who, in 2004, was the first Métis to be appointed to the Ontario Superior Court of Justice. Mr. Ducharme then welcomed everyone and spoke about his appointment and the importance of the role to be played by the new PCMNO who were then introduced. Justice Ducharme assisted with the official swearing-in ceremony.

First to be introduced was Region 1 Councillor, **Theresa Stenlund**, from Kenora. She is a young mother who has returned to school, but remains very active with the youth in her community where she works with Children and Youth Services.

Next, came Region 2 Councillor, **Cameron Burgess**, who grew up in Longlac. Cam has been councillor for the past six years and actively represents the MNO on various boards and committees, including: Confederation College; Diversity of Thun-

der Bay; Grey Wolf Teaching Lodge; Youth Justice Group; Place of Safety, and the Fort William Historical Park.

**Marcel Lafrance**, Region 3 Councillor, comes from the town of Matachewan, about 65 kilometres west of Kirkland Lake. In the spring of 2007 Marcel became a proud college graduate.

Region 5 Councillor, **Maurice Sarrazin**, was introduced next. Maurice was born in Mattawa, a small town 45 kilometres east of North Bay. Maurice retired from the armed forces in 1977 and moved to Sudbury, where he has lived since 1980.

His goal is to create a provincial veterans' council that is funded, organised, and self-reliant. He would also like to create a data base of past and present veterans.

Presently working on a Métis cemetery that has been lost or forgotten, Maurice's goal is to preserve, protect and document this site. This is his second term as councillor.

**Jo-Ann Wass**, Region 6 Councillor, was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba but has been in Ontario since 1991 when she moved to Trenton. In 1996 she moved to Ottawa and became Secretary/Treasurer of the Ottawa Council in 1998. In May of 2008 Jo-Ann became a regional councillor.

She has been a natural health practitioner since 1995, and thanks to MNOTI became a certified nutrition counsellor and sales representative for a homeopathic company.

Jo-Ann was followed by Region 7 Councillor, **Pauline**



PCMNO Chair and MNO President Gary Lipinski make a presentation to Riel Day banquet keynote speaker the Honourable Michael Ignatieff, Deputy Leader of the federal Liberal Party.

**Saulnier** of Midland. Pauline has worked for the Ontario Government since 1987 and is currently the Bilingual Client Service Representative in the Ontario Disability Support Program in Orillia.

Pauline joined the MNO in 1996, and immediately began volunteering as a steering committee member for Métis Child and Family Services. In 1998, she became the Secretary of the Georgian Bay Métis Council (GBMC) and was the President of the Georgian Bay Métis Council from 1999 to 2003.

In addition, Pauline sits on the Rendezvous committee, and holds the portfolio for Art and Culture, Sports and Recreation. She is also Associate Provincial Secretary for Child and Family

Services and was the Chair for Culture of the Annual Assembly committee for 2008. Pauline has been Region 7 Councillor for the past three years.

The Councillor for Region 8, **Charlie Fife**, was born in the foothills of Alberta and spent a good deal of his life living in Banff National Park, before moving to Ontario in early 1998.

Charlie has been a professional performer on and off since childhood. He was President of P.A.C.T. National Performers Union from 1998 to 2002. During this time he was vice-president of the Canadian Media Guild, from 1999 to 2002 (union representing CBC employees), also, from 1998 until 2002 he worked in Canada's film and television industry as a

union official. In addition, Charlie is a carpenter and co-owner of Westerby Contracting in Toronto.

He has been involved with the Oshawa Métis Council for about a year.

The final regional councillor is **Peter Rivers** from Region 9. Peter was born in Sault Saint Marie but moved to Windsor in 1994 where he has been a professional fire fighter and part of the urban search and rescue team for the last 15 years. He has a degree in fire science.

He is also Captain of the Hunt for the area.

Next to be introduced was the Post Secondary Representative, **Anita Tucker**, who was born in Fort Frances. Anita moved to southern Ontario to attend the University of Guelph where she obtained her BSc Honours in wildlife biology, followed by her MSc in wildlife nutrition and by spring 2009 will have her PhD in animal behaviour and physiology.

When her education is complete, Anita plans to get back to her cultural roots and work on issues that are relevant to the MNO.

Following Anita was Executive Senator, **Reta Gordon** who was born and raised in Ottawa. Reta has been involved with the Métis Nation of Ontario since 1993, and became a council Senator in 1999, then, a PCMNO Senator in 2002, and has been Executive Senator since 2003.

Reta represents the Métis Nation at numerous government functions and meetings, where she is proud to meet and educate

CONTINUED PAGE 21





above: **Roger Giroux**. inset: **MNO Primary Care Manager, Lisa Pigeau and her bass, “Big Bertha”**.



**Shelley Gonneville and Senator Bob McKay**.



**Who's under that trademark hat? Answer: It's PCMNO Councillor for Region 8 Charlie Fife.**

#### FROM PAGE 20

people about the Métis, and to explain that the Métis Nation is one of Canada's three Aboriginal peoples. Reta still finds time to volunteer with the Registry Branch.

Next, was Senator **Joseph Poitras** from the Oshawa Council. Originally from Manitoba, he has been in Ontario since 1974, where he has worked as a union representative for QP and a mediator for the Ministry of Labour.

Senator **Ruth Wagner-Millington** was next to be sworn in. Born in Toronto, she is a luthier (a maker of stringed musical instruments) who spent her summers

on St Joseph Island. She now lives in the Muskokas and is an active member of the Moonriver Council.

The final Senator to be introduced was Senator **Gerry Bedford** who was born in Gogama and raised in Skead, just outside of Sudbury. This is his second term.

The executive council was last to be sworn in, beginning with MNO President, **Gary Lipinski**. Gary is from Fort Frances and was first elected as an MNO Councillor for the Sunset Country Métis in 1994. Subsequently, he became Region 1 Councillor on the PCMNO and then Chair, a post he held for the next nine years. In May of 2008, Gary was acclaimed as President of the Métis Nation of Ontario.

Chair, **France Picotte**, followed Gary. France is from Timmins and has previously served as the President of the Timmins Métis Community Council and the Co-Chair of the MNO. France also holds the Health Portfolio

Next, Vice-chair, **Sharon McBride** was called upon. Sharon was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, but has lived in

Germany, Nova Scotia and Ontario. She can trace her Métis ancestry to the historical Ontario Métis community of Penetanguishene.

Sharon became aware of her Métis background in 1999 and since that time has been actively involved within the Métis community. As a volunteer for the Métis Nation, Sharon was the founding president of the Credit River Métis Council in Brampton, and served as Councillor for Region 8.

She is also the spokesperson for the Women's Secretariat of the Métis Nation of Ontario and serves on many different boards and committees in order to ensure that the voice of the Métis Nation is heard. In recognition of her work with Mississauga Heritage and the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation, Sharon was awarded the Ontario Heritage Trust Award. She has received one of the highest honours from her community and has earned two eagle feathers.

Last to be sworn in was Secretary/Treasurer, **Tim Pile**. Tim was born in Geraldton, but traces his Aboriginal roots to Peace River, Alberta.

Since 2001, Tim has been the Secretary/Treasurer of the Métis Nation of Ontario and holds portfolios for Housing, Non-Nuclear Power Development, and most recently, Community Development. In addition, Tim chairs the MNO Finance Committee, and represents the MNO as a member of the Aboriginal Reference Group for the Northern Ontario School of Medicine at Lakehead University.

He has developed an appreciation and respect for our environment, and prioritises this value when developing business initiatives.

#### KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY MICHAEL IGNATIEFF

After the swearing-in ceremonies, President Lipinski gave his opening remarks, and then introduced the special guest speaker, Michael Ignatieff. Mr. Ignatieff was elected as a Member of Parliament for Etobicoke-Lakeshore in 2006, re-elected in 2008, and currently serves as Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada. He is one of Canada's leading voices on the world stage in the field of human rights, democracy and international affairs.

A noted speaker, Mr. Ignatieff has written 16 books, including two of his best known works, *The Rights Revolution*, where he passionately explores Canada's contribution to the progress of individual rights and freedoms around the world, and *Blood and Belonging*, which was inspired by his CBC film of the same name.

He is the recipient of eleven honorary degrees, a Gemini Award from the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television, the Governor-General Award for non-fiction, and was recognised as the Parliamentarian of the Year in 2007.

On the evening of November 16th he shared a blend of family history and respectful views of the Métis for which he received a standing ovation.

Cecile Wagar and the Olivine Bousquet Métis Dancers from the Oshawa Métis Council were then introduced and set toes to tapping with an energetic jiggling display.

France Picotte then took the floor to introduce Thomas Heiman from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and Paul McDonald from Environment Canada's Canadian Wildlife Ser-

vices who did a presentation on The Federal Species at Risk Act.

Next came the presentation of the Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award which was presented to Richard Sarrazin. Not only does this man volunteer countless hours as the Sudbury Métis Community Council President, but also as the Region 5 Captain of the Hunt.

#### VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

The Métis Nation of Ontario is proud to have named Richard Sarrazin the 2008 Volunteer of the Year! (see more on page 15).

The evening was then turned over to Lisa Pigeau, the new Manager of Primary Care, who was the master of ceremonies for the evening's musical entertainment—all of it volunteer—that featured several Métis entertainers including Ruth Wagner-Millington, Charlie Fife, Loma Rowlinson, Nicolas Delebaere-Sawchuk, Roger and Aline Giroux, and Ray Girard, Leora Wilson, Elmer Ross and of course, Lisa Pigeau.

To the delight of delegates and audience alike, the evening ended by bringing the campfire indoors (albeit without the fire) and found our performers in a large circle in the middle of the ballroom providing a wonderful improvisational jam session with all of our Métis artists present.

"To say the least, this was a great day of celebration. I remember growing up where everyone gathered, told stories, shared a few tears, and jammed with family and friends. This is where I am thankful for my parents, family and friends, as well as my extended Métis family and how the AGA touches my heart year after year," said Monique Raymond-Lefebvre.







A Bitter Legacy:

In the last edition of the *Voyageur* we printed a number of reactions to the apology delivered by Prime Minister Harper on June 11th, 2008, in the House of Commons. These responses were largely in reply to an open letter written by Loma Rowlinson. The following letter proceeds from this shared correspondence. — LL

Truth is truth

by Ruth Robbins

**THANK YOU** Loma for sharing your father’s experiences in the *Voyageur* as you reflect on the apologies our government has offered survivors of residential schools.

It is awesome that Dalton (Loma’s son) shares information with teachers and students on the residential school system. I am well aware of the difficulties in sharing these experiences as people who have not heard of the residential school experience and do not understand it have a tendency to not believe the facts, and because of this, speakers are judged in negative ways. However, the bottom line is, truth is truth, therefore, Dalton, I hope you continue to speak about this as every time you do this honours your grandfather.

**I WOULD LIKE TO THANK JAMIE PANCO-FOX FOR SHEDDING LIGHT ON THE 60’S SCOOP. I AM AN ADULT CHILD OF THIS ERA.**

I would like to thank Jamie Panco-Fox for shedding light on the 60’s scoop. I am an adult child of this era. I along with many Aboriginal adult children of the 60’s scoop believe that there were three definite removals of Aboriginal children from their homes. The first, was the church run residential school system which lasted over 100 years; the second, was the adoption era run by adoption agencies where Aboriginal children were adopted all over the world; and, the third was the Children’s Aid Societies’ (CAS) 60s scoop. Although the usage of the term “60s scoop” leads one to believe that this happened in the 60s and has ended, we believe this is con-

CONTINUED PAGE 34

GREY-OWEN SOUND MÉTIS COUNCIL NEWS:  
**Council brings Métis culture to community**

By Senator Leora Wilson



Leora Wilson

On September 26, 2008, the Bluewater District Board of Education partnered with Aboriginal communities in their district to provide cultural awareness with a focus on respect for the benefit of the 2,000 employees of the school board.

Speaker for the day was Dr. Pamela Rose Toulouse from Laurentian University in Sudbury whose article on *Supporting Aboriginal Student Success: Self Esteem and Identity* is highly respected in the education system.

Chief Randall Kahgee and Chief Ralph Akiwenzie from the Saugeen and Cape Croker First Nations' Councils, and Senator Roland St Germain representing the Métis community, welcomed the employee body.

The Harry Lumley Bayshore Community Centre was the venue chosen for the Métis community to illustrate their cultural heritage and to provide entertainment in Métis style.

On behalf of the Métis Nation of Ontario, PCMNO Senator Roland St.Germain welcomed the 2,000 employees of the Bluewater District Board of Education to the events of the day.

The Senator and his wife, Jane St.Germain provided a condensed cultural display, with backboards showing the time line of the Métis movement. The St.Germains also set up an extensive book display

Plans are under way for the 2009 picnic and volunteers are being sought. If you have any ideas for making the picnic an even greater success, particularly any events and/or activities encouraging the interest and involvement of youth, please don’t hesitate to get in touch with us.

With a year of studies behind me, and only one more to go, what better way to express myself than in writing?

Nearly two years ago I realised how passionate I was about the art of writing, and wanted to study journalism. I perused different colleges and universities and was beyond satisfied when I decided on Sheridan College’s Print Journalism program. I was ecstatic when I found out I was accepted and couldn’t wait to start learning all aspects of writing and creating media.

The first few months were a struggle, as I was faced with a workload much beyond anything I had experienced in high school. I was in a school that occupied more than a city block, with thousands of people I didn’t know. I combated my fears by immersing myself fully in my studies and it certainly paid off.

In addition to academic worries, I started to become anxious about finances. How would I pay my rent? Would I have enough money for groceries? But I didn’t allow these worries to interfere with my dedication to school. I began working a part-time job answering phones at a dance studio, and spent many nights awake until 3:00 or 4:00 A.M. finishing homework assignments and studying for tests. My grades were threatened when I realised how absolutely exhausted I was,



Rebekah Wilson

By Rebekah Wilson

June 24th, 2008, marked another special National Aboriginal Day picnic for the Grey-Owen Sound Métis, this time in special collaboration with the Grey Roots Museum in Owen Sound.

We’d like to thank Petal Funness and Grey Roots for their unrelenting support, which was integral to having the day happen. Scott Carpenter from Midland was there with his wonderful display of historic Métis artefacts. After the “grand entry”, a delicious picnic meal was enjoyed by all attendees. Then games for the youth were paramount, with snowshoe races being the most enjoyed.

The Brenda Willis Band, Rudy and Jean Couture, Dave Dillon and Cavan Young performed in the main theatre inside the museum, while outside, draws were being made for give-aways. Thanks are due to the Métis volunteers who donated gifts, as well as Country 93, who dropped in later in the day to donate more prizes.

and resource list that specifically targets Métis history and customs.

Rudy Couture joined in the proceedings and along with myself, entertained the group with Métis fiddling and turtulage (spoon playing).

During the afternoon agenda, Jim McLay, President of the Sagingue Métis Council spoke with much passion on the history of the Métis people in the Georgian Bay region.

Cecile Wagar, manager of the Olivine Bousquet Métis Dancers, in co-operation with the Oshawa Métis Council, brought several members of her wonderfully talented group of young Métis jiggers to show their abilities.

The Métis influence in this area was made very evident to the members of the school board, and we hope that they comprehend that as an Aboriginal culture we are characteristically different from the First Nations.

Our grandmothers, or great grandmothers, were born First Nations women, and married the European fur traders and voyageurs. Both brought their unique lifestyle, and the combination of the two cultures made existence in the untamed country of that era more manageable. The children of this union became mixed blood (Métis), and the distinctive Métis culture was created.

We wish to thank the Bluewater District School Board for their organisation and inclusion of the Métis Nation in this “Bluewater Character Development” Day.

**Vest Workshop, Jigging Class?**

After our very successful mocasin workshop in March, 2008, we are considering a leather vest workshop for this winter. We are also considering a jigging class for youth, adults, or both. Interested? Please let us know.

**Are you able to help with the 2009 Métis Summer Picnic?**

If so, let us know! Call Leora (519-986-2746) Jeff (519-923-9160) or any GOSMC council member.

For information on Métis Community happenings or assistance with problems concerning your membership, contact Leora or Malcolm at 519-376-1922.

and needed a solution.

At exactly the right moment, I received a phone call notifying me of my acceptance for funding by the MNOTI. I was so grateful, and suddenly had a new-found appreciation for my background. I could once again focus all of my energies on studying and preparing for my future career.

Funding from the MNOTI has greatly enhanced my college experience, and made me appreciate the gifts that I have been given. I hope that when I am finished my time here at Sheridan, I will be a great representative of the talents that Métis and Aboriginal youth have to offer.

**ATTENTION:**  
MNO CITIZENS IN  
NIAGARA REGION  
**NIAGARA REGION  
MÉTIS  
COUNCIL TO  
HOLD FIRST  
GENERAL  
MEETING**

The **Niagara Region Métis Council** will hold its first general meeting on February 16, 2009, from 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. The council encourages all Métis citizens living in the Niagara region to attend this very important gathering being held at Rice Road Community Church located right across from Niagara College at 305 Rice Road in Welland.

The meeting provides an opportunity for Métis citizens to meet the newly elected council (see page 36) and discuss events planned for the year. Your input in planning the future direction of the council is critical to the development of a local organization that will meet the needs of Métis citizens in the Niagara region.

Refreshments will be served. In order to ensure there are ample refreshments for all, please call the office at 905-714-9756 and let us know if you are planning to attend.

Niagara Region Métis Council  
20 Division Street  
PH: 905-714-9756  
niagararegionmetiscouncil@gmail.com

**Métis Cookhouse**  
by Gail LeBlanc

For the mussel lover, here's a recipe we picked up in New-foundland while visiting.

**Steamed Mussels in Garlic Cream Sauce**

3 lbs mussels, cleaned
2 beers
1 tsp salt
1 tsp butter or margarine
juice from a medium lemon
1/4 cup chopped parsley
1/2 cup chopped red onion
1 tsp chopped garlic
1 cup (35%) whipping cream

In a saucepan, combine the butter, lemon juice and parsley. Melt and set aside.

In a large stockpot, place beer and salt. Cover and boil. Add mussels, chopped red onion and chopped garlic and steam until mussels open.

Add the whipping cream to reserved juice and reduce to 1-1/2 cups. Add chopped parsley mixture and pour over mussels.

Enjoy.



## NIAGARA REGIONAL MÉTIS COUNCIL:

# Celebrating the harvest with goose pot pie

By Stephen Quesnelle

The Niagara Region Métis had their Annual Harvest Potluck Dinner this year on November 28, 2008. Rebecca Vander Sanden, Co-ordinator of Healthy Babies, Healthy Children, whose program sponsored the event and Tammy Wintle, Long Term Care Co-ordinator, planned the dinner with the help of some of our ladies and members of the Niagara Region Métis Council, who made it the success it was.

The dinner was attended by Métis citizens, their families and friends. There were more than 70 in attendance. Wild game, such as moose, deer, bear, and goose, was supplied by our Métis harvesters, and appeared on the table as apple cider deer stew, moose, bear and goose pot pie, and roast goose and roast bear loin, all beautifully and deliciously prepared by the skilled hands of Chef Michael Cyr and the Grade 12 culinary students of Confederation High School in Welland. We were also blessed with Métis citizens bringing their family favourites, such as, venison stew, roast turkey, roast pork,



left to right, kneeling: **Richard Paquette, President; Rebecca Vander Sanden, Healthy Babies, Healthy Children.** Standing: **Senator Stephen Quesnelle; Tammy Wintle, Long Term Care Co-ordinator; Sandy O'Dell, Welland Councillor; Patricia Knight, Councillor; Barbaranne Wright, Women's Rep; Valerie Boese, Councillor; Paul Grenier, Welland's Deputy Mayor.**

Hungarian stew, various potato and sweet potato dishes, and salads--culinary delights one and all--and we also received a generous supply of lasagne contributed by Welland's Mayor, Damien Goulbourne on behalf of the city. There were numerous other dishes--too many to list here. We, here in the Niagara Region, as in many other Métis communities,

have some of the best cooks in our country.

The dinner was attended by the newly elected member of parliament for Welland, the Hon. Malcolm Allen of the NDP and his wife, as well as, Deputy Mayor, Paul Grenier, a Métis, who supplied all of the 'new green' compostable plates, cups, knives, spoons and forks. We were also

joined by PCMNO Region 9 Councillor, Peter Rivers and his wife, Jody (see page 2) and PCMNO Region 8 Councillor, Charlie Fife and his wife Maggie. Councillor Sandy O'Dell of Welland, and Glen Lipinski, Addictions Wellness Co-ordinator, had a table with information on Responsible Gambling.

As Senator of the Niagara Region Métis Council, I would like to give a great big thank you to everyone who attended our dinner, to all the families who brought food, and to everyone who helped to organise this year's meal, and to everyone who donated supplies and their time. Without all your help, the dinner would not have been such a great success. There are many more to thank, and to those I have forgotten to mention please forgive me. To those citizens who were unable to attend this year's celebration of our harvester dinner, we look forward to seeing you at next year's celebrations.

Stephen Quesnelle / Senator  
Niagara Region Métis Council  
20 Division St., Welland Ont.  
Tel: 905-714-9756  
TF: 866-826-2116  
quesnelles@cogeco.ca

## Northumberland Métis Council:

# AND MANY MORE...

By Kathy Bazley

The Northumberland Métis Council celebrated its fifth anniversary as a council at its meeting held in September, 2008. The evening began with an opening prayer offered by Senator Audrey Vallee. Council members, their families and friends, as well as Region 7 Councillor, Pauline Saulnier, Oshawa Métis Council members and others came together for a pot luck supper where everyone had an opportunity to sample traditional foods as well as some family favourites.

In the five years since this council was formed, members have worked hard to make their presence in the area known by participating in a variety of events, making monetary donations to various charities and collecting and contributing Canadian Tire money to the local Salvation Army for its Christmas toy drive.

Council members have also attended many events throughout the province including Louis Riel Days in both Oshawa and Toronto, yearly AGAs, the Toronto Aboriginal Festival and Duty to Consult meetings, to name a few.

Our council president also sits as a member of the Aboriginal Steering Committee at the local Catholic School Board. Although small in numbers, we are big on making our presence known and look forward to many more challenges in the future.



**Northumberland Métis Council President Wayne Trudeau**



**William (left) and Joshua Trudeau**

### A Proud Métis Dad

It was a proud day in October for Northumberland Métis Council President Wayne Trudeau when both his sons, William and Joshua, were presented with their citizenship cards. Both of Wayne's sons hold positions within the council and are kept busy attending various meetings and events. Congratulations to Wayne and his sons.



## MNO's newest Métis Council - "Seven Rivers"

By Linda Lord

On November 1st, a new council joined the MNO family of community councils. With the capable guidance of Hank Rowlinson (Manager Community Relations), Region 6 citizens gathered in Northbrook to form The Seven Rivers Métis Council.

Hank spoke to those in attendance--perhaps 40 people, some of whom had driven more than an hour--about what a council means. He included information about the Harvester's Card and the Powley case, pointing out that harvesting rights are not an "individual right" but a "community right". He also talked about the other benefits available to MNO citizens through their local councils, such as training, upgrading, self-employment and summer jobs. The MNO's scholarship and bursary program helps MNO students at 32 colleges and universities. In addition there is an ever-growing number of health programs.

An interim council was elected: President, Ed Lloyd; Chair, Scott Lloyd; Secretary/Treasurer, Gwen Wannamaker; Senator, Thomas Thompson; Women's Representative, Eleanor Parsons; Youth Representative, Deidre Thompson; and, Councillors, Tom Thompson; Nora Timmerman; Jason Marcotte; Robert Lloyd, and Candace Gomez.

The Seven Rivers Métis Council, named for the Mississippi, Moira, Napanee, Salmon, Clair, Scootamata and Black Rivers, encompasses the largest area of any council in Ontario and includes 170 currently registered MNO citizens. It is the 28th MNO Community Council.

Only a month after its formation, the Seven Rivers Métis Council entered a float in the Northbrook Santa Claus parade and won the \$150. second prize.

CONTACT: **Ed Lloyd**  
Box 74, Northbrook, ON  
Tel: 613-336-9501

## THE HUNT:



## A Father's Blessings Came True

By Richard Aubin

During a family meal while sharing memories and laughter, my father (Raymond) took a moment to bless me. Dad confirmed I would have a successful harvest this fall after being unsuccessful at hunting moose for a couple years.

He was for the first time unable to hunt with us due to his days being numbered after a hard fight with cancer. He was re-born to begin his days in Heaven on March 25, 2008.

Before leaving us I made him promise to get a day pass from Heaven and hunt with me in spirit and to bring with him his father and brothers to help chase moose in my direction.

**I GAVE TWO THUMBS UP TO DAD AND MY RELATIVES FOR THE BLESSING AND THANKED THE CREATOR FOR THE MOOSE**

In mid-November came our last day to hunt for the year, and his blessings were honoured as my son and I have been successful in harvesting our wild game for the winter.

I gave two thumbs up to Dad and my relatives for the blessing and thanked the Creator for the moose. Tobacco was offered; two Métis sashes were hung in a balsam tree, (as well as dad's harvesting card) in front of the moose to remind us as we worked that he was still present.

It was a great day to be Métis. Marci.



Métis Writers:

# Poetry that comes from a “Métis Heart”

By Nina Henley

The Kenora Métis Council would like to introduce you to one of our very talented local citizens. Calvin Harasemchuk is a Métis from northern Ontario. He was born in Winnipeg and moved to Kenora at a young age. He started writing poetry very young. Sketching and song writing are among his talents. Growing up in the country, all he had were his books. His dad had a construction company so Calvin learned at an early age to run heavy equipment.

In 1980, Calvin began his police career, living in Pickle Lake, then moving back to Kenora. There he met the love of his life, Frances. Calvin—ever the romantic—proposed after just two weeks of dating. Calvin, Frances, and son, Christopher soon moved back to Pickle Lake, and a new addition arrived, William.

Calvin also served on the fire department in Pickle Lake. In 1987, Calvin and family moved to Red Rock. He was involved with local events and clubs, serving the local school board as vice-chair, president of non-profit housing, Lions Club, playing hockey as a goalie, and he was also a member of the baseball league.

“Calvin the cop”, as he was known locally, decided in 1993 to join Emergency Measures Ontario, until 1994, when he joined the Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service, as a staff sergeant. Calvin moved his family

to the far north on the coast of James Bay, Kashechewan, then to Porquis Junction.

In 1995 they moved back to Kenora where they still reside.

Calvin, somewhat retired, has worked for the Ministry of Transportation as an equipment operator and a foreman, as a security manager for the Golden Eagle Casino, a security chief for Minaki Lodge, and as a grader operator for a local construction company. Somehow, along the way, he managed to get his BSc and MSc.

Both of his sons have graduated from the University of Waterloo. Chris married in 2006 to Jenn, and they recently added a first grandchild, Andrew, born August 1st. Will is still looking. All of the children live in Vancouver.

Looking at Calvin, one wouldn't think he would be the type to write poetry; he is 6'5", a big bear of a man. He is though, a big soft, cuddly teddy bear! He has gathered a collection of his poems in a wonderful book called, *Life, Love and Heartache...Poems of the Northern Lights*, published by Authorhouse 6/23/2008.

Books may be purchased from chapters.ca, under rare books, amazon.ca, Barnes and Noble, as well as Authorhouse.com/Book Store.

Calvin has written a poem titled, *Métis Heart*. He has allowed us to share this poem with the Métis citizens in Kenora and now here for all of the MNO to read...

## Métis Heart

Deep inside me, there beats a Métis heart  
Two worlds we are, cultures far apart,  
We stand between two shores,  
A love for each we adore,  
This Métis heart marches to a drum beat,  
Sounds of a fiddle to me, sound so sweet,  
The Métis sash I wear with pride,  
For the Métis flag, many have died,  
Born of mixed breeds, from the fields of gold,  
Wishing for our own land, so the story goes,  
Many a Métis suffered in pain,  
Waiting for that special day,  
Fighting for our rights in our war,  
First with bullets, then with words,  
We shall never give up we swore,  
The pen is mightier than the sword,  
Over the years little glimmers of hope,  
Many a tear cried,  
Recognition of our Nation at the most,  
Our Métis hearts have come a long way,  
Many a journey we have made,  
Our Nation still survives,  
Governments will grant our rights one day,  
The Métis heart will never bleed,  
Then all people will live together in peace and harmony....

By Calvin Harasemchuk ©2008



Kenora seniors visit our Métis brothers and sisters in Manitoba.

# Kenora seniors get some Métis culture in the ‘Peg

By Nina Henley

It took me a couple of weeks of phone calls and making arrangements for the Kenora Métis Council to be able to take a group of seniors on an educational tour to Winnipeg.

On October 3rd, 2008, a chartered Excel Coach Lines bus picked up the group of seniors at 6:30 A.M. We then continued on to Keewatin to The Maples to make a second pick-up. There were 35 of us in total, including the bus driver.

I waited until we were on the Trans-Canada Highway, and I welcomed everyone on the tour. I introduced the council members and staff present and spelled out what they were to expect during the day, and explained the rules of etiquette while on the bus. After my little speech we handed out donuts, muffins and bottled water. Cyndi Laliberte spoke to the seniors about the Warmth and Wellness group (see page 25). She explained that the group meets every Tuesday and knits hats, scarves, mitts, sweaters, blankets, etc. for the less fortunate and she spoke on what they have accomplished to date. She then passed out a newsletter about their program, with information and phone numbers if others would like to come out and join the group or if they would like to do some volunteer

knitting from the comforts of their own homes.

Our first stop was a scheduled tour of the St. Boniface Museum. The Director, Philippe Mailot, split the group into three smaller groups, and had each group go with their tour guide. The tour was quite fascinating, especially the area concentrating on Louis Riel, his sash, his coffin, and all his other artefacts.

We then walked over to the St. Boniface Cathedral and cemetery. This is a very beautiful church. As prayer was going on inside the church, we were only allowed to go into the foyer. We could still view the church through the large windows. The Director spoke about the old cathedral that had burned down, and the building of the new church. The new church is circled by the walls of the old cathedral. The cemetery was very interesting. It holds the tombstones of Louis Riel and his parents, Jean-Baptiste Lagimodiere and Marie-Anne Gaboury, among others.

We then boarded the bus for a ten minute ride over to the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF). We were served lunch in the cafeteria by Al Dejarlais and his staff. We had stew, bannock, dessert, coffee, tea, or juice. After everyone

finished lunch, the Co-ordinator of Métis Heritage and History Research, Lawrence Barkwell, and his assistant, Sasha Marshall, gave us a mini-tour of the building. We got to see President Chartrand's office and also Pemmican Publications. Many people purchased a book titled *Métis Legacy II* which was co-written by Mr. Barkwell. He was kind enough to autograph the books. After the tour, we all gathered outside the MMF building for a group photo.

From there we headed to the Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature. We were a bit early for the tour, so everyone had a chance to visit the museum gift shop. We were then split up into three groups and each group was lead by a tour guide. We were only scheduled to tour two of the eight galleries: The Hudson's Bay Company Gallery and the Grasslands Gallery. To our surprise, we were given the entire eight gallery tour. A couple of the seniors were a little tired and only took in part of the tour, waiting in the lobby for the rest of us to complete the tour.

We then boarded the bus for the trip home. Everyone seemed to have a terrific time, and many asked to be considered if we ever do this again.



# A reminder to Harvester Certificate holders

Make sure you carry your Harvester Certificate at all times and are ready to show your Métis identification to the MNR enforcement officer.

Clearly identify yourself as Métis and state that you are exercising your Métis right to harvest food. This is very Important. If you do not identify as Métis, then a different law and, or regulations may be applied to your harvesting activities. Claiming a Métis right after you did not identify as Métis or identified as something else, may be prob-



Captain's Corner

by KEN SIMARD  
CAPTAIN OF THE HUNT, REG. 2

lematic for administrative and legal purposes.

Be calm and courteous throughout the encounter. Being confrontational with the MNR officer will not be helpful. Make it known to the enforce-

ment officer that you were harvesting for food, social or ceremonial purposes--whichever applies.

You do not need to provide any additional information about Métis rights or the Powley Case. Ask for the enforcement officer's name and identification number. Then, report any encounter, seizure, or charges to your respective Métis Nation of Ontario Council or the Captain of the Hunt in your region immediately.



Powley Day, September 19th | **Sault Ste. Marie**



left to right, back row: **Evelyn Powley; Art Bennett, North Shore Métis Council President; Kim Powley, Treasurer Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council; Anne Trudel, PCMNO Region 4; Rod Powley; Brenda Powley, Senator Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council; Jacques Leroux, Senator North Shore Métis Council.** Front row: **Louise Blais, Secretary Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council; Carla Labbe, Councillor Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council; Geri Powley; Joni Labbe, Provincial Youth Representative Region 4; and, John Konawalchuk, Vice- president, Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council.**

# CELEBRATING POWLEY DAY

By **Neil Trudel**

On September 19, 2008, Powley Day Celebrations were well attended at the John Wesley United Church. The Historic Sault Ste Marie Métis Council provided funding for a free community meal (pasta, meatballs, bread, salad, dessert, and refreshments) for all Region 4 MNO citizens.

Representatives from both the North Shore Métis Council and the Historic Sault Ste. Marie Council attended the celebration and gave short speeches about what the Powley decision had achieved.

During the meal those in attendance enjoyed a slide show of northern lights from the Northwest Territories taken by Interim President Art Bennett of the North Shore Métis Council.

Next, was a short presentation about the achievements of the Métis Nation of Ontario including Rod and Steve Powley at the Supreme Court of Canada. This was followed by highlights from



**The band, “Norm & Friends” with Lorne Trumble (left), Norm Parlowe (middle) and Gerry Martel (right).**

Region 4 events such as Louis Riel Day, Aboriginal Day, and local Métis artists along with their crafts, workshops and various activities. Then a video was shown of the Métis Dance Club, and finally the programs offered at the local Sault Métis Centre. The presentation was developed by Neil Trudel and was presented

by Anne Trudel PCMNO.

Overall it was an exciting day, and both Métis councils in the region wish to thank all of the volunteers who helped to make the event such a success. This was a day that celebrated the Métis right to hunt—a right that should never have been questioned.

Grand River Métis Community Council

# NIIMKI is up a creek without a paddle

By **Barbara Gingras**

As many of you are aware, in my previous article the Grand River Community Métis Council was anxiously awaiting the arrival of Niimki, our special canoe. It is with great pleasure that I announce that Niimki has arrived! This amazing piece of artwork, hand crafted by Marcel Labelle, is resting peacefully until her journey to the raffle and her historic launch in the spring.

Council is busy preparing for the raffle, the ceremony, and her launch into the Grand River. With these preparations underway, we find ourselves nearing the river without a paddle! We have this spiritually charged canoe but—alas—we have no paddles! It is our hope that we can align ourselves with a Métis citizen who can craft paddles. After all, we would like Niimki to be complete when she is hand-



**Grand River MC’s hand-crafted canoe, Niimki, needs paddles.**

ed off to the lucky person who wins this generational canoe.

If anyone crafts paddles, or knows of someone who does, please have them contact the Grand River Métis council at: metisofgrandriver@hotmail.com

**AGA update:** Secretary/Treasurer Sandra O’Brien and I attended this assembly. Lots of laughter, and even some tears. We met some wonderful people there. Thanks to the MNO for this opportunity.

Grand River Métis Council members:

President <b>Barbara Gingras</b>	Chair <b>Cheryl Lee Foon</b>	Senator <b>Janette Lévis</b>	Sec/Tres <b>Sandra O'Brien</b>
Women's Rep <b>Janique Labelle</b>	Councillor <b>Sean Paquet</b>	Councillor <b>Don Crawford</b>	Councillor <b>Carol Lévis</b>

THE KENORA MÉTIS WARMTH AND WELLNESS GROUP:

# Kenora group knits for a good cause

By **Cyndy Laliberte**

We thought we should provide you with an update on our project which started on July 22/08 at the suggestion of our Senator, Emily Quirk. With the assistance of funding through the New Horizons of Ontario Program (NHSP) and the many donations of wool and knitted or crocheted items we continue on our journey.

We have a very dedicated group of women who arrive consistently every week with smiles on their faces and crafts in hand. They are proud of their accomplishments and hope people know that “WE CARE”.

The group members continue to meet at the Métis hall despite the fact that funding ended at the end of October 2008. We purchased lots of wool and other



**Kenora Warmth and Wellness Group members: Autumn, Pat, Marie, Tanya, Jo Jo, Margaret, Wendy, Roberta, Cyndy, Vera and Senator Emily.**

supplies so we will be able to continue for a long time.

We have donated a total of seventy-two packages (to date) of hats, scarves and mitts. We have developed a good relationship with our Ontario Works Program and two of the schools in the area. We receive a call every Tuesday and are told what items are

required. We have received numerous positive comments from the community. People like the fact that these items given to them require no personal information and they remain anonymous.

Our members of the group were asked “Why do you come here every week?” Their replies were: “I joined the WW because it gave me the opportunity to take something I love to do and use it to make a difference in someone’s life.” “I feel great knitting and knowing that I’ll be keeping someone warm. It warms your heart knowing you’re helping someone. I’ve also met such

good friends here.” “It’s a joy to see the look on ones face however young to have finished an article.” Those were just a few of the comments but you can see that everyone is dedicated to our mission “to ensure that warm hats, mitts and scarves are available to those in need.”

The ladies are quite proud of the number of items which have been made: 74 pairs of mitts, 107 scarves, 65 hats, 37 socks, 11 lap blankets (these were made by a 92 yr. old grandmother). There have been many articles made by people in the community and dropped off at the Métis office. We supply most of the wool and they arrange to have these items dropped off.

We still challenge other communities out there to start their own group. If you have any questions on how we started our

group please feel free to contact me, Cyndy Laliberte, at kmc@voyageur.ca and we will be happy to assist you.

.....

*Days End*

No day’s complete without crocheting or knitting  
I have to let my fingers play.  
They have tapped the typewriters keys by day-  
Worked hard to earn their pay.  
But when evenings come and all is relaxed and dinner past  
The Warmth and Wellness Group Rises up –  
There’s nothing like a hook and thread or yarn to tease a weary head.  
The work flows through happy hands.  
As pleasure meets its own demands.”  
We wish all of you “Happy knitting”

By **Wendy Langois**



Métis Youth

# Métis completing Queens U's Aboriginal Teachers program

By Alison Powell

I started at Queen's University this past fall in the Faculty of Education. I am in a program called "Aboriginal Teachers Education Program" (ATEP). I will be graduating from Queen's in the spring of 2009 and I will be a qualified teacher, with my focus on Aboriginal studies. I wouldn't have been able to achieve this without support from the Northwest Métis Nation of Ontario where I was lucky enough to be a summer student receptionist in the Dryden office.

Special thanks to Alvina Cimon, who was always kind to me and who was an excellent boss, and to Dana O'Donnell, who found funding so I could have this wonderful opportunity.

The ATEP is a strong and supportive department within the faculty. The goal of this program is to educate students in situations that surround Aboriginal students. In classes, we revisit Aboriginal history, consider the challenges and celebrate the achievements that Aboriginal people have made in the education system while recognising the struggles that still need to be overcome. The classes, which take place in an open atmosphere of learning and sharing,



Métis teacher-in-training Alison Powell at Queen's University's Powwow.

are supportive and safe. I have grown as an individual, as a teacher and as Métis women.

I was thrilled to volunteer at a powwow that was held on Queen's main campus at the end of September. The morning started with a sunrise ceremony followed by a pipe ceremony provided by a member of the Turtle Clan. Next, the fire keeper honoured the spirits by offering tobacco to the fire. As well, I had the opportunity to speak with a Bear Clan chief and other Elders

“ I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ACHIEVE THIS WITHOUT SUPPORT FROM THE NORTHWEST MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO. ”

from the community. This was a very spiritual event and I was grateful to have been a part of it. Later, I helped set up signs and

did other jobs that needed to be done to start the powwow. During the day, I viewed unique and spiritual dances, among them an amazing hoop dancer. I bought local handmade crafts and at the end of the night, I was invited to a dinner, which was provided by the Four Directions Aboriginal community at Queen's. I took some beautiful pictures of this event and I know my experiences here will last me a lifetime.



## Heroes come in all sizes

Carol-lyn Contois, a seven year old participant in the Aboriginal Healing and Wellness program at the Georgian Bay Métis Council, has donated 20 inches of her hair to make wigs for children with cancer. Her hair was cut on July 4th to honour members of her own family who are battling cancer. She is planning to donate again when her hair grows back.



MÉTIS YOUTH GROUP: REGION 6

## Holistic health promotion for youth

On August 26, 2008, the Métis Youth Group/Council "MYG/C" (Region 6) met to discuss the future of Ontario's youth. During the meeting it was decided to establish a youth mentoring program. From this discussion BLUE EAGLE was established with an objective of starting a mentoring program for Region 6 youth. At present, the mentoring activity is very small—just a seed—but it is hoped that it will grow into a healthy and strong tree.

For now, Daniel Gilbeau, a member of the Ottawa Regional Métis Council (ORMC) and the MYG/C is mentoring his son Zachary Gilbeau—acting chair of MYG/C. Dan is doing an excellent job and it is hoped that he will be an inspiration for other mentors.

Zack Gilbeau has his photo taken with some memorable guests who attended the 25th anniversary celebration, workshop and gala of the Métis National Council on September 17, 2008.



## LETTERS TO THE VOYAGEUR:

Letters that appear in this section are neither the thoughts of the MNO nor the *Métis Voyageur* but rather, of the individuals writing them.

# Thoughts on traditional adoption

By Shaun Redmond

Let me start with saying these are my views, I know others agree with me, they tell me so. I know other don't agree. Oh well. So who are these people coming up with what I perceive to be these strange rules?

In September, I was asked to attend the Pow Wow at Queens University. I was pleased to see a contingent of Aboriginal candidates from across Canada, involved with the Canadian Forces program to attract Aboriginal members. After speaking to a number of them I once again saw how far the concept of self-identification has crept into Canadian society. Individuals, there, calling

themselves Métis would never meet the "Powley Test" nor the MNC definition of Métis. It was also evident that you did not have to be from a First Nation to call yourself an Indian. This type of belief is dangerous and will eventually erode our historic position and consequently be of great harm to our position within Canada as Aboriginal peoples.

The real kicker came when I was approached by an individual claiming herself to be Métis, based on adoption. We are not talking of adoption by Métis, but rather a "traditional adoption" by a Cree couple. The Cree couple had of course passed over, so no attesta-



tion by them could be provided. I had to ask how adoption by Indians could make one a Métis. Are we not a distinct Aboriginal people with rights protected by the Crown of Canada? Several years ago an officer in the Canadian Forces advised me that a grandmother "so and so" had instructed her in the ways of the ancestors. However, since she was not First Nations she was now Métis. Others have recently told me of individuals being "traditional-

ly adopted" by some Métis individual(s) so that those "traditionally adopted" could enjoy historic Métis rights (economic gain).

Now wait a minute! What the heck is going on here? What is in these people's minds? Is my status as a Métis so cheap that you can treat it like a commodity? I think Not!

Please, someone, anyone, show me the historical documents where the Métis "traditionally adopted" people into their Nation (communities). Where is the indisputable proof of this? If First Nation traditional adoptions were historically recorded then I'm play the "doubting Thomas" and say show me the proof that the Métis did this.

### CAPTIVE CHILDREN

I descend, as do a number within my community, from captive children. I and others here in my community tie back into the historic Deerfield Raid (Deerfield Mass., USA-1704), when over 100 captives were brought north. My children descend from no fewer than five captive children. Some of these children, after spending time with the Indi-



## Métis Traditions | Dog Sleds



ILLUSTRATION: National Archives of Canada

# A Voyageur and his Dog

by Linda Lord

As a people, we Métis fondly embrace our culture and its icons, such as the infinity symbol and the sash. We are proud to trace our ancestry back to hardy voyageurs; we learn to jig and to play the fiddle. Some of us cultivate hand skills, like beading, making snowshoes, building canoes or carving. Throughout our history we have had a close relationship with animals, not just as a source of food or hides, but also as help mates and valued companions.

The Métis used dogs, horses and oxen to pull a variety of carts, wagons, toboggans and sleighs. In the winter, dogs pulled toboggans made from willow frames and covered with a wet rawhide that was shaped over the frame and left to freeze. In the spring when the rawhide thawed, it was cut up for mending snowshoes, or other uses.

Dog sleds were a tool that neither the fur trade nor the Métis could survive without. The dog sled was a vital form of winter transportation for the fur traders of both the Hudson's Bay Company and the North West Company. The dog sleds used seem to have had two basic designs—the open 'sledge', and the enclosed 'cariole'. Sledges were used routinely in the fur trade as early as 1797, and possibly earlier. Some drawings from after 1821 show sledges shaped very much like a toboggan, but with a higher front curl. These sledges were pulled by one to four dogs harnessed in a line. Carioles seem to have been less commonly used than sledges, but better documented.

The Métis also fashioned blankets and jackets for dogs pulling sleds or carrying goods on their backs. These outfits were not just simple pieces of cloth or leather cut to fit the animal but were highly decorated with beadwork, bells, feathers, quill-work or embroidery, and were well-made.



Rosa and Kaiser in repose.

As invaluable companions and work-mates dogs earned custom-made blankets called "tuppies" or "tapis" to wear. Each was decorated with wool yarn, bells, flower beadwork or embroidery. It is said that when the bells jingled in time to their running gait, the dogs seemed to enjoy the sound and gain inspiration.

So far I have a bell, and I am wondering if any of our readers has a pattern for making a har-

ness or a sleigh, or a cart. Oh yes, I also have a dog—two actually, but only one who wants to pull a sleigh. Her name is Rosa and she is an Alaskan Malamute. She isn't Métis like us, but I think she would like to embrace her heritage just the same. I possess some modest woodworking skills and could probably make something for her to pull. If you do have a pattern that you are willing to share please email me at



A beaded dog blanket

llord@kingston.net or drop me a line (R.R.#1 Hartington, ON, K0H 1W0).

In case you were wondering, my other dog is a German Shepherd who thinks he was Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse in a previous life.

I look forward to hearing from you and if I manage to outfit Rosa in true Métis fashion I will take pictures and write a follow-up. Marsee.

## Opinion | Thoughts on traditional adoption

FROM PAGE 26

ans were "freed" by the French—not to go home but, as in the case of one of my ancestors, to work off the debt incurred to be freed. (I believe that's called indentured servitude; I call it slavery). These captive children, and in some cases captive adults were adopted into the "tribe"; they became Indians.

### RUNNING THE GAUNTLET

Now I'm sure I'm going to have to run the gauntlet, with some of my views. I'm used to it and so were my captive ancestors. Running the gauntlet was a method to chase the "whiteness" out of them or indeed to chase "whatever origins" they had. Captives from other tribes did the same thing. The severity of the gauntlet changed based on age, sex, condition, etc. After the ceremonies the individual was "adopted" into the "tribe". This is important "into the tribe"—not into a particular family but into the tribe. The community must first accept the individual. This is my understanding on how it worked.

### NO INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS

Now, as an Aboriginal person in

Canada our rights are based on our collectivity, our community, our Nation. We, by ourselves, have the rights as protected by Canadian law, charter, constitution and all that. Our Aboriginal rights, however, belong to our "community", not individually to ourselves.

So, back to my concerns, these so-called traditional adoptions are a thing of the past. They were a First Nation phenomenon, not Métis. The Métis Nation does not adopt people, nor admit outsiders. This practice is a thing of the past, long discarded and without merit considering today's circumstances. If you can prove, historically I would be pleased to see your data, based on legitimate research. Please provide reference number from the archives, or source material from reputable sources.

It is historically accurate to state that the captive children were viewed as First Nation people, by the First Nation involved. I also believe that if these captive children subsequently married fur traders, voyageurs, etc that their descendants should be viewed as Métis. This was not the basis for my claim, nor the claim

of my wife's family when we presented our proofs as citizens of the Métis Nation.

However, my Children (both MNO citizens) descend (documented) from the following captive children: Deborah Marie-Madeleine Cole; Marie-Madeleine Hélène Sarah Allen; Marie Anne Christiansen; Anne Herd Prevost; Claude Mathias Phaneuf.

I know a number of local Métis citizens (cousins included) who also descend from: Abigail Nims and Ignace Raizenne.

These were also captives from the Deerfield raid or Massachusetts area. They are rather famous and their descendants are still found in great numbers amongst our Mohawk brothers and sisters. The couple were married and stayed with their First Nation, as did some children, other married out of the Indian Nation.

Now if the descendants of these captive children are not recognised what makes others think that they can claim to be Métis based on some so-called traditional adoption. Their claim, in my view is without merit. I find it an insult to me and my Nation.

### Generations:



Sladen Peltier at the Ottawa Memorial, November 11th, 2008.

## Honouring grandfather

The MNO's Katelin Peltier and her two young children became part of a feature article in *Le Droit* when they attended Remembrance Day ceremonies in Ottawa. Katelin stressed the important contributions of Aboriginal people to war efforts past and present. In particular

she honoured her husbands grandfather, David Peltier, of Wikwemikong, who fought in the Second World War. His brother, Leo, was a prisoner of war. For years the family had no news of him, but when the war finally ended they were reunited.



## Métis Veterans

Remembrance Day • November 11th, 2008

# A Time to Remember

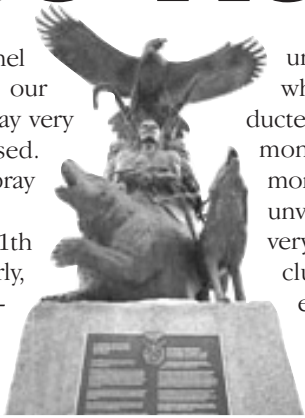
By **SHAUN REDMOND**

Each November I am involved in numerous Remembrance events, events to honour those who “stood up” to protect our people, our nation, our freedom and our ways of life. I remember the sacrifices of those who died; those who served and returned; and the families of those brave people, who were also touched by the terrors of war. I also reflect on all those who lost their lives in the worlds’ conflicts without consideration for the colour of their uniforms, the flags they fought under, or whether they were combatants, civilians, friends, allies or foes.

On November 11th I was honoured to place a wreath at Canada’s National War Monument and very honoured to join with Senator Reta Gordon, representing the Métis Nation of Ontario, and Clément Chartier, President of the Métis National Council, in paying our respects to Canada’s war dead. This is a heavy responsibility, knowing that by next year’s ceremony there is a possibility that the number of Canadi-

an Forces personnel who have died in our nation’s uniform may very well have increased. Something we all pray won’t happen.

On November 11th my day started early, at a ceremony, conducted at the National Aboriginal Veterans Mon-



ument. I joined friends who have yearly conducted Remembrance ceremonies at our national monument, since it was unveiled in 2001. I was so very pleased, at the conclusion of the day’s events, to note others had also recognised the sacrifices of Canada’s Aboriginal

warriors. By day’s end, when I returned to the Aboriginal monument, I found that members of Canada’s Rangers had left their tributes of Remembrance along with a wreath placed by the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, which joined a wreath placed earlier that day by the National Aboriginal Veterans Association. Many individuals had also placed poppies and made offerings of tobacco and personal items to honour our fallen heroes.

I would like to thank the Métis Nation of Ontario for their long standing support of veterans’ issues and for their continued show of respect, by annually placing wreaths at the National Cenotaph in Ottawa and for their continued participation at ceremonies at the National Aboriginal War Monument. These gestures are greatly appreciated.



left to right: **Senator Gordon, Shaun Redmond and John Jewitt (Ontario Rep - National Aboriginal Veterans Association)**

*Capt. Shaun Redmond is a serving officer in the Canadian Forces (Reserves - Air), a former Infantry Officer and sometime Regular Member and Peace Officer of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.*

### REMEMBRANCE DAY: SAULT STE. MARIE



**Willard Folz (left) and Brent McHale on Remembrance Day 2008**

## Sault Ste. Marie Métis honour Korean War Veteran

By **ANNE TRUDEL**

On behalf of the Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council, Mr and Mrs Willard Folz, Brent McHale and Anne Trudel attended this year’s Remembrance Day ceremonies. Brent McHale was given the honour of presenting a Métis sash as a gift from the Council to Mr. Folz, a veteran of the Korean War.

To all of the veterans in our area, we thank you for your dedication and ask that you contact your local councils so that we may gather names for future events.

## Aboriginal Vets Honoured

Métis veteran Donn Fowler takes part in Remembrance Ceremonies held in the Senate Chamber in Ottawa

By **DONN FOWLER**

I was asked to attend a November 6th Remembrance ceremony in the Senate Chamber in Ottawa as a representative of the National Aboriginal Veterans Association (NAVA). I met some military and political dignitaries as well as our own Aboriginal First Nations friends who performed the native spiritual activities.

We left Brockville at 05:45 hours and drove to Ottawa in a thick fog. I was accompanied by a Métis lady who, thankfully, acted as my “caregiver”—as was specifically required by the organising host, Veterans Affairs Canada.

We veterans and our caregivers occupied the seats of the various senators for that one occasion, but I neglected to identify the two senators whose seats we occupied for the ceremonies. The formal process ended around noon hour, but prior to the impressive ceremonial events we “invitees” had arrived at the Chateau Laurier for an 0700 hours breakfast. Later we were transferred by bus to the parliament building where we were soon processed through the security screening system, following which we were escorted to the hallowed Senate Chamber and invited to take one of the seats of the absent senators.

Following the ceremonies—which were extremely touching and heart-warming—we collected in the lobby where refreshments



**Capt. (Ret'd) Donald “Donn” Maxwell Fowler C.D. (left) with Chief of Defence Staff for Canada, General “Walt” Natynczyk.**

were available (and where a multitude of pictures were taken) and brief discussions were the order of the day. Thanks to my charming Métis caregiver, Mrs. Wendy Kennedy of Brockville, I was introduced to the new Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) for Canada, General “Walt” Natynczyk. I also had a brief chat with the Minister of Veterans Affairs, the Honourable Greg Thompson. On that occasion I referred him to a letter I had sent to his office and which he had kindly sent along to “Chuck” Strahl, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, for attention, but I have yet to hear from Mr. Strahl.

The essence of that first letter concerned the fact that the Canadian Constitution of 1982 defines “Aboriginals” as: “Indians, Inuit,

and Métis”, but the Indian Act of Canada—past and present—should now be revised by a properly established and consultant process such that a new and updated lawful instrument would be created as the “Aboriginal and Northern Affairs Act of Canada”. That major revision process, as proposed, must include competent Aboriginal professionals such as First Nation lawyers, Aboriginal-minded ethno-historians, the Chief of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), a representative of the Métis National Council (MNC), as well as a representative of the Government of Nunavut.

*For more about Capt. (Ret'd) Fowler’s family and military history see sidebar “A Métis Vet’s Family History of Service”.*

### Veteran Profile:

## A Métis vet’s long family history of military service

By **DONN FOWLER**

War experiences can often make an Aboriginal veteran ask: “How come I survived when most of my Aboriginal comrades did not?” Frankly, there is no satisfactory answer to that question; one just lives with it.

I am now an 83 year old WWII infantry war-service-related service-disability pensioner, and more recently a member of NAVA (National Aboriginal Veterans Association), as well as a registered Métis Nation of Ontario citizen. I was born in Otonabee Township of Peterborough County and later moved to Kingston following five years war service (1940-1945) overseas. I am now a well-retired veteran living in Brockville, Ontario.

Beginning with great grandfather, Samuel Fowler, we males—in our time—became Canadian “warriors”, except for our seconded immigrant, John Fowler, who was a “contractor of Public(sic) works” in Yorkshire but was asked to come to Canada about 1850 in order to rebuild the messy Cobourg and Peterborough Railway (C&PR)—quite another story. Samuel was a Fenian anti-Incursion veteran, a Canadian soldier.

My late Métis grandfather and my late father were also war veterans of Canada, as was my late brother, Karl Edmund Fowler, M.M (b.1928-d.1980) who served in Korea and who was named after the deceased “Brit hero”, Private Edmund John Fowler V.C. (b.1861-d.1926) of Colchester Essex, England. Edmund had served with “The Cameronians” (Scottish Rifles) at Inhobane Mountain, South Africa, where later my grandfather Alfred Herbert Fowler (b. 1873-d.1948) served in the South African (Boer) War and in the First World War Artillery.

My Métis father, Herbert James Fowler, (b.1904-d.1961) also served in the Second World War Artillery. Father was returned to Canada on the Hospital Ship “Lady Nelson” having been badly injured in the UK.

I served overseas from mid-1941 to August 1945 as a private soldier of the 1st Battalion Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlander [CA(AF)] 9th Canadian [Highland] Brigade 3rd Canadian [Assault] Division, throughout Normandy, France, Belgium, Holland and Germany—just like thousands of other Anglo-Celts and Aboriginal Canadian soldiers in the Second World War units. All of which surrounds a discovery in 1950 which motivated me to seek out my then unknown genealogical “roots”.

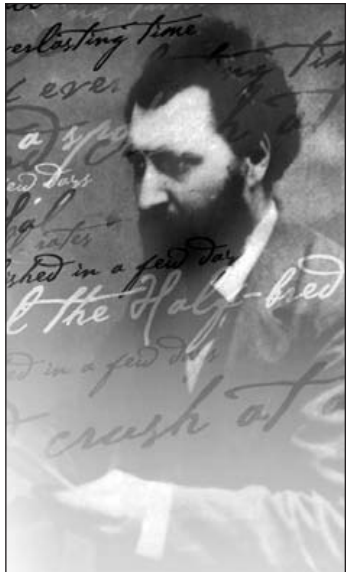


## Arts & Culture

# Riel poems and other artefacts returned to Manitoba

In the days leading up to his execution 123 years ago, Louis Riel wrote four poems in English. He wrote them in a folio that had been given to him by one of his jailers. The poems came to light after being held by descendants of North West Mounted Police Const. Robert Hobbs, who gave the Métis leader the writing pad in his jail cell shortly before Riel's execution for treason. In return, Riel gave the poems to Hobbs as a gift.

The hand-written poems were bought at auction by Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) President, David Chartrand for \$27,000. No doubt Riel would have been amazed! With financial support from the Province of Manitoba, the National Bank of



**Louis Riel wrote four poems in English while in prison in Regina, SK in the days before his execution in 1885.**

Canada, a local foundation and a Métis businessman, Chartrand also successfully bid on one of two rare portraits, a photograph showing Riel in his 30s.

The poems, along with a rare portrait of Riel, will join other artefacts—including Riel's eye-glasses, his Métis sash and even his moustache (cut off by a jailer)—in the St. Boniface Historical Museum. Chartrand said, "I believe they belong to Manitoba".

One day, the MMF hopes to make the poems the centrepiece in a Métis museum in Winnipeg.

The man who was hung as a traitor has always been a hero to the Métis, and today, most Canadians recognise him as an heroic patriot, founder of Manitoba and a Father of Confederation.



**Anne Trudel (far left), Senator Brenda Powley (far right) and members of the Region 4 Métis Dance Troupe meet gifted fiddler Sierra Noble at Algoma School Board's Aboriginal Symposium.**

## Métis Dance Club jigs to the fiddle of Sierra Noble

By Neil Trudel

Sierra Noble a talented world renowned Métis fiddle artist and an Aboriginal Music Award recipient performed brilliantly with her Métis fiddling and singing at the Kiwanis Community Theatre in Sault Ste Marie on May 07, 2008. Sierra was accompanied by guitarist Patrick and together they performed two back to back concerts of Métis music for the kick off of the Algoma District School Board's Aboriginal Symposium. All the high school and elementary students (grade 6 and up) were bussed in for both concerts from as far away as Horne Payne and Elliot Lake (over three hours one way).

A special appearance was made by 15 members of the Youth Dance Troupe from the Métis Dance Club. The Youth Dance Troupe performed three Métis dances: the Broom Dance; Duck Dance; and, the Butterfly Dance.

The Youth Dance Troupe consisted of students from both the Algoma District School Board and the Huron Superior District

Catholic School Board. Both school boards granted special permission to the dancers to participate in the Aboriginal Symposium.

Representing both the local Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council and the North Shore Métis Council, the Youth Dance Troupe travels to many other venues within the Algoma District. The dancers live within the communities of Bruce Mines, Desbarats, Echo Bay, Thessalon, and Sault Ste. Marie. Accompanied by Senator Brenda Powley, leader Anne Trudel and assistant leader Jeri Powley, the troupe had a special time backstage meeting and talking to Sierra and getting together for group photo session with her. Everyone was very excited to meet Sierra and as a result all of them wanted her autograph. One girl who had no paper available had Sierra Noble autograph the white top of her Métis costume. Her mother was surprised at this course of action but as the dance leader said, "how much more

Métis can a dance outfit become?"

Sierra commented on how well the Youth Dance Troupe danced to her music and also said that she hadn't seen too many performances of the Duck Dance, a complex dance that mimics the dips and dives of the duck and the infinity sign. Sierra also told the audience of the origins of the Broom Dance and answered general questions.

Both concerts received good media coverage due to the large numbers of attendees. Sierra previously appeared in this area at Fort St. Joseph at the 13th Annual General Assembly hosted by the Historic Sault Ste Marie Métis Council.

Currently the Region 4 Métis Dance Club is on hold while the Sault Métis Centre, 26 Queen St. East, Sault Ste. Marie is under renovations. For more photos and timeline of the many performances of the Youth Dance Troupe visit.

**Contact:**  
www.members.shaw.ca/mno-ssm/dance



## CANADIAN ABORIGINAL MUSIC AWARDS: The CAMAs

The tenth annual Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards (CAMA) took place on November 28th, 2008. These awards honour the premiere musical artists of the Canadian Aboriginal community, and this year, one of our own was among the winners. Alyssa

Delbaere-Sawchuk, captured the Best Fiddle and Best Instrumental Album awards for her CD, *Omeigwessi Reel Métis: A Tribute to Walter Flett*. I had the distinct pleasure of reviewing this CD for the *Voyageur* a year ago and it really is a winner.

Three other artists were double winners: Eagle and Hawk, who snagged Best Rock Album and Best Group or Duo; Tanya Tagaq for Best Female Traditional and Best Album Design; and Mitch Daigneault who took Best Male Artist and Best Songwriter.

The evening's big winner of five awards was Crystal Shawanda who won every award she was nominated for, including Best Female Artist, Best Single, Best Video, Best Country Album, and Album of the Year.

The star-studded CAMA gala evening also featured performances by top Aboriginal musicians, including 7th Generation, Christa Couture, Northern Cree, Stevie Salas, and the legendary Buffy Sainte-Marie, who was also recognised with the Lifetime Contribution to Aboriginal Music honour.

**CAMA-winning country music artist  
Crystal Shawanda  
hails from  
Wikwemikong**



### Canadian Aboriginal Music Award winners 2008:

Best Female Artist  
**Crystal Shawanda**  
*Dawn of a New Day*

Best Female Traditional  
**Tanya Tagaq**  
*Auk-Blood*

Best Male Artist  
**Mitch Daigneault**  
*Driving All Night*

Best Group or Duo  
**Eagle & Hawk**  
*Sirensong*

Best Rock Album  
**Eagle & Hawk**  
*Sirensong*

Best Song Single  
**Crystal Shawanda**  
*You Can Let Go*

Best Fiddle Album  
**Alyssa Delbaere-Sawchuk**  
*Omeigwessi Reel Métis: A Tribute To Walter Flett*

Best Instrumental Album  
**Alyssa Delbaere-Sawchuk**  
*Omeigwessi Reel Métis: A Tribute To Walter Flett*

Best International Album  
**Stevie Salas**  
*Be What It Is*

Best Folk Album  
**Christa Couture**  
*The Wedding Singer & the Undertaker*

Best Radio Program  
**Ray St. Germain**  
*The Métis Hour*

Best Album Design  
**Tanya Tagaq**  
*Auk-Blood*

Best Producer/Engineer  
**Fara Palmer & Peter Kilgour**

Best Songwriter  
**Mitch Daigneault**  
*Driving All Night - Letters*

Music Industry Award  
**Bruce Ruddell**

Best Television Program/Special  
**Winston Wuttunee**  
*Kitohcikew "one who makes music"*

Best Traditional Flute  
**Dallas Arcand**  
*Picking Sweetgrass*

Best Blues Album  
**Texas Meltdown**  
*Feel The Heat*

Best Pow Wow Album Contemporary  
**Northern Cree**  
*Red Rock*

Best Music Video  
**Crystal Shawanda**  
*You Can Let Go*

Best Rap or Hip Hop Album  
**7th Generation**  
*Self Titled*

Best Country Album  
**Crystal Shawanda**  
*Dawn of a New Day*

Best Original Score Theatre/Dance/ Film  
**Derek Miller**  
*Good Looking*

Best Pow Wow Album Traditional  
**Whitefish Bay Singers**  
*Oshke Ye II*

Best Hand Drum Album  
**Northern Cree & Friends**  
*Dancin' Til Sunrise*

Best Album of the Year  
**Crystal Shawanda**  
*Dawn of a New Day*

Best Rap/Hip Hop Music Video  
**Josh Hill**  
*Chief - Big Boi Boppin*

Keeper of Traditions Award  
**Terri-Lynn Williams-Davidson**

Lifetime Contribution Award  
**Buffy Sainte-Marie**





Métis Artists' Collective receive award from City of Toronto:

# MÉTIS ARTISTS HONoured

By VIRGINIA BARTER

On November 27, the 2008 ACCESS, EQUITY & HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD for Aboriginal Affairs was bestowed upon the Métis Artists' Collective by Mayor David Miller of the City of Toronto in front of a crowd of several hundred people and media in the Toronto City Hall Council Chambers. Merella Fernandez of CityTV hosted the prestigious ceremony marking Human Rights Day and the 60th Anniversary of the UN Declaration of Human Rights.

These awards honour individuals or groups for their ongoing efforts to make Toronto a city where everyone can participate fully in social, cultural, economic, recreational and political life. Several individual community leaders and groups received awards under categories for Race Relations, Disability Access, Status of Women, and Pride.

The Aboriginal Affairs Award honours the volunteer contributions of those--persons or organisations--whose efforts have made a significant or ongoing contribution towards improving the quality of life for the Aboriginal community in Toronto. These contributions include services or advocacy work on issues such as health, shelter work, street work, governance and self-determination, human rights or cultural activities.

The Métis Artists' Collective



left to right: **Bernard Leroux, MAC President; Councillor Kyle Rae, City of Toronto; Virginia Barter, MAC Director; Mayor David Miller, City of Toronto; Susan Lyndon, MAC Education Advisor; Karen Drake, MAC Director; Bonny Cann, MAC Founding Director; Krista Delbaere, Founding Director.** PHOTO: Jocelyn Richards, City of Toronto

(MAC) was recognised for its efforts to nurture talent, and for promoting and embracing the bilingual and bicultural heritage of the Métis community and its contribution to Aboriginal arts.

"This was one of the proudest moments I have ever experienced," said Bernard Leroux, President of MAC. "It was my profound honour to stand with my

**“IT WAS MY PROFOUND HONOUR TO STAND WITH MY MÉTIS BROTHERS AND SISTERS, AS THE APPLAUSE OF THE AUDIENCE RAISED UP AND ENGULFED OUR HEARTS.”**

Métis brothers and sisters, as the applause of the audience raised up and engulfed our hearts. The fact that we have been recognised by the city amongst a group of several other distinguished community members makes this award an especially important one, one which we ALL can share and be proud of in raising the awareness of Métis culture in the

City of Toronto and throughout the province."

The Aboriginal Affairs Award, was also presented to Algonquin playwright Yvette Nolan for her outstanding efforts to eliminate hatred, racism and homophobia through theatre productions, as well as her ongoing support and encouragement for young Aboriginal artists.

## ABOUT THE MÉTIS ARTISTS' COLLECTIVE:

The Métis Artists' Collective (MAC) is a non-profit group of 50 Aboriginal musicians, writers, filmmakers, dancers, and visual and media artists who stage events in Toronto that have raised awareness of their culture and nurtured emerging talent along the way.

For the past five years, MAC has presented the annual Métis Arts Festival, a celebration of Métis artistic talent and Aboriginal

culture. The festival showcases traditional and contemporary Aboriginal art forms and initiatives, such as Métis fiddling and jigging, First Nation drumming, Inuit throat singing, genealogical and historical presentations, visual arts, new digital media, multimedia, film, television, and performance arts. It even offers youth an opportunity to learn about Aboriginal culture with a wide variety of kid-friendly games

and activities held on Kids' Day.

MAC has spearheaded a number of initiatives:

**"Defining Aboriginal"** - a contemporary arts exhibit exploring issues of Aboriginal identity, held at Toronto City Hall in celebration of National Aboriginal Day, June 21, 2008;

**"Fiddle Stories"** - a project that brought together renowned Aboriginal elder fiddlers from across Canada with talented

young Aboriginal fiddlers, to pass on the traditional style of fiddling to the younger generation;

**"Memories Muse"** - a group exhibit of multi-media work by the members of the MAC which was presented at locations throughout Toronto in 2007/08.

**The Abstract Louis Riel** - a 20-panel travelling cultural montage that depicts the flash points in the life of Louis Riel.

Driven entirely by the efforts

of volunteers, the Métis Artists' Collective has been working tirelessly to increase knowledge and awareness of Métis heritage and traditions. At the founding meeting in 2003, it was agreed that the inspiration for the Collective's vision would be drawn from Louis Riel's stirring prophecy:

"My people will sleep for one hundred years. When they awaken, it will be the artists who give them back their spirit."

A VOYAGEUR READER GIVES CANADA'S FIRST PRIME MINISTER A POSTHUMOUS EARFUL:

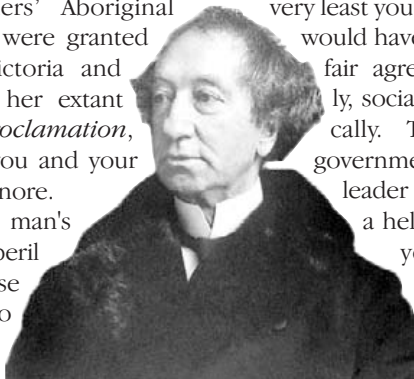
## Dear John,

*This letter, ostensibly addressed to Sir John A, was written in response to a survey conducted by the Dominion Institute indicating that two people in five did not know that Sir John A. Macdonald was the first prime minister of Canada*

Sir John, en gravé

In case you don't know it now, you were responsible for the murder--yes, the murder--of a man who was merely trying to protect his and others' Aboriginal rights, which were granted by Queen Victoria and mandated in her extant 1763 Royal Proclamation, all of which you and your ilk chose to ignore.

That good man's life was in peril simply because he chose to defend his



Aboriginal Northwest Territory (now Manitoba) from your encroachment and your need for a railway to satisfy what was to become British Columbia. The very least you could have done would have been to make a fair agreement--financially, socially and economically. The provisional government of the Métis leader could have been a helpful partner. But you were long dead before an apology could be made--as it

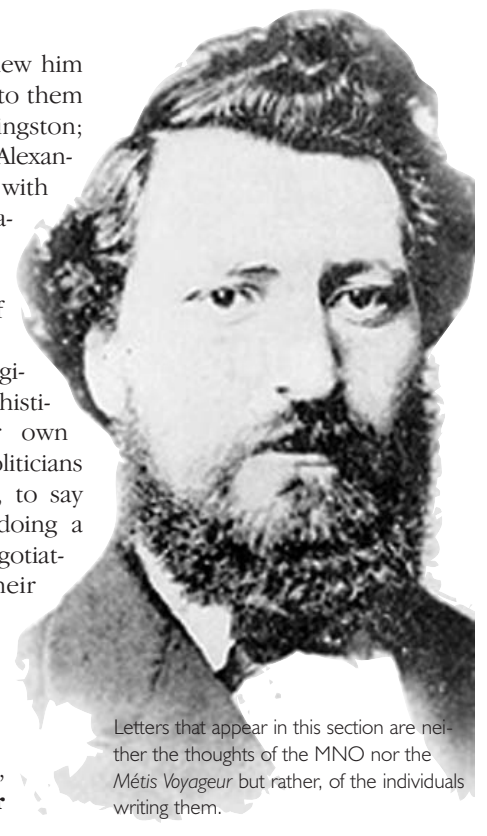
eventually was made--by a better-meaning and less "MEAN" Conservative government than that which you and a host of others like you chose to pay homage to on Macdonald's "Dominion" Day, July 1st 1867--a facade of railway magnates called, "The Fathers of... what was it? Oh, yes! "Confederation"-- not "Coalition".

If you dig him up in Kingston's Cataraqui Cemetery, you can take him home, costume and all, as a souvenir; otherwise, do hug his bronze effigy in Macdonald Park, Kingston, Ontario. That too will be quite a stone-cold item, just as he was, in his own misguided, greedy, power-hungry and inebriated days. He helped to steal a continent, and of course he was never alone in doing so. He had help from the Spanish, the French, the English, and the other Europeans who came later.

My paternal ancestors knew him when he lived next door to them on Rideau Street in Kingston; they also knew Donald Alexander Smith when he was with the Hudson's Bay Company and later when Smith had become Macdonald's nemesis in the House of Commons.

The Canadian Aborigines are much more sophisticated today--with their own lawyers, accountants, politicians and health professionals, to say the least--and they are doing a fine job of successfully negotiating and achieving their rights, thanks to today's governments which are more concerned and successful than yours.

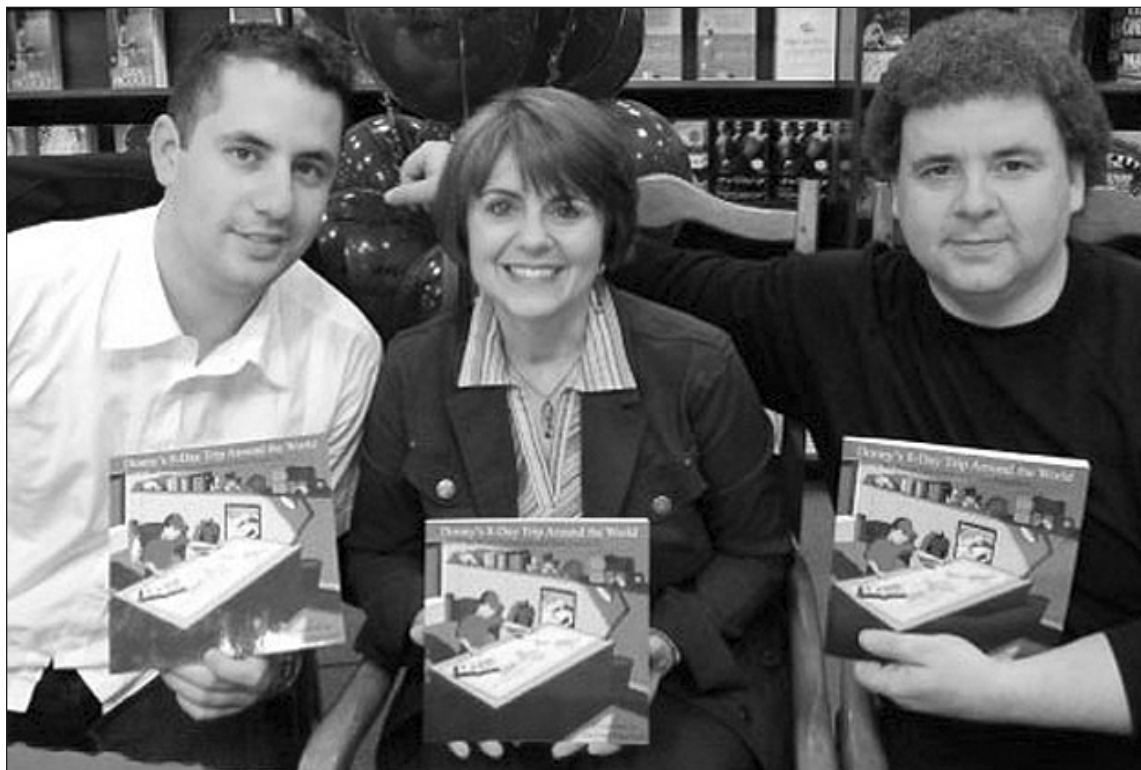
A Proud Métis,  
**Donn Fowler**



Letters that appear in this section are neither the thoughts of the MNO nor the Métis Voyageur but rather, of the individuals writing them.



## MÉTIS ARTIST/ENTREPRENEURS:

left to right: **Andrew Edgerton; Susan Lecompte and Don Dupuis Jr.**

# Brother/sister team up to create kids' books

By **Susan Lecompte**

**M**étis citizens, Susan Lecompte and Don Dupuis Jr., grew up in Hanmer, Ontario, in the Sudbury region, as sister and brother. Their parents, Don Sr. and Gertrude Dupuis still reside in Hanmer. Susan and Don are promoting the publication of their first children's book, titled: "Donny's 8-Day trip Around the World". They have just completed venues in Ottawa, Kingston, Newmarket, and Sudbury.

Susan Lecompte currently works as a paediatric nurse in Ottawa. She is a former figure skating coach, who has instructed children and adults of all ages for 27 years. She lives in Rockland, Ontario, with her husband Denis, and has two grown daughters, Jennifer and Emily.

Don Dupuis Jr. works in the automotive industry in Richmond Hill, Ontario. He was an active athlete during his youth and took part in many sports, such as hockey, baseball, basketball, and football. He also had the opportunity to work with children as a coach and trainer in hockey and baseball. Don resides in Newmarket, Ontario with his wife Allyson, and their two dogs Hercules and Apollo.

*Donny's 8-Day Trip Around the World* is a book that is geared to readers from 4-12 years of age. The main character, eight-year-old Donny Jackman, is leaving the only home he has ever known. Who knows what adventures are in store for him, as he moves three hours south of Shoniker County? Journal in hand, he documents his discoveries, as he meets new friends on his journey around the world in eight days. Donny is introduced to the following cultures: Cree, French, Italian, Japanese, Irish, German,

Greek, and Spanish.

Susan and Don explain: "Our story revolves around our main character, eight-year old Donny, who encounters many cultures in his new surroundings after moving from the only home he has every known. Our book teaches life lessons on how to cope with change, and the importance of the family dynamics to help this happen. The introduction of mul-

**"I WAS REALLY IMPRESSED WITH YOUR BOOK. IT IS BRIGHT AND INFORMATIVE, AND I THINK ALL CHILDREN WILL ENJOY READING AND LEARNING FROM IT."**

— Rita Butt, Author/Columnist  
York Regional Newspaper

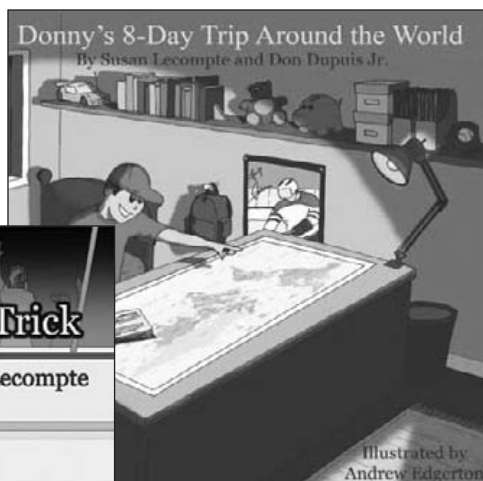
ticultural environments teaches acceptance and respect for the beliefs and lifestyles of people in our own neighbourhoods. Furthermore, this novel provides a means to sensitise children and parents alike to the diversity of cultures and awareness of cultural practices, traditions and languages that paint the fabric of our own social and political communities. We have dedicated our first book to the 'Little Kid in All of Us!' In the busy society of today, we forget three basic

needs: Living, Loving and Laughing.

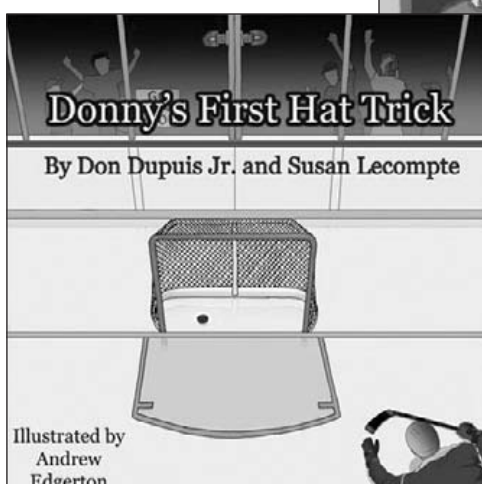
Susan and Don have teamed up with illustrator Andrew Edgerton. Andrew was born and raised in Ottawa, Ontario. With a Masters in mechanical engineering, he started a small design and manufacturing company which he still runs. He multi-tasks work and illustrating with DJing and extreme sports.

In the second book of the series, *Donny's First Hat Trick*, set to be released in December, 2008, the main character, Donny Jackman, is ready for the new hockey season. His new adventure introduces him to goal setting, hard work, teamwork, sportsmanship and achievement. His friends Santiago, Litsa (only girl on the hockey team) and Marie-Claire (figure skater) join him in this new novel where their escapades lead them to believing in themselves and never giving up.

These books are published with Booksurge Publishing, South Carolina, USA. You can order through amazon.com, alibris.com, abebooks.com, or by calling Travis Craine, publishing consultant toll free at 1-866-308-6235 ext.5142.



You can visit the authors on Facebook at the following sites: Groups: *Donny's 8-Day Trip Around the World*, *Donny's First Hat Trick*. Fan Page: *Susan Lecompte and Don Dupuis Jr.*



## Saul calls Canada a "Métis civilization"

"Any Canadian reading the book, or learning about its content, will think of Canada differently." – Haroon Siddiqui, *Toronto Star*

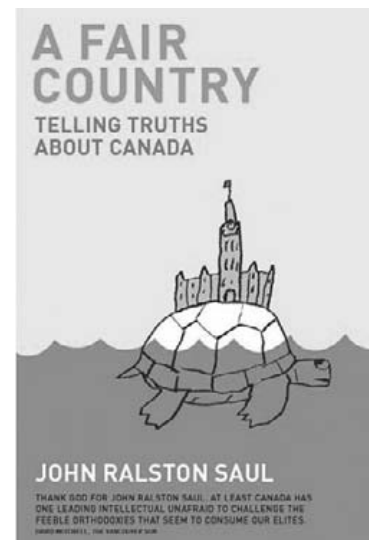
### A FAIR COUNTRY: TELLING TRUTHS ABOUT CANADA

by John Ralston Saul

www.penguin.ca

In this startlingly original vision of Canada, John Ralston Saul unveils three founding myths. Saul argues that the famous "peace, order, and good government" that supposedly defines Canada is a distortion of the country's true nature. Every single document before the *BNA Act*, he points out, used the phrase "peace, welfare, and good government," demonstrating that the well-being of its citizenry was paramount.

He also argues that Canada is a Métis nation, heavily influenced and shaped by aboriginal ideas: egalitarianism, a proper balance between individual and group, and a penchant for negotiation over violence are all aboriginal values that Canada absorbed. Another obstacle to progress, Saul argues, is



that Canada has an increasingly ineffective elite, a colonial non-intellectual business elite that doesn't believe in Canada. It is critical that we recognise these aspects of the country in order to rethink its future. (www.johnralstonsaul.com)

## NATIONAL GALLERY OF CANADA

In 1986 the National Gallery made its first purchase of a contemporary artwork from a First Nations' artist--Carl Beam's *The North American Iceberg* (1985). This was the precursor for a new relationship with Indigenous Art, forged and fortified with an active program of exhibiting and collecting that speaks to the tremendous importance of Indigenous art in Canada.

**ABOUT THE CURATOR:** Greg Hill is a Mohawk of the Six Nations of the Grand River Territory and is an artist in his own right. His curatorial experience spans 12 years and he has worked both as an independent curator as well as with the Canadian Museum of Civilisation. He joined the NGC in 2000. In collaboration with the gallery's Deputy Director and Chief Curator, he is also responsible for the complete care of the collection of Indigenous Art. This includes First Nations, Métis and Inuit Art emphasising contemporary art from the 1980s to the present day.

### CURRENT INDIGENOUS EXHIBITIONS ON AT THE NGC:



#### High-def Inuit Storytelling UNTIL SPRING 2009

These galleries present a selection of videos produced by Isuma ("thinking") productions and Arnait ("women's") video productions. Based in Igloolik, Nunavut, Isuma and the women's collective, Arnait are the first-ever independent Inuit video production companies.



#### Indigenous Art Collection ONGOING

The Indigenous art collection comprises works by Indigenous artists from Canada and around the world. Many works demonstrate ongoing links to ancestral visual traditions as they engage in the social/political discourses that inform much of the art produced today.

#### Steeling the Gaze: Portraits by Aboriginal Artists

31 OCT 2008 – 22 MAR 2009

This group exhibition, drawn from the collections of the Canadian Museum of Contemporary Photography and the National Gallery of Canada, explores representations of Aboriginal people by Aboriginal artists.

#### Back to the Beginning: Rethinking Abstraction from an Indigenous Perspective

23 OCT 2008 – FEB 2009

Although Aboriginal symbolism in the work of non-Aboriginal modernist artists is well documented, the history of Aboriginal artists working in abstraction is less well known.

Information: 613-990-1985 / 1-800-319-ARTS

www.gallery.ca

The National Gallery of Canada is open Tuesday to Sunday 10 AM to 5 PM. Thursdays until 8 PM. Admission fees apply. Free admission to the NGC collection on Thursdays after 5 PM. Free admission for children under 12 and NGC Members.



## Métis Health

### NEW MNO STAFF



## Welcome Back, Donna

by Doug Wilson

It is a pleasure to announce that Donna Lyons has returned to the MNO and is now Director of Health.

Donna Lyons had previously held the position of Métis Health Human Resources Coordinator at the MNO. From there, she moved to serve as Executive Director at Odawa Native Friendship Centre.

Donna is currently working on her Masters in Public Health degree and a diploma in Health Policy and Research from Lakehead University, and holds a degree in Business Administration (Major in Human Resources). She has been a Director at the First Nations Centre of the National Aboriginal Health Organization, served six years as Director of the Aboriginal Recruitment Coordination Office, and worked as Sustainable Economic Development Officer with Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation, and as an External Delivery Officer/Field Officer with Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund in Thunder Bay and as a Business Development Officer with Aboriginal Business Canada in Toronto.

Donna has served as Chair of the Thunder Bay Physician Recruitment and Retention Council; Member of the Steering Committee that oversaw the position of Family Physician, Recruitment Specialist, Director with North Superior Training Board; member of the Aboriginal Management Council at Lakehead University and was AMC representative for Northern Ontario School of Medicine as well as a Board Member of Anishnawbe Mushkiki Aboriginal Health Centre and the Two Rivers Community Development Corporation, Six Nations/New Credit Community Futures Committee.

Donna's vast experience and knowledge in the health field and aboriginal concerns is integral to this position. Donna may be contacted at:

#### Donna Lyons

Director of Health

500 Old St. Patrick Street  
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 9G4  
Tel: 613-798-1488, xt129  
donnal@metisnation.org

Please join me in welcoming Donna Lyons as Director of Health at the MNO.

### Community Wellness Worker | Hamilton

## Reflections on Community Health

by Sandra Morgan

It's another year--2009! It is hard to believe how quickly time slips away. I recently came on board with the Métis Nation of Ontario, in August, 2008, as the Community Wellness Coordinator for the Hamilton office.

Since then, our department has held a number of events and workshops, including: two proper nutrition workshops; a problem gambling workshop; diabetes lunch and learn workshop; a harvest meal gathering; mental health focus circles; and a service provider gathering.

I especially want to tell you about the "harvest meal gathering", which was held at the Native Urban Senior's Apartment Complex. The menu consisted of moose meat, wild rice, corn soup and vegetables. The tenants thoroughly enjoyed the gathering and certainly appreciated the moose meat which was smothered in onions and gravy. I thought a menu which included moose meat would be special to this group because many of them have not had a traditional meal for quite sometime. This meal was certainly the topic of conversation around the dinner table, which led to a wonderful time of reminiscing. Sharing stories over dinner helped some people remember the days when they had family dinners with loved ones. It was when times seemed simpler and family made time to gather at suppertime to share good conversation and laughter.

This occasion was a perfect time to promote social interaction which is one of my goals as a Community Wellness Coordinator.

With every event planned, the goal is to promote health education and social interaction. Some community members sometimes

feel disconnected socially, especially some of our older population. It's important to be sensitive to this population in the sense that there are challenges people face as they age, and enter a new phase of their lives. Not only can this be an emotional time, but adjusting to an urban setting can be a challenge in itself. It can be challenging because many have lived in a smaller rural community but have relocated to a larger urban area because of health and other reasons.

As a Community Wellness Coordinator one of my goals is to help this population and others to make this transition as smoothly as possible. This can be done by bringing our services of health and wellness to them and by informing them of other services available within the city. This can help to connect people with the Métis and Aboriginal community at large. This is especially important to the elders because they are men and women who at one time were active community members. Some of them stayed active hunting and fishing while also providing for their families. This

meant that these people were physically active and got regular exercise by doing what they enjoyed.

As one who promotes health and wellness, it is my passion to promote an active and healthy lifestyle in a balanced way that might help encourage one to have a zest for life.

I especially want to impart strength and encouragement to our elders who have impacted all of us in some way, and have encouraged us to run with purpose and the vision of respect and self-care.

*Sandra Morgan is the Community Wellness Coordinator in the MNO's office in Hamilton, ON.*

**SOME OF THEM STAYED ACTIVE HUNTING AND FISHING WHILE ALSO PROVIDING FOR THEIR FAMILIES.**

### FOND FAREWELL:



Outgoing MNO Director of Health Bobbie Burns.

## BOBBIE BURNS:

"Energy, love of life and inspiration" will be missed

by Doug Wilson

It is with mixed emotions that the following announcement is presented. Effective December 8, 2008, Bobbie Burns has left the MNO.

Since December 1, 2005, Bobbie Burns has been an integral member of our Health Branch team. From her first day as Primary Health Care Manager, Bobbie showed her commitment to the Branch and to the Nation. New initiatives were sought and implemented. The value of the Telehealth has been appreciated and its usefulness to all branches continues to grow. Bobbie has done a great job mentoring her staff, and has been a fine example of standards, ethics and dedication. In May, 2008, when asked to assume the position of Director of Health, Bobbie willingly took on the task and her services have been of great value.

Bobbie has forged ahead seeking funding for our planned Mobile Units. She has increased MNO involvement in health-related research. Bobbie has complemented the MNO profile on various AHWS boards, and Noojimawin Health Authority. She was a key player in the MNO providence mental health services, and has been involved with

negotiations for Hospital for Sick Children to give us an avenue for FASD/E assessments. She was a research partner with Toronto's St. Michael's hospital, Dr. Janet Smiley, "Our Health Counts;" Queen's University and MNO "Baseline Population Health Data Specific to Mental Health." Bobbie has also been negotiating with Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences to continue our diabetes surveillance. Bobbie has shared many of her experiences as a world traveller, and was asked by the MNO executive to help Guatemalan people to develop primary health care services.

We will all miss seeing Bobbie in the office. Above all, we'll miss her sense of humour, positive energy and unceasing "joy of everything." We'll miss the amusing stories of her animals and her personal farming adventures, especially ones involving haylofts. Staff learned a new meaning for "dedication" when Bobbie arrived at work each day, with her usual bright smile, and casts on each wrist along with other aches and pains.

We have been privileged to have her share with us her energy, love of life, sincerity, wealth of knowledge, and inspiration. Please join me in wishing Bobbie all the best in her next adventure.

Attention Métis students enrolled in health careers in the 2008/2009 academic year:

## SPECIAL ONE TIME MÉTIS HEALTH CAREERS BURSARY AWARDS

Deadline to apply to is **FEBRUARY 13, 2009**

National Definition of Métis: "Métis means a person who self-identifies as Métis, is distinct from other Aboriginal peoples, is of Historic Métis ancestry, and is accepted by the Métis Nation.

- Program eligibility criteria is available in the application package
- Previous 2008-2009 recipients are eligible to apply
- Students defined as Métis by the Métis National Council definition are eligible to apply

If you have questions, contact the Education Department of National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation: Tel: **1.800.329.9780** email: **education@naaf.ca**





ABORIGINAL RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING | STRAIGHT FACTS

# Meet the Notorious “One-armed Bandit”

By Glen Lipinski

One of our more popular forms of gambling these days is casino gambling and one of the more popular choices of games to play while in the casino is the slot machine.

I am certain that a good number of Métis people like to play “the slots”, so I thought a few words on slot machines, what they are, where they came from and how they work would be appropriate.

A slot machine is a casino gambling machine with three or more reels which spin when a button is pushed. Slots are also known as “one-armed bandits” because slot machines were originally operated by a lever on the side of the machine (the one arm) instead of a button on the front panel, and because of their ability to leave the gamer penniless. Many modern machines still have a legacy lever in addition to the button.

Slot machines include a currency detector that validates the coin or money inserted to play. The machine pays off based on patterns of symbols visible on the front of the machine when it stops. Modern computer technology has resulted in many variations on the slot machine concept. Slot machines are the most popular gambling method in casinos and constitute about 70% of the average casino’s income. Unfortunately 30% of these profits come from problem gamblers.

In 1891 Sittman and Pitt of Brooklyn New York developed a gambling machine which was a precursor to the modern slot machine. The early machine contained five drums holding a total of 50 card faces and was based on poker. The machine proved extremely popular and soon many bars in the city had one or more of the machines. Players would insert

a nickel and pull a lever, which would spin the drums and the card they held, the player would then hope for a good poker hand. There was no direct pay-out mechanism; so a pair of kings, for example, might get the player a free beer; whereas a royal flush could pay for cigars and drinks. To make the odds better for the house two cards were typically removed from the deck. The drums could also be re-arranged to further reduce a player’s chance of winning.

The machine that was termed “the first one-armed bandit” was invented in 1887 by Charles Fey of San Francisco, California. Fey’s design was a much simpler automatic mechanism than the poker machine designed by Sittman and Pitt. Fey’s machine had three spinning wheels containing a total of five symbols—horseshoes, diamonds, spades, hearts and a Liberty Bell, which also gave the machine its name.

Another early machine gave out winnings in the form of fruit flavoured chewing gum with pictures of the flavours as symbols on the reels. The popular cherry and melon symbols were derived from this machine. The now famous bar symbol was derived from an early logo of the Bell-Fruit Gum Company.

In 1964 Bally developed the first fully electromechanical slot machine called “Money Honey”. The new electromechanical approach allowed the Money Honey to be the first slot machine with a bottomless hopper and automatic pay-out; up to 500 coins could be paid out without the help of an attendant.

A person playing a slot machine purchases the right to play by inserting coins, cash, or in newer machines tickets or bar coded paper

**“REMEMBER, ALL SLOT MACHINES ARE DESIGNED TO MAKE MONEY FOR THE HOUSE. THE WHEELS ON THE SLOT MACHINE SPIN RANDOMLY. THE LONGER YOU PLAY, THE MORE LIKELY IT IS YOU WILL LOSE!”**



tickets. The machine then is activated by means of a lever or button or touch screen on its face. The game does not normally involve skill; it is strictly a game of chance.

The object of the game, when playing “slots” is to win money from the machine. The game usually involves matching symbols, either on mechanical reels that spin and stop to reveal one or several symbols, or on a video screen. The symbols are usually brightly coloured and easily recognisable, such as images of fruits, and simple shapes such as bells, diamonds, or hearts.

Most games have a variety of winning combinations of symbols, often posted on the face of the machine. If a player matches a combination according to the rules of the game, the slot machine pays the player cash or some other sort of value, such as extra games.

Becoming more popular these days are the multi-line slots. These slots have more than one pay line. Reel slots commonly have three or five pay lines, while video slots have 9, 15, 25, or even 100 different pay lines. Video slots are themed slots, with graphics and music based on popular entertainers or TV programs like the “Addams Family”, “I Dream of Jeanie” or “The Munsters”. Most accept variable amounts of credit to play with one to five credits per line being typical. The higher the amount bet, the higher the pay-out will be.

One of the main differences between video slots and reel slots is in the way pay-outs are calculated. With reel slots, the only way to win the maximum

jackpot is to play the maximum number of coins (usually three, sometimes four, or even five coins per spin). With video slots, the fixed pay-out values are multiplied by the number of coins per line that is being bet. In other words: on a reel slot, it is to the player's advantage to play with the maximum number of coins available.

Larger casinos offer slot machines with denominations from \$.01 (penny slots) all the way up to \$100 or more per credit. Large denomination slot machines are usually cordoned off from the rest of the casino into a “High Limit” area.

Remember, all slot machines are designed to make money for the house. The wheels on the slot machine spin randomly. The longer you play, the more likely it is you will lose!

As always, gambling in any form can be fun and entertaining if done responsibly. Please remember the following points the next time you are at the casino playing slots.

- Only gamble with money you can afford to lose.
- Set a time limit.
- Set a money limit.
- Don’t gamble if you are upset or depressed.
- Don’t gamble with borrowed money. (including credit cards)

For assistance or more information on Responsible Gambling you can contact any one of your local MNO Health Branch Offices, the Addictions Wellness Co-ordinator in Welland or the MNO Ottawa Office at 1-800-263-4889 and ask for Health Services.

Glen Lipinski  
Addictions Wellness Coordinator  
20 Division St., Welland, ON  
Tel: 905-714-9864  
glenl@metisnation.org

## MNO HEALTH BRANCH NEWS | TIMMINS

# After a great year MNO-Timmins looks forward to ‘09

By Timmins Health Staff

Hello to our Métis brothers and sisters! We have had a great year participating in both in-door and outdoor activities with our local citizens. All events were related to healthy choices and obviously enjoyed by all age groups who participated in good numbers.

Our walking program was the envy of other agencies as the number of steps achieved was well over 800,000 by the fall. (The winter mall walks have just begun in keeping up the momentum).

The health team also enjoyed seeing all the happy faces at the Twin Lake Family Park where, of course, the water slides were the highlight of the day.

We ended the summer with a

year end celebration with a Hawaiian theme.

At the time of this article a Christmas dinner has been planned for the Timmins family that includes games, arts and crafts and a dinner to celebrate our blessings during the past year.

We hope you all had a happy and safe holiday.

In the new year the Timmins Health Team has booked a hall on a weekly basis where program services and family events can be enjoyed by young and old.

For details please call the Timmins office at **705-264-3939**.

Timmins Health Branch Workers  
Louise Cloutier, LTC  
Jean McAllister, AHBHC  
Jackie Noble-Chow, AHWS  
Richard Aubin, AHBHC



**ALOHA! Timmins Health workers and friends enjoyed a great luau this past summer.**



REFLECTIONS ON COMMUNITY WELLNESS:

# RESISTING THE SIREN’S SONG

by Jason Jamieson

Let me begin by apologising in advance to any like-minded people reading this; I am about to infect your mind’s ear with a terribly repetitive song. I’ve been listening to the radio today instead of my iPod (mistake number one) and this morning that song “The Look” by Roxette came on. I didn’t shut the radio off (mistake number two). Far be it from me to pass judgement on anyone’s musical talents; I don’t think it is necessarily a bad song, just an evilly repetitive one. It is now well past 2:00 P.M. and my head is still spinning with “...na-na-na-na-na ... na-na-na-na-na .... she’s got the look...”

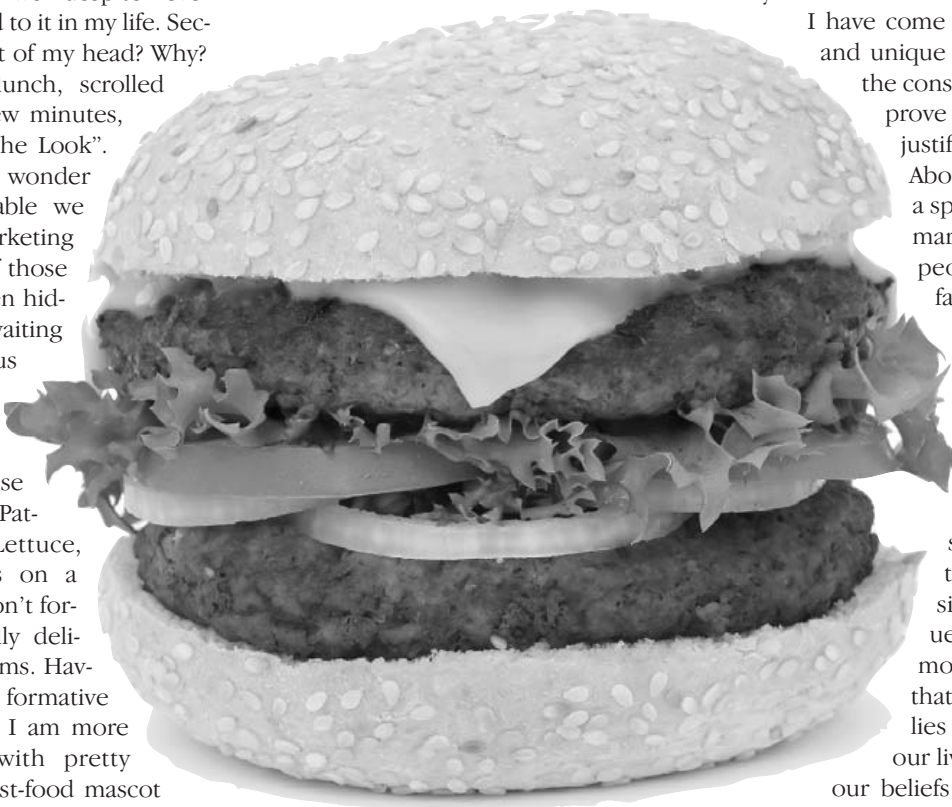
In the first place, it is quite wrong that I should know this song so well despite never having voluntarily listened to it in my life. Second, why can’t I get it out of my head? Why? I went for a walk at lunch, scrolled through the Pod for a few minutes, but all I’ve got still is “The Look”. This gave me pause to wonder about how very vulnerable we human beings are to marketing and conditioning. If all of those na-na-na-na-na’s have been hiding dormant in my head waiting to be freed, I am curious about what else could be in there--and that’s a scary reckoning!

OK, I’ll tell you what else is in there--Two All-Beef Patties, Special Sauce, Lettuce, Cheese, Pickles, Onions on a Sesame Seed Bun. And don’t forget about those magically delicious Frosted Lucky Charms. Having spent most of my formative years watching cartoons, I am more than well acquainted with pretty much every jingle and fast-food mascot out there. The worst part is that the songs and leprechauns honestly make me feel good about the products. I get a rush from being affiliated with those buried memories. I like having a Big Mac for lunch. I like it so much that it’s not unheard of for me to have two more for supper. I know how unhealthy a choice that is, but come on--two all-beef patties, special sauce and such. Any time a reasonable thought tries to make an appearance all I need to tell myself is that: I Deserve A Break Today. After that the hamburgers are as good as eaten in the car before I get home.

Would you be shocked to learn that my body mass index puts me on the unhealthy side of the scale? Nope. Me neither. No matter what we may wish, there is no escaping the cause-effect relationships in life.

This, of course, got me to thinking about the unavoidable impact of non-corporate marketing. For brevity’s sake perhaps we could agree that the essence of marketing usually involves messages that promote

“ **REGARDLESS OF MOTIVE, WE ARE SUBJECTED TO A BARRAGE OF MESSAGES THAT PROMOTE SOMETHING OR OTHER ON A DAILY BASIS. I FIND THIS TRUE IN REGARDS TO MY PHYSICAL HEALTH, OBVIOUSLY, BUT IT ALSO RESONATES STRONGLY FOR ME ON A SPIRITUAL LEVEL.** ”



something. Whether or not other people’s intentions, behaviours and attitudes are entirely deliberate or are decidedly more subtle in their presentation, what they say and do have an undeniable influence upon our own decision making. Regardless of motive, we are subjected to a barrage of messages that promote something or other on a daily basis. I find this true in regards to my physical health, obviously, but it also resonates very strongly for me on a spiritual level.

The essence of human spirit, as I have been taught, has much to do with our sense of purpose and identity, and of our level of connectedness with everything around us--whether it be to a higher power, the land, or other people. For many Métis people, the foundation of our spiritual selves is the feeling of being a part of our culture and our people, of being part of something special and distinct that has survived and grown throughout the years. Common history, beliefs and

practices have facilitated a strong bond amongst Métis people. We are a part of each other’s heritage and future. Sadly, not everyone shares our pride of culture.

Have you ever talked to someone about Métis heritage, only to have them throw a request for justification back at you? I have. It happens often. “You’re Métis? How? You don’t look Native.” “We require further documentation to process your application for Aboriginal funding.” “Don’t you mean you’re just non-status?” “So you’re just an Indian Wannabe?” “You’re only half-Métis at best.” Do any of these ring a bell for you? It all comes down to the same key message, marketed to us repeatedly: “PROVE IT. Prove your culture is real and important. I don’t believe you”.

I have come to believe that a recurrent and unique cultural challenge for us is the constant demand from others to prove that we are Métis, and to justify our right to assert our Aboriginal heritage. This is truly a spiritually devastating work of marketing that confronts our people. The behaviours we face from others may or may not be intentional, but certainly they are repetitive enough that the “prove it” attitude stays with us.

So what can we do? We need to seek out balance in all quadrants of our selves. I think it comes back to making informed decisions based on our own values. I think it comes down to modelling positive behaviours that will lead us and our families to where we want to be in our lives. Confidence in asserting our beliefs and asking questions is a necessity in all facets of life, most particularly when core beliefs may be challenged or threatened. Also, it never hurts to be aware of your limitations. As the old adage tells us: forewarned is forearmed. I’m not confident that I’ll never eat unhealthy food again, but I do feel that because I have given the matter of marketing and behaviour some serious thought, I will be more able to make, and be proud of, healthier eating choices.

Actually, I plan to use a fight-fire-with-fire method. Tonight I’m going to download “The Look” onto my iPod to drown out the hamburger’s siren song. It may just be enough to tip the balance in favour of a salad when I’m feeling that reluctant need for Two All-Beef Patties. Maybe “na-na-na-na-na” will become my new anthem for healthy eating. I hope not, but who knows?

*Jason Jamieson is the MNO’s Lead AHWS Coordinator. He works out of North Bay.*

# Truth is truth

FROM PAGE 22

tinuing today. Our elders tell us that the adoption eras and the 60s scoop are an extension of the residential school system. Our elders also tell us that the largest scoop of Aboriginal children by the CAS took place in the 60s--at the time the residential schools were beginning to close.

In 1964, at eight years old, I was removed from the village where we lived and brought to the city. I did seven and a half years with the CAS. During this time I lived in eight foster homes, a group home, and an orphanage. I have heard many people who have not lived this experience say that the residential school system and the foster care system were not connected as the foster care system in the 60s did not confine Aboriginal children. This is absolutely true; we were children who were shuffled from home to home and in this way we were not confined to one place. Our confinement was the isolation from healthy adult involvement, loneliness, and despair for the many things we lost as we lived through the assimilation process in the Children’s Aid Society. This was a time when we had no voice and were full of fear of where we would end up and what would happen to us. The truth is, in the 60s there were a limited number of foster homes and I believe this is the same today. Although more background checks are performed on foster families today very little checking was done on the foster families in the 60s. A social worker would drop me off with my suitcase and leave me to adjust to the new foster family. I did not see a social worker again until the distraught foster family called the CAS and wanted me removed. Since the jobs for social workers involve much stress some social workers did not stay with the CAS long term. Therefore, when a social worker came to pick me and my suitcase up it was generally a different social worker from the one who dropped me off. Again I was dropped off in a new home and left to adjust on my own. Again when the foster parents became distraught a social worker would come pick me and my suitcase up and I was dropped off at a new home. Although some foster homes were awesome some were not so good. Foster chil-

CONTINUED PAGE 35

## MÉTIS VOYAGEUR ADVERTISING RATES & SIZES

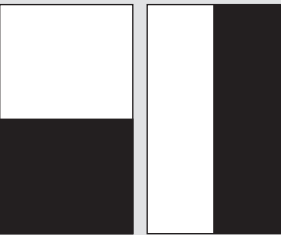
The *Métis Voyageur*, the official newspaper of the Métis Nation of Ontario, is published six times a year. It has a print run of 12,000 and is mailed directly to over 10,000 households across Ontario. Copies are also sent to government, business and educational institutions throughout the province.

PUBLICATION SPECIFICS:  
• 16 to 24 page tabloid-sized on newsprint  
• 11" x 17" with a 5-column grid  
SUBMITTING ADS:  
Advertising may be submitted as camera-ready artwork or as electronic files (PDF preferred)

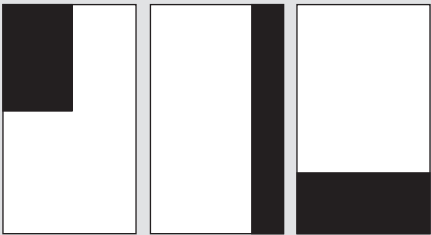
**Full Page: \$450**  
**Back Page: \$650**  
10"x16"



**1/2 Page: \$250**  
vertical or horizontal  
5"x16" or 10"x8"



**1/4 page: \$150**  
vertical or horizontal  
8"x5" or 2.5"x16" or 10"x4"





# Truth is truth

FROM PAGE 34

dren in the 60s experienced many abuses that were all part of the assimilation process that was in existence at the time I became a Crown ward of the Province of Ontario through the CAS during the 60s scoop.

I was not literally “scooped” as the term may imply. I was a child in need of care as our parents were unable to care for us at that time due to many circumstances in our home.

When I initially arrived in the city and was placed in my first foster home a social worker came the following day picked me up and took me shopping for new clothes. In the first four years I was bought new clothes two times after that. The CAS gave me \$15.00 a month to buy my clothes and necessities. The social worker brought me to the doctors to update immunisation records that were required in the city, the dentist and then to the hairdresser. My hair was long enough to sit on when we walked into the salon; upon leaving my hair was cut to my ears. This was the beginning of my assimilation.

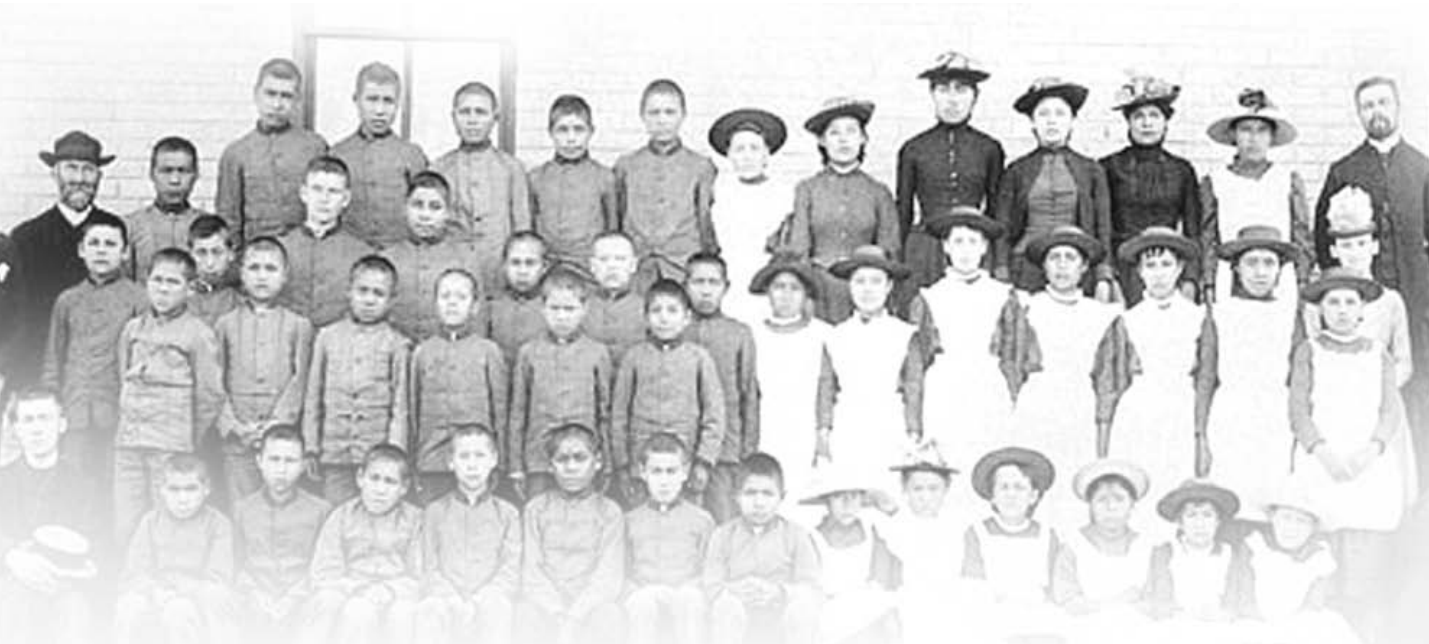
Assimilation is a brutal system. It began with the cutting of my hair, but it incorporates many abuses such as religious conversion, sexual physical and emotional abuse, little to no contact with siblings and parents. At times I was registered in school under my foster parents name and could not even use my middle name. This was done because the foster parents and social workers believed this would be my long term home where I would grow up. However, I was moved again and my name would change again. After I was moved from a foster home generally a new child moved in and they experienced the same treatment as I did—just like the child who was placed there before me received. In this way the foster care system and the residential school system are similar. Adult children experienced the same things even though we were not confined to one place.

“MY HAIR WAS LONG ENOUGH TO SIT ON WHEN WE WALKED INTO THE SALON; UPON LEAVING MY HAIR WAS CUT TO MY EARS. THIS WAS THE BEGINNING OF MY ASSIMILATION.”

Although at the time I was not aware of it after seven and a half years I experienced a total identity loss.

I was a grandmother in 1994 when I began learning that my identity was stolen when I was a child. I heard about the Freedom of Information Act which allowed me to apply for my CAS records. At the time I had many unanswered questions that I had hoped could be answered in my records. Since I have very few photographs taken while I was growing up, I call my CAS records my photo album. When I received my records I totally forgot what questions I wanted answered as many new questions began surfacing as I read. I was literally horrified when I read the quote which states “Ruth camouflages her native characteristics by wearing makeup.”

This statement nearly destroyed my well being. I was filled with so much anger that the CAS could label me as having native characteristics. At that time I believed I looked “white” and was “white”. Through the help of traditional healers, elders and re-connecting back to the village I was removed from, I have learned about the brutality of the methods used to assimilate me. It is painful to recognise that I lived



this so I would marry a white man and give birth to white children; so I could survive better in Canada under the dominant white belief system.

I am thankful that I have learned the truth through Aboriginal elders and healers of the assimilation process and the reasons this system was in place in the 60s. I have also learned that my experiences have created much confusion and hurt for my children and grandchildren through generational pain. This creates a huge amount of shame for me. Recovering from assimilation is a life long journey. It is diffi-

cult because only the adult children who lived it understand it fully. When my journey back to my roots began, the MNO helped me with my genealogy so that I could reclaim my identity and verify my documents for my Métis card. Today I am very proud to identify as being Métis.

Many Métis children today in the CAS are living in similar circumstances to those that I lived. It concerns me that this system continues to be a private institution. The federal and provincial governments both fund the CAS and yet our Ontario Ombudsman, Andre Marin’s, hands are

tied and he cannot respond to the cries of help he receives from foster children who are in care today because private institution policies prevent him from collecting facts that could protect foster children. This discourages me. I hope someday our government recognises that children should not be confined by private institution policies. This in our future will lead to another long awaited apology such as was given to our residential school survivors.

*Ruth Robbins is a Métis citizen of the Grand River Community Métis Council.*



uOttawa

L'Université canadienne  
Canada's university

Sise au cœur de la capitale du Canada, l'Université d'Ottawa est l'une des principales universités à vocation de recherche du pays. Son effectif étudiant, son corps professoral et son personnel regroupent plus de 40 000 personnes qui vivent, travaillent et étudient en français et en anglais dans un milieu des plus cosmopolites. C'est avec fierté que nous nous affichons comme « l'Université canadienne ».

The University of Ottawa, at the heart of Canada's capital, is one of our country's leading research universities. We are a cosmopolitan community of over 40,000 students, faculty and staff who live, work and study in both English and French. We are proud to be Canada's university.



## Chercheur(euse) Chaire en études métisses

Sélectionnée par le Conseil des universités de l'Ontario pour fonder une chaire en études métisses, l'Université d'Ottawa est à la recherche d'un(e) chercheur(euse) réputé(e) qui permettra à la chaire de jouer le rôle de catalyseur pour la recherche innovatrice et la diffusion de celle-ci relativement à des enjeux particulièrement pertinents au peuple métis de l'Ontario. La personne sélectionnée se joindra à une équipe engagée à l'Université d'Ottawa, viendra renforcer les rapports qui existent avec la Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) et accroître les possibilités pour les étudiant(e)s issus de la communauté métisse.

La ou le titulaire de la chaire donnera de l'ampleur aux études métisses par l'entremise de l'enseignement, de la conception de nouveaux cours et de la supervision d'étudiant(e)s des cycles supérieurs. La candidate ou le candidat choisi(e) devra faire appel aux communautés métisses et au peuple canadien en général, afin de promouvoir une plus grande compréhension de l'histoire, de la langue, de la culture et des enjeux actuels des Métis, en encourageant de nouvelles recherches et l'élaboration de nouvelles politiques portant sur le peuple métis de l'Ontario.

### Conditions de candidature :

Les candidat(e)s doivent détenir un doctorat ou l'équivalent dans n'importe quel domaine et doivent être des chercheurs exceptionnels de renom ayant joué un rôle dans les études métisses auparavant. Les candidat(e)s qui retiendront l'attention pourront travailler d'une manière constructive avec les communautés métisses. La connaissance du michif est un atout.

On encourage tous les candidat(e)s qualifié(s) à postuler; la priorité sera toutefois accordée aux Canadiens ainsi qu'aux résidents permanents. L'Université d'Ottawa souscrit à l'équité d'emploi et encourage les femmes, les Autochtones, les membres des minorités visibles et les personnes handicapées à postuler.

### Mandat :

La nomination est pour un mandat de cinq ans, renouvelable une fois, dans un poste menant à la permanence, au sein d'une faculté qui répond bien au domaine de compétence de la personne. La ou le titulaire de la chaire touchera un régime de rémunération et deviendra professeur(e) agrégé(e) ou professeur(e) titulaire. On tiendra compte de l'expérience de la personne sélectionnée, à qui l'on accordera de l'aide financière supplémentaire. Le poste s'adresse aux candidat(e)s de l'extérieur afin d'accroître l'expertise actuelle de l'Université d'Ottawa. Idéalement, la personne reçue entrerait en fonction le 1<sup>er</sup> juillet 2009.

### Demande :

Les personnes intéressées doivent faire parvenir leur candidature, incluant une lettre mentionnant le fait qu'elles possèdent les qualités requises pour ce poste, un curriculum vitae à jour, un plan stratégique proposé pour remplir le mandat de la chaire (maximum de cinq pages) ainsi que trois références, à la personne suivante :

**Professeur Bradford W. Morse, président du Comité de sélection a/s du Cabinet de la vice-rectrice à la recherche**  
**Pavillon Tabaret, bureau 246**  
**550, rue Cumberland**  
**Université d'Ottawa**  
**Ottawa (Ontario) K1N 6N5**  
On peut adresser toute demande de renseignements au professeur Morse à [bmorse@uottawa.ca](mailto:bmorse@uottawa.ca).

### Date limite :

Le Comité commencera à étudier les demandes de candidature le **15 mars 2009**; le processus prendra fin lorsque le poste sera pourvu.

[www.uOttawa.ca](http://www.uOttawa.ca)

L'Université d'Ottawa est fière, avec raison, de sa tradition de bilinguisme vieille de plus de 160 ans. Par l'entremise de l'Institut des langues secondes, l'Université offre à son personnel et à leur époux et épouse les moyens de devenir bilingue. Au moment de leur permanence, les professeur(e)s sont tenu(e)s de pouvoir fonctionner dans un milieu bilingue. De plus, pour obtenir la permanence, certain(e)s devront pouvoir enseigner dans les deux langues officielles.

## Researcher Chair in Métis Studies

Selected by the Council of Ontario Universities to establish an endowed Chair in Métis Studies, the University of Ottawa is seeking a leading scholar who will position the Chair as a catalyst for the conduct and dissemination of innovative research on issues of particular relevance to the Métis people in Ontario. The person selected will join a committed team at the University of Ottawa, build upon the ongoing relationship with the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and enhance opportunities for Métis students.

The Chair holder will expand Métis Studies through teaching, the design of new courses and graduate student supervision. The successful candidate is expected to reach out to Métis communities and to Canadians generally, to promote a greater understanding of Métis history, language, culture and current issues through fostering new research and policy development with a focus on the Métis people of Ontario.

### Qualifications:

Applicants should possess a Ph.D., or equivalent, in any field and be recognized as outstanding scholars with prior involvement in Métis Studies. Preferred candidates will be able to work constructively with Métis communities. Facility in Michif is an asset.

All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority. Equity is a University of Ottawa policy; women, Aboriginal peoples, members of visible minorities and persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

### Terms:

The appointment is for a five-year term, renewable once, in a tenure-track position in a faculty appropriate to the person's area of expertise. The Chair holder will receive a salary package and rank (senior associate or full professor) commensurate with his or her experience and will benefit from added financial support. The position is for external candidates in order to augment the University of Ottawa's existing expertise. The preferred start date is **July 1, 2009**.

### Application:

Interested individuals should apply by letter directly addressing their suitability, including a current C.V., a proposed strategic plan to fulfill the Chair's mandate [maximum of 5 pages] and three references to:

**Professor Bradford W. Morse, Chair of the Selection Committee c/o Office of the Vice-President, Research**  
**Tabaret Hall, Room 246**  
**550 Cumberland Street**  
**University of Ottawa**  
**Ottawa, ON K1N 6N5**  
Inquiries may be directed to Professor Morse at [bmorse@uottawa.ca](mailto:bmorse@uottawa.ca)

### Deadline:

The Committee will begin to consider applications on **March 15, 2009** and will continue until the position is filled.

[www.uOttawa.ca](http://www.uOttawa.ca)

The University of Ottawa is justly proud of its 160-year tradition of bilingualism. Through its Second Language Institute, the University provides training to staff members and to their spouses in their second official language. At the time of tenure, professors are expected to have the ability to function in a bilingual setting. In certain cases, professors must have the ability to teach in both official languages to be granted tenure.



MNO seeking Citizen input on the upcoming Annual General Assembly:

# IT’S YOUR ASSEMBLY!

One of the hallmarks of Métis culture is gathering with family and friends to catch up on the latest news and swap stories around the campfire. These gatherings are an opportunity to promote Métis culture and traditions and ensure they are passed to a new generation of Métis citizens.

For many years the Métis Nation of Ontario has celebrated these traditions when we come together for the Annual General Assembly. Historically, these gatherings have been held in hotels or in outdoor venues, usually in the summer in a location close to a body of water. Over the years the agenda has varied from a business-only, three day event to week long events with time to take care of business and time for sharing Métis music, tradition and culture.

In May, 2008, the MNO made the transition to a new political and administrative leadership. With neither the cash flow nor the other resources required to stage a summer AGA, the need to deal with the urgent financial crisis took precedence and resulted in a combined five day

for workshops and a trade show. Appreciation has also been expressed for the transparent way in which the business portion of the meeting was conducted, and for having everyone housed under the same roof. This facilitated much greater interaction among Métis citizens.

## THE PCMNO IS SEEKING INPUT PRIOR TO MAKING A FINAL DECISION ABOUT THE TIMING, FORMAT AND LOCATION OF THE 2009 AGA

Special Presidents' Assembly and Annual General Assembly. The event, which took place in Toronto and included the celebration of Riel Day on November 16th, was extremely well received. Feedback so far indicates that delegates appreciated having a signed and timely audit presented, and also the space

The Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario is still looking for input prior to making a final decision about the timing, format and location of the 2009 AGA. All ideas and suggestions are welcome, but you are asked to keep the following in mind:

- **the event should take place after August 1, 2009**, because that is the earliest a signed audit will be available for review and approval by delegates;
- **the event should last a minimum of four days** including travel, and ideally will include a weekend (Saturday and Sunday);
- **the venue should include indoor facilities suitable for the business portion** of the gathering; indoor space for workshops and the tradeshow (so we are not at the mercy of the weather or noise from external sources); as well as an area large enough to accommodate the MNO tent for the cultural events;
- **besides hotel rooms for those who do not wish to camp**, the venue should be able to accommodate tents and RV's.

While no final decision has been made, the input we have received so far suggests a four day event around the weekend of August 23 & 24, 2009. This will allow for a summer AGA (nice weather) after black fly season. The caveats set out above will allow the MNO to live up to its principles of demonstrating pride in a shared Métis identity while maintaining accountability to citizens and stakeholders by hosting a cost-effective event that reflects Métis traditional values. With both the caveats and practical considerations in mind, please forward your ideas and suggestions to Chelsey Quirk in Ottawa at 613-798-1488 ext. 104 or by e-mail to [chelseyq@metisnation.org](mailto:chelseyq@metisnation.org). The PCMNO will make a final decision about the location, venue and agenda as soon as possible after considering all the input it receives.

## COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS : 2007/08

